

Statelessness and Migration in the Turkish System¹

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Abstract

This research discusses the legal structures and policy interventions in Turkey related to the phenomenon of statelessness. In this context, individuals do not have citizenship and encounter serious obstacles in accessing fundamental rights and services. Situated at the intersection of Europe and Asia, Turkey receives enormous migration influxes, further complicating the issues of statelessness. The nation has enacted laws to recognize and protect stateless individuals, providing them with identity documents that grant access to essential services like health and work. However, systemic discrepancies, administrative tardiness, and low public knowledge impede the effective social integration and equal treatment of these individuals. The study contrasts 19 key Turkish legal texts with international law and academic commentary to determine how much Turkey's approach aligns with international norms. Although Turkey has ratified the 1954 Convention on Statelessness, it has yet to accede to the 1961 Convention, including its prevention provisions, specifically for children born to stateless individuals. This is putting large numbers of individuals, among them Syrian refugees, in a position of legal limbo. The study recommends that Turkey ratify the 1961 Convention, ease the procedures for ascertaining statelessness, enhance education campaigns on the rights of stateless persons, and develop comprehensive strategies for addressing the root causes. By embracing best practices from around the world and strengthening its legal framework, Turkey has the potential to become a leader in combating statelessness and ensuring equitable treatment for all individuals subject to its jurisdiction.

Keywords: Statelessness, Migration, Turkey, Human Rights, Legal Framework, Stateless Person Identity Document, 1954 and 1961 Conventions

Introduction

Statelessness, or the failure of any state to recognize an individual's citizenship, represents a grave cross-cutting global issue comprising human rights, migration, and state sovereignty. Statelessness deprives people of access to education, health, employment, and the protection of the law, thereby exposing them to greater vulnerability and marginalization. Statelessness can either be de jure due to official legal regimes or de facto due to administrative practice, displacement, or lack of documentation. Despite international norms such as the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, the phenomenon persists globally, affecting millions and requiring innovative policy solutions (Basu, 2022; Drakokhrust, 2023).

In Turkey, statelessness is paramount in the general discussion of migration and human rights, mainly due to the nation's distinctive geopolitical status as a nexus between Europe and Asia. Its advantageous location has rendered Turkey a transit and host country for refugees,

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migrants, and stateless individuals, thereby elevating the necessity for comprehensive legal frameworks and policy structures. The Turkish Nationality Act No. 5901 and the Law on Foreigners and International Protection No. 6458 are the core legislative acts that try to deal with the problem of statelessness. The laws are designed to reduce statelessness through the creation of identification, documentation, and integration mechanisms for stateless individuals through the issuance of "Stateless Person Identity Documents" (Yabancılar ve Uluslararası Koruma Kanunu, 2013; Ünsal, 2023).

The legal structure of Turkey highlights the importance of conforming to international commitments while preserving state authority over issues related to nationality. An example is the "Stateless Person Identity Document," which permits its bearers to legally reside in Turkey and obtain particular rights, including access to healthcare services and work permits, contingent upon fulfilling specific conditions. Nonetheless, this framework faces various challenges. Administrative barriers, arbitrary actions, and sociopolitical circumstances often hinder the effective implementation of these laws, leading to many stateless individuals still being in precarious positions. These challenges reveal the tension between adhering to global norms and dealing with internal matters, such as security and economic stability (Kochenov, 2024; Ünsal, 2023).

The historical development of Turkish citizenship legislation renders the statelessness model more complex in the country. The Turkish citizenship regime, which was based on the Ottoman Empire's millet system that separated individuals according to their ethno-religious identities, was radically changed following the founding of the Republic of Turkey in 1923. The adaptation of the Swiss Civil Code and the ensuing legal reforms aimed at establishing a secular and homogeneous national identity, thereby supplanting the heterogeneous legal structures that dominated the Ottoman period (Uluç, 2012). The historical development has had enduring impacts, specifically on the discriminatory measures against ethnic and religious minorities, refugees, and stateless people.

Current geopolitical facts significantly influence the Turkish statelessness experience. The Syrian conflict and the resulting mass migration have exposed loopholes in Turkey's policymaking and legislative structures. Turkey's special citizenship initiatives have facilitated the integration of certain Syrian refugees. However, most are in limbo with narrow legal recognition or naturalization avenues. The scenario typifies the overall predicaments in confronting statelessness, more precisely, the intertwined dynamics of migration governance, international relations, and human rights (Aras & Mencütek, 2018).

