

## Sign-On Letter in Support of the Stateless Protection Act of 2023

July 2023

We are more than 50 nonprofit organizations writing to endorse the Stateless Protection Act of 2023 for the benefits it will offer stateless people, their families, and their communities in the United States.

Stateless individuals are people “who are not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law.” The Center for Migration Studies estimated in 2020 that there are approximately 218,000 individuals in the United States who are either stateless or at risk of statelessness. These people often become stateless when their home country changes states and because of discrimination based on race, religion, and gender. People who are stateless often experience significant financial hardship, separation from relatives, and lengthy and indefinite immigration detention.

The Stateless Protection Act would offer key areas of clarity in U.S. immigration law and relief for stateless people who can face a lifetime without legal status. The Stateless Protection Act would, for the first time, offer a consistent, federal definition of statelessness. The Act would also offer the first immigration relief for stateless people because of their statelessness. Specifically, the Act would provide stateless people with work authorization, travel documents, and protection from deportation and removal. Some individuals would also be eligible to apply for lawful permanent residence.

This Act promises to improve the status of stateless people in the United States, allowing them to maintain family ties, remain and work in their communities, and access the solution to statelessness: durable legal status.

We thank Sen. Cardin and Rep. Raskin for their leadership on this Act and urge Congress to take action to pass this legislation.

Signed,

Adoptee Rights Law Center

African Human Rights Coalition

Al Otro Lado

Alianza Americas

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination  
Committee (ADC)

Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

Bhutanese Community Association of  
Pittsburgh

Black Alliance for Just Immigration

Center for Victims of Torture

Church World Service

Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services Inc  
Families for Freedom  
Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project  
Free Migration Project  
Haitian Bridge Alliance  
Haitian-American United For Change  
HIAS  
Human Rights First  
Immigrant Defenders Law Center  
Immigrant Defense Oregon of Metropolitan Public Defender  
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project  
Immigration Hub  
Immigration Services and Legal Advocacy (ISLA)  
Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti  
Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America  
International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)  
Islamic Relief USA  
La Resistencia  
Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center  
Louisiana Advocates for Immigrants in Detention  
Louisiana Organization for Refugees and Immigrants

Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA)  
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition  
Medical Mission Sisters - Justice Office  
MetroWest Legal Services  
Minnesota Freedom Fund  
National Immigration Project (NIPNLG)  
National Partnership for New Americans  
Oxfam America  
Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center  
Public Law Center  
Refugee Congress  
Refugee Council USA  
Refugees International  
Society of the Flora, Fauna & Friend  
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants  
United Stateless  
We Are All America  
Westchester Jewish Coalition for Immigration  
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center  
Women's Refugee Commission  
Woori Center