



## Grant media contest

### “Sustainable development and addressing statelessness in Central Asia”

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is announcing a grant contest for media organisations and individual media professionals from Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan on covering the topic of addressing statelessness through sustainable development. Applicants are invited to submit proposals of media projects on the given subject. Selected proposals will be awarded grants for implementation.

#### Background

The international legal definition of a stateless person is “a person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law”. In simple terms, this means that a stateless person does not have any citizenship, as if they don’t belong to any country. Some people are born stateless, but others become stateless later in life.

Today, millions of people around the world are denied a nationality. As a result, they often aren’t allowed to enrol or graduate school, seek medical assistance, get an official job, open a bank account, own property or even get married or register the birth of their children.

When thousands of people are stateless, the result is communities that are alienated and marginalized, and their development potential is severely undermined. Sustainable Development Goal 16.9 calls for States to ensure that all persons have a legal identity, including birth registration, by 2030, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’s overarching aim to “leave no one behind” cannot be realized unless all persons are recognized as full members of society.

UNHCR is mandated by the UN General Assembly to identify stateless people, prevent and reduce statelessness, as well as to protect the rights of stateless people. UNHCR fulfils its mandate by working with governments, other UN agencies and civil society to address the problem. On 4 November 2014, UNHCR launched the #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness by 2024.

In addition, in November 2014, Governments attended the First Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Asia and the Pacific and proclaimed the Asian and Pacific CRVS Decade (2015-2024). Through the declaration of the CRVS Decade, governments gave 2015-2024 as a time frame for realizing their shared vision that all people in Asia and the Pacific will benefit from universal and responsive CRVS systems facilitating the realization of their rights and supporting good governance, health and development. The Governments also adopted the Ministerial Declaration to “Get Every One in the Picture” and committed to strengthening national CRVS systems.

#### Goal

This initiative aims to support quality, convincing and impactful reporting of importance of addressing statelessness in Central Asia to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

#### Eligibility

The contest is open for proposals of media projects on the topic of sustainable development and addressing statelessness in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan submitted by

individual media professionals (for example, freelance journalists, writers, videographers, photographers, graphic designers and other content creators) or media organisations that are based and work in one of the countries mentioned above. The contest is open for participants of 18 and above.

## Application process

Interested applicants should submit the following:

- Completed application form
- Comprehensive proposal for their media project, including the theme, format, target audience, language (Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Turkmen, Uzbek, English or Russian), media outlet and/or other platform on which the project will be published (e.g. news portal; blog, TV channel, radio station etc.); estimated timeline and expected results/impact (e.g. reach, engagement, views, visits, increased awareness etc.). Please use this template for project proposal: <https://www.unhcr.org/centralasia/wp-content/uploads/sites/75/2023/09/UNHCR-media-contest-on-statelessness-proposal-template.docx>
- Detailed budget outlining the estimated costs for the proposed project, including production, travel (if applicable), and other relevant expenses, should be included in the application. Maximum amount to be awarded to one application – 2,000 USD. Please use template for budget: <https://www.unhcr.org/centralasia/wp-content/uploads/sites/75/2023/09/UNHCR-media-contest-on-statelessness-2023-budget-template.xlsx>

Applicants are also encouraged to provide examples of their previous works relevant to the topic of the competition, social issues or human rights reporting.

Proposals should be submitted in English or Russian languages. Proposed media projects could be implemented in one of the following languages: Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Turkmen, Uzbek, Russian or English.

Applications should be submitted online: <https://www.unhcr.org/centralasia/en/media-contest-on-statelessness-application-form>

Deadline for applications: 15 October 2023

Final decisions will be communicated to the selected applicants via email by 29 October 2023.

Selected media project must be implemented and completed by 31 December 2023.

## Selection process

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel consisting of representatives of UNHCR, other UN entities and partner organisations based on the following criteria:

- **Relevance:** The extent to which the media project aligns with the contest's theme of sustainable development and addressing statelessness in Central Asia.
- **Impact:** The potential impact of the media project on raising awareness, fostering public engagement, and promoting positive change in addressing statelessness and related social issues.
- **Reach:** The potential of the media outlet and/or platform on which the project will be published to reach diverse target audiences.
- **Creativity:** The level of creativity and innovation demonstrated in the proposed media format and storytelling techniques.
- **Feasibility:** The feasibility and realism of the proposed project within the given timeline and budget.
- **Quality:** The overall quality of the project's content, including its accuracy, depth of research, and ability to present a compelling narrative.

Shortlisted applicants may be invited for an interview to discuss their proposals and clarify project details, if required.

Final decisions will be communicated to the selected applicants via email by 29 October.

### Themes of media projects

Proposals can be focused on the range of themes including but not limited to:

- Personal stories: Highlighting the experiences of stateless individuals and their struggles to access basic rights and services.
- Analysis: Examining existing national and regional legal frameworks and policies concerning statelessness and their effectiveness in protecting stateless populations.
- Causes: Investigating the root causes and implications of statelessness, including factors such as migration, nationality laws, and historical context.
- Solutions: Showcasing initiatives, programs, and organizations working towards addressing statelessness and supporting affected communities.
- Impact: Exploring the broader societal impact of statelessness, including its influence on economic development, social cohesion, and regional stability.
- Statistics: Using data analysis and visualization techniques to present comprehensive statistics and trends, including civil registration in the context of statelessness.

### Format of media projects

Applicants are encouraged to propose diverse and innovative formats that have the potential to effectively communicate statelessness issues to wider audiences. Examples of formats may include, but are not limited to:

- Multimedia content: Engaging materials that allow users to explore the issue through multimedia elements, data visualization, and user-driven narratives.
- Documentaries: Visual storytelling through documentaries that explore statelessness issues to provide a deeper understanding of the subject.
- Data journalism: Using data to reveal patterns, trends, and impact of statelessness issues providing with factual insights.
- Social media campaigns: Creative and impactful campaigns on social media platforms reaching a wider audience and encouraging engagement.
- Graphic journalism: Engaging visual narratives that creatively illustrate statelessness issues, combining art and journalism.

### Contacts

If you have additional questions regarding the contest, please contact Yelena Sim, UNHCR, at: [sim@unhcr.org](mailto:sim@unhcr.org).

By participating in this contest, you agree with its conditions: <https://www.unhcr.org/centralasia/wp-content/uploads/sites/75/2023/09/UNHCR-media-contest-on-statelessness-2023-conditions.pdf>

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