Furthermore, presenting statelessness as a technical issue routinely overlooks its highly political dimensions. The discretionary power exercised by the Turkish state in allocating citizenship and statelessness frequently aligns with broader issues of ethnicity, class, and political belonging. For instance, the long-standing emphasis on Turkish ethnicity as a prerequisite for citizenship still influences contemporary practice, reproducing the differential treatment of groups (Kilinc, 2022). These dynamics underscore the necessity of a rights-based strategy that focuses on the autonomy and dignity of the stateless while also tackling systemic injustices concurrently.

This study seeks to offer a critical examination of Turkey's stateless regime, paying particular attention to its legal regime, administrative apparatus, and sociopolitical foundations. By placing Turkey's policy in the context of the global debate, it seeks to highlight challenges and



opportunities arising from tackling statelessness as an urgent human rights concern. In this regard, it emphasizes the need to harmonize national policies with international standards and promote inclusive and equitable solutions to statelessness in Turkey.

What is Statelessness?

Statelessness — the status of not being recognized as a citizen by any state — is a global issue of concern, impacting human rights, migration, and national sovereignty. Here, it deprives people of fundamental rights to education, health, work, and the law, leaving them vulnerable and marginalized. De jure statelessness is achieved through direct legal systems, while de facto statelessness results from administrative practices, displacement, or inadequate documentation. However, statelessness remains an international problem of concern to millions of individuals requiring creative policy responses despite conventions across the world (Basu, 2022), such as the Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons in 1954 and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness in 1961.

Causes of statelessness are numerous and usually embedded in historical, legal, and political reasons. The most common causes are discriminatory nationality laws, administrative inefficiency, displacement due to conflict, and the dissolution of states. A case in point is gender discrimination in nationality laws, where children are left to be stateless when mothers are unable to pass on their nationality (Rocca & Prosperi, 2017). In addition, statelessness may be voluntary, structural, or denigrative based on the reason for the deprivation of nationality (Buechel, 2022). Additionally, states may voluntarily generate stateless populations by implementing practices such as denationalization, often targeted at specific ethnic, religious, or political groups (Kochenov, 2024).

The global political landscape exacerbates the issue, with state policies on citizenship and international migration driving the formation of statelessness, sometimes as a calculated step by states to control their citizens (Petrozziello, 2024). The historical context of statelessness traces its roots in the nation-state system with the gathering of national boundaries and citizenship laws, with the consequent exclusion of many individuals, particularly after significant conflicts like World War I (Mueser, 2023). Stateless individuals have particular and serious challenges. Contemporary scholarship challenges the traditional perception of statelessness as a technical issue but instead as articulating inherent systemic imbalances and racialized hierarchies within the global citizenship paradigm (Kochenov, 2024). Lacking legal identity, they usually refuse access to ordinary services and meaningful social participation. This exclusion not only perpetuates cycles of poverty and exclusion but also undermines their very core human rights. International mechanisms such as the 1954 and 1961 Conventions attempt to address these problems by providing legal protection to stateless persons and calling for reductions and eliminations of statelessness. However, applying these mechanisms is unequal among states, and numerous stateless individuals remain vulnerable. Efforts to address statelessness include international treaties and campaigns for the rights of stateless individuals but do not catch on because national sovereignty and international human rights obligations are intricately entangled (Drakokhrust, 2023). Artistic work, such as performance art, seeks to raise the voices of stateless individuals and explore the everyday lives of the people affected by statelessness, shedding light on the imperative of a more inclusive and sympathetic response to the phenomenon (Canas et al., 2023).

In Turkey, statelessness is statutorily accepted and treated in its law. The Law on Foreigners and International Protection (LFIP) provides for the identification and documentation of stateless individuals, and they are accorded some rights through the "Stateless Person Identity Document." The document enables stateless individuals to stay in Turkey legally and access some public services, such as medical treatment and employment, but their rights remain limited in comparison with Turkish citizens (Ünsal, 2023; Yabancılar ve Uluslararası Koruma Kanunu, 2013). Despite these measures, there are still broad gaps in addressing the root causes of statelessness and offering general protection to the affected individuals. Statelessness is, in most cases, an acute issue at the intersection of human rights and governance. Its solution is a multifaceted approach that includes legal reform, international cooperation, and promoting inclusive policies. By understanding the reasons and consequences of statelessness, policymakers can develop specific interventions to uphold the rights and dignity of stateless individuals and measures for eradicating it.

