

Canadian Centre on Statelessness

Annual Report

August 2022 - November 2023



canadian centre
on statelessness

table of contents

I. Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles	3
II. Board of Directors	4
III. Operations	4
Research	5
Advocacy	6
Networking and Raising Awareness	8
IV. Financial Report	9
V. Contact Us	10

On November 17, 2015, Industry Canada under the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act* recognized Canadian Centre on Statelessness as a non-profit corporation. The Corporation Number is 951450-3.

Canadian Centre on Statelessness is located at 57 Louis-Pasteur, Room 550, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5.

CCS MISSION: why we exist

The Canadian Centre on Statelessness envisions a society in which a sense of existence and belonging of all people, however they define themselves, is reciprocally recognized and protected.

CCS VISION: where we are going

The Canadian Centre on Statelessness exists to defend and promote the well-being of persons with lived experiences of statelessness, in particular those within the Canadian context, through:

- Research: We co-generate and foster reciprocal exchanges of knowledge created by lived experiences of statelessness, participatory research, and policy analysis.
- Community: We work together as stateless persons and allies in a community that practices and cultivates respect for the rights, choices, and belonging of persons with experiences of statelessness.
- Advocacy: We amplify emancipatory knowledges and action, through intersectional allyship, for the purpose of influencing legislative, policy and social change.

CCS Guiding Principles

CCS is inspired by the voices of people experiencing statelessness and guided by the following principles:

- Everyone deserves the same level of support in having their right of belonging recognized, especially those who struggle in having this right fully acknowledged.
- To the extent possible, and as defined by the by-laws, every member benefits from the same right to participate in the decision-making processes of the organization.
- All members are encouraged to voice their opinions, share their perspectives, and honour their values in a respectful manner so as to build a strong, participatory, and consensual decision-making process.
- Every member is responsible for fostering a learning environment conducive to supporting individual and collective participation, commitment, and engagement.
- Collective decision-making will be informed by a commitment to truthfulness and it shall be congruent with the vision, mission and principles of CCS.

board of directors

DAWA BHUTI

