

*Committee:* SPECPOL (Special Political and Decolonization Committee)

*Agenda Item:* Establishing a Global Framework for the Protection of Stateless People

*Country:* Türkiye

*Delegate Name:* Elif CIHAN

Statelessness is the condition in which a person or a community is not recognized as a citizen by any state and is not granted citizenship. Statelessness and refugee status are distinct concepts. Around the world, people facing political and social issues often become refugees by migrating to other countries. While refugees have the right to cross borders, stateless individuals are deprived of fundamental rights and freedoms outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Consequently, many "stateless" individuals cannot even qualify as refugees.

There has been a state of statelessness since the age when states began to be formed. But the effects of this situation are 1 and 2. It became even more critical after the world wars. Many people and communities around the world are unable to obtain citizenship by the states they are in for various reasons. Regions where stateless people are seen in large numbers are usually poor, weak, living in a minority state and areas where various political changes are taking place or are taking place. The main reasons why people cannot get citizenship are; the lack of unregistered birth certificates are caused by various social, political and cultural situations, such as being born as the children of stateless parents, the loss of citizenship of people living there as a result of the loss of political existence of a state, divorce between couples from different countries after marriage, discrimination against minorities, Decertification of the main citizenship before obtaining another citizenship.

The regions where statelessness is observed extensively in the world are mainly Myanmar, Central Asia (countries of the former Soviet Union), the Dominican Republic, Kuwait, Africa, Thailand and other Near Eastern countries such as Lebanon. Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar due to religious and ethnic discrimination, many people in Central Asian countries due to the political situation with the collapse of the Soviet Union, likewise in Dominica due to race and origin-based discrimination, and in the Near East Palestinian refugees are not granted citizenship due to various demographic problems, and these communities located around the world are characterized as "stateless".

Stateless people are deprived even of their basic rights. And this is a violation of human rights. Therefore, the SPECPOL committee, especially the UN, various UN sub-bodies (UNRWA, UNHCR, UNICEF) and NGOs organize campaigns and legally cooperate with governments to protect stateless people, keep them safe, ensure their fundamental rights.

Statelessness, unfortunately, exists in Turkey. The primary reason for this is Turkey's geographical location. Being at the crossroads of migration routes, Turkey encounters a high number of refugees. Among these, especially due to the political turmoil in Syria, there are "stateless" individuals who have sought refuge in Turkey.

Another reason for the loss of citizenship and the occurrence of statelessness in Turkey is related to individuals acquiring citizenship of another country alongside Turkish citizenship. Some states do not recognize dual citizenship, and as a result, individuals are forced to renounce their original citizenship.

The citizenship system in Turkey depends on the descent. Therefore, if one of the person's parents is a Turkish citizen, the person can also get Turkish citizenship directly. In short, the risk of statelessness in Turkey is quite low thanks to the descent system.

There is also a specific practice related to this issue in Turkey. With the 'Blue Card' system, the basic rights of people who voluntarily renounce citizenship have been protected by the state.

Statelessness is an international issue, and we believe that, through various joint decisions at the international level, we can eliminate the negative impacts of this problem for both the affected communities and global security and peace. We are ready to collaborate with UN members, its sub-organs, and various organizations to eliminate the issue of statelessness.