Statelessness System in the World

Statelessness is a multifaceted international problem that impacts millions of individuals worldwide, challenging social cohesion, global security, and human rights. It occurs when people are not considered citizens of any nation, and as a result, they lack protection under the law or access to fundamental rights.

States can engineer Statelessness by manipulating nationality criteria such as time, territory, and administration practice rather than openly discriminatory law (Jain, 2022). Changes in sovereignty, such as through war, can also lead to statelessness; for instance, in the past, nationality was determined by principles such as "habitual residence" rather than arbitrary legislation (Seckler-Hudson, 1945). Additionally, some states use denationalization as a sanction to exclude undesirable individuals, further complicating the issue (Olaitan, 2022).

The rise of stateless persons has significant implications, such as threatening social harmony and international security. Stateless persons become invisible and weak, excluded from access to fundamental rights and services (Siddika, 2019). The issue is also made complex by the asymmetrical quality of citizenship, which tends to reproduce racialized orders and keep enormous portions of the international population out of rights (Kochenov, 2024).

Efforts to mitigate statelessness consist of legal regimes and international community reactions aimed at preventing and resolving statelessness. These efforts are effectively bounded by states' sovereign prerogatives to control nationality and citizenship (Siddika, 2019; Olaitan, 2022). The UNHCR #Ibelong campaign has raised awareness and placed statelessness on the global agenda, but there is still an uphill struggle since some governments continue to persecute stateless individuals (Meyer et al., 1997).

Historically, statelessness has been linked to the development of nation-states and more stringent nationality legislation, particularly after World War I and II (Mueser, 2023; Baluarte, 2022). Analytical perspectives argue that the problem of statelessness highlights the relative fragility of statehood and political membership in international law and challenges rethinking the nation-state as a political model (Eliassi, 2021; Olaitan, 2022).

Statelessness remains an urgent global challenge that requires collaborative international action to address its causative factors and consequences. Although knowledge and literature



on the topic have increased, the responsibility remains to construct more embracing political institutions that transcend the limitations of existing nation-state frameworks to advance the rights and protection of all human beings, regardless of their status as citizens.

The Turkish Statelessness System

Statelessness is when the individual is not treated as a citizen of any nation according to its law and lacks a state and the rights and protections that generally come with such a status. According to Turkish law, Stateless individuals are those who are not nationals of any state under the application of its law (Article 3, Law No. 6458 on Foreigners and International Protection). This agrees with the international definition provided by the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, to which Turkey is a signatory.

Stateless individuals are exposed to severe challenges, including limited access to fundamental human rights, education, health, and employment since they lack the legal status that grants them these rights (Drakokhrust, 2023; Basu, 2022). New and interdisciplinary approaches, including those within performance arts, also try to voice and bring visibility to stateless communities, offering different representations of identity and belonging beyond the law (Canas et al., 2023).

The legal framework governing statelessness in Turkey consists of both national laws and international agreements:

1. National Laws:

- **Law No. 6458 on Foreigners and International Protection (2013):** Defines stateless persons and outlines procedures for their identification and rights.
- **Turkish Citizenship Law No. 5901 (2009):** Includes provisions to prevent statelessness, especially for children born in Turkey.
- **Social Security and General Health Insurance Law No. 5510:** Extends health insurance coverage to stateless individuals.

2. International Conventions:

- 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (Turkey is a signatory).
- 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Turkey is not a signatory).

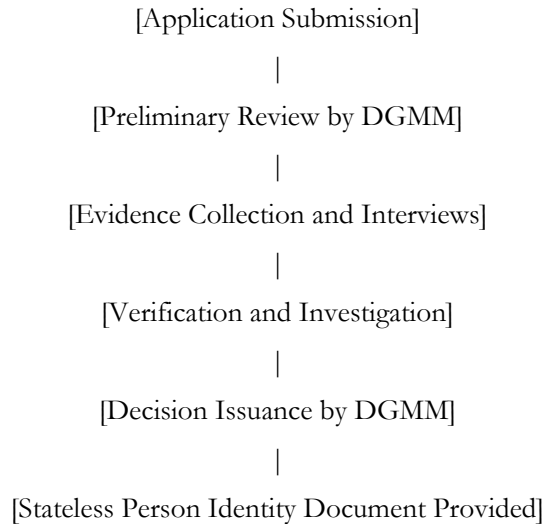
Table 1 Turkish Statelessness Law System

Criteria	1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons	1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness	Turkey's Legislation
Objective	Establishes the legal status and rights of stateless persons.	Prevents new cases of statelessness by addressing nationality laws.	Prevents and addresses statelessness within its borders through the Turkish Citizenship Law and Foreigners Law.
Definition	Recognizes stateless persons as those not considered nationals by any state under its laws.	Focuses on individuals at risk of becoming stateless, particularly children at birth.	Aligns with the 1954 Convention's definition but does not fully adopt the principles of the 1961 Convention.
Rights of Stateless Individuals	Includes rights to work, education, and documentation for travel.	Emphasizes safeguards against statelessness at birth or due to deprivation of nationality.	Grants access to residence, healthcare, and limited work rights through stateless identity documents.
Naturalization	Encourages naturalization of stateless persons by simplifying procedures.	Obligates states to facilitate the acquisition of nationality for those at risk of statelessness.	Requires five years of residence for naturalization but with additional criteria such as income and language proficiency.
Obligations	Requires states to protect and integrate stateless individuals.	Mandates states to avoid policies leading to statelessness and offer nationality to affected individuals.	It provides protections but lacks mechanisms for automatically including stateless persons in citizenship frameworks.
Turkey's Status	Fully incorporated into national legislation.	Not ratified; hence, obligations remain non-binding.	It reflects some principles but lacks comprehensive safeguards as prescribed by the 1961 Convention.

Despite these frameworks, critiques highlight the political and administrative challenges in implementing practical solutions to statelessness. Some argue that the issue's technical framing often obscures its deeper socio-political dimensions (Jain, 2022; Petrozziello, 2019).



Determining statelessness in Turkey involves a structured administrative procedure, ensuring a thorough assessment of individual claims. Below is the process that outlines the key steps:



Each step confirms that all the applicable legal and evidentiary requirements are met to ascertain the status of the individual as stateless. The process starts with identifying and documenting the stateless individual in Turkey through a multi-step process conducted by various responsible authorities. The process is initiated with the application made by the individual or his/her guardian to the provincial directorates of the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM). This initial step entails the applicant submitting proof of their statelessness, such as the absence of valid nationality documents or proof of renunciation of citizenship. Following the application submission, the DGMM conducts interviews and investigations to verify the information submitted by the applicant, a role primarily undertaken by provincial offices. These investigative measures are crucial to ensuring the validity and accuracy of the determination of statelessness. Upon successful validation and verification, the DGMM and local administration issue the Stateless Person Identity documents. The formal process marks Turkey's bid to institutionalize the identification and protection of stateless persons, although concerns regarding bureaucratic sophistication and accessibility still linger.

The most significant steps and explanatory table determine the systematic approach that Turkey has pursued in order to ensure a rights-based and transparent process. Such a process reflects a rights-based one but is still marred by bureaucratic inefficiency and lack of awareness on the part of the people (Blitz & Chickera, 2012).

Turkish issuance of Stateless Person Identity Document gives individuals a range of rights and protection but is subject to certain limitations. Document holders enjoy legal residence, which enables them to remain in Turkey without risk of deportation, except where they pose a public danger. Their access to public health facilities within the public system is limited to enable them to access basic health insurance. In work, stateless individuals can obtain work permits, enabling them to seek formal work opportunities in a controlled environment. Access

to social services continues to be limited, as the document does not qualify them for complete social security benefits, reducing the degree of assistance provided. These provisions together aim to cater to the immediate needs of stateless individuals while safeguarding their fundamental rights, even though the extent of these protections reflects the more general problem of balancing inclusiveness with administrative realities.

Stateless individuals in Turkey are accorded several rights under national law. According to Article 20 of Law No. 6458, they are particularly exempt from conditions of residence permits. They also have simplified work permit requirements for obtaining employment, according to Law No. 6735. They can access health care through general health insurance entitlement under Law No. 5510. Legal protection also prohibits their deportation except in extreme circumstances when the public order may be threatened. These provisions collectively form a mechanism to safeguard stateless persons within the nation.

Turkey has made some efforts to prevent new instances of statelessness, particularly of children born on its land. One of the most important provisions grants citizenship by place of birth to any child born in Turkey to stateless parents under Article 11 of the Turkish Citizenship Law. This action adheres to international norms to reduce statelessness. Also, naturalization channels are provided to stateless individuals who have lived in Turkey for five years, provided that other necessities like language skills and sustainability in earnings are fulfilled. While the programs testify to conformity to global standards, further harmonizing practices elsewhere would strengthen the Turkish plan (Molnar, 2014).

Despite the regulatory structure for identifying and safeguarding stateless people, significant issues exist. Low awareness in at-risk populations tends to leave individuals unaware of their rights or the procedures they must undertake to access them. Verification of statelessness proves slow and bureaucratic, discouraging speed in settlements. Turkey's non-ratification of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness also discourages its obligation to avoid. Aside from matters of procedure, defining statelessness as a purely technical issue can potentially miss its inherently political nature. Statelessness is used as a statecraft instrument in specific environments, with citizenship policies being manipulated to exclude or include, frequently putting vulnerable groups at risk (Kochenov, 2024).

Turkey's statelessness system has similarities and differences from international practice. Unlike several European Union nations, none grant long-term residence by default to stateless persons, Turkey does not. However, issuing a Stateless Person Identity Document is an exceedingly strong safeguard under international norms. Best international practice centers around simplified identification procedures with minimum paperwork, but the Turkish Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) applies higher standards. Similarly, while some countries, such as Sweden, have direct pathways to citizenship for stateless individuals, Turkey has a five-year minimum residency requirement before becoming eligible for naturalization.

Turkey can take several measures to strengthen its framework for statelessness. First, accession to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness would amplify international cooperation and reflect a commitment to addressing the issue comprehensively. Second, simplifying the identification process by reducing bureaucratic hurdles would translate into quicker and more efficient assistance to stateless individuals. Third, enhancing public awareness through targeted outreach activities for marginalized groups would enable



the closing of information gaps on rights and procedures. Fourth, a centralized database system would facilitate more straightforward and efficient monitoring and tracing of stateless individuals for more effective coordination among concerned agencies. Finally, incorporating socio-political dimensions into policy frameworks would enable a more thorough examination of the root causes of statelessness, thereby ensuring more holistic solutions. By embracing these suggestions, Turkey can enhance its capacity to effectively fight statelessness and align its practices with international best practices.

Methodology

This study employs a qualitative methodology to examine Turkey's legal and administrative frameworks governing statelessness. The primary focus is analyzing the content of relevant Turkish legislation and regulatory instruments as identified through a systematic search conducted on the Turkish legislation portal ("<https://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/>"). Using the keywords “vatansız” (stateless) and “vatansızlık” (statelessness), a total of 19 legislative documents were identified, encompassing laws, decrees, and regulations (Table 1).

Table 1: Key Legislative Documents Addressing Statelessness in Turkey

Type	Title	Law Number	Year
Law	Turkish Nationality Act	5901	2009
Law	Law on Foreigners and International Protection	6458	2013
Law	International Workforce Law	6735	2016
Law	Social Insurance and General Health Insurance Law	5510	2006
Law	Penal Enforcement and Security Measures Law	5275	2004
Decree	Presidential Decree on Organization of Ministries	4	2018
Regulation	Regulation on Temporary Protection	-	2014
Regulation	Regulation on the Implementation of the Turkish Citizenship Law	-	2010
Regulation	Regulation on International Workforce	-	2022

The reviewed legal instruments include Turkish Nationality Act No. 5901, Law on Foreigners and International Protection No. 6458, and International Workforce Law No. 6735. Single articles referring to stateless persons were quoted and categorized to examine their provisions systematically. Each instrument was searched for whether and how they responded to statelessness, paying attention to definitions, rights, responsibilities, and administrative

measures. These legislative regimes were further analyzed to identify similarities, differences, and intersections in how they addressed statelessness.

This legislative analysis is supplemented by data from secondary sources, including scholarly articles, reports, and international legal documents. Integrating these sources, the research seeks to provide an exhaustive account of how the Turkish legal system addresses statelessness and determine where reform becomes possible. The adopted methodology ensures a rigorous and thorough analysis of Turkey's legislative and administrative mechanisms in addressing statelessness.

Findings

Turkish law review indicates a comprehensive but fragmented way of addressing statelessness. The key findings are:

- 1. Definition and Identification of Statelessness:** Turkish law formally defines statelessness under the Law on Foreigners and International Protection (LFIP), referring to the lack of a legal bond between an individual and any state. The definition parallels international standards, providing a foundation for recognition and addressing statelessness.
- 2. Documentation and Legal Identity:** LFIP issues the "Stateless Person Identity Document" to ensure that stateless individuals can remain legally in Turkey. The document provides limited rights, including access to medical care and work permits, and exempts holders from deportation if they do not pose a threat to public security.
- 3. Scope of Rights and Protections:** While the "Stateless Person Identity Document" grants fundamental rights, stateless individuals have significant limitations compared to citizens. They, for instance, lack complete social security and political rights, illustrating loopholes in their legal protection.
- 4. Administrative and Procedural Concerns:** Statelessness determination and documentation are intricate administrative procedures that tend to create bottlenecks. Discretionary methods and differing applications cause stateless individuals to endure prolonged uncertainty.
- 5. Legislative Overlaps and Gaps:** The examination revealed overlaps between various legislative tools, like the Turkish Nationality Act and LFIP, which sometimes result in ambiguities in statelessness resolution. These gaps highlight the necessity of a more cohesive legislative framework.
- 6. Integration Challenges:** Stateless persons encounter structural integration obstacles, such as linguistic, cultural, and economic difficulties. Despite the legal framework, practical measures to promote their social and economic integration are still scarce.
- 7. International Alignment:** Turkey's legislative framework demonstrates alignment with international statelessness conventions, such as the 1954 and 1961 Conventions. However, discrepancies in enforcement and uneven implementation suggest areas for further alignment.



While Turkey has built a robust legal framework to combat statelessness, issues of implementation, integration, and enjoyment of rights continue. These remarks highlight the need for enhanced coordination, administrative effectiveness, and policy creativity to combat stateless individuals' interests in Turkey.

Conclusion

The dynamics between migration and statelessness in Turkey reflect a multifaceted but developing system towards managing one of contemporary society's most critical humanitarian and legal issues. Borrowing from the wisdom of international conventions of 1954 and 1961, Turkish legal systems have made considerable progress in recognizing and safeguarding the rights of stateless persons. Nonetheless, there remain glaring deficiencies, particularly regarding the prevention of statelessness and the adoption of best practices on the international plane in domestic law.

This evaluation, supported by key legislative resources, identifies several critical themes:

Comprehensive yet Fragmented Protection: While Turkey's issuance of Stateless Person Identity Documents ensures access to residence, health, and limited employment opportunities, the general legal and social integration of the stateless population remains irregular.

Turkey's failure to ratify the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness points to a general gap in the scope for enhanced international cooperation and adherence to international standards.

Administrative Challenges: The intricate administrative hurdles of accepting and safeguarding stateless individuals tend to slow down necessary protection and erode the rights-based framework the act seeks to establish. The issue of statelessness in Turkey has numerous important challenges that undermine the proper enforcement of policies and safeguards for victims. One of the most serious challenges is the presence of administrative blockages, which are characterized by complicated and protracted procedures causing delays and uncertainty for those claiming to be recognized as stateless persons. Further, varying discretionary practices within various administrative regions cause a lack of uniformity in enforcing policies, leading to potential differences and inequalities in treatment.

An additional key issue concerns the lack of efficient integration strategies. Insufficient efforts exist to enable the linguistic, cultural, and economic integration of the stateless, thus enhancing the marginalization of this vulnerable group. Moreover, ambiguities in the legislative framework amplify these obstacles since overlaps and gaps between various legislative instruments prevent enforcement and create confusion among stakeholders.

Ultimately, individuals without citizenship in Turkey encounter limited rights, as they are barred from engaging in political activities and are deprived of extensive social security provisions. These obstacles collectively highlight the necessity for comprehensive reforms to optimize procedures, reconcile legal frameworks, and improve the overall structure for tackling statelessness within Turkey.

In the years to come, key reforms like reducing administrative formalities, enhancing public awareness campaigns, and greater collaboration with international organizations can enhance Turkey's policy on statelessness. Additionally, addressing the socio-political roots of

statelessness by adopting inclusive citizenship policies will be crucial. As migration patterns shift, the nexus between statelessness and migration demands a nimble and responsive policy regime. By reaffirming its commitment to humanitarian principles and legal requirements, Turkey is well-positioned to serve as an example for tackling statelessness within the broader migration regime.

Turkey's framework for addressing statelessness shows considerable progress towards meeting international standards but needs to be strengthened to overcome current deficiencies. By implementing more inclusive and effective measures, Turkey can strengthen the protection and integration of stateless persons within its territory. Moreover, overcoming the psychological and social effects of statelessness—i.e., trauma and social isolation—will necessitate a holistic, rights-based response to guarantee that all affected individuals are treated with dignity and engagement. Working with international organizations and adopting a proactive role in preventing the creation of more stateless people can help consolidate Turkey's leadership role in addressing this global problem.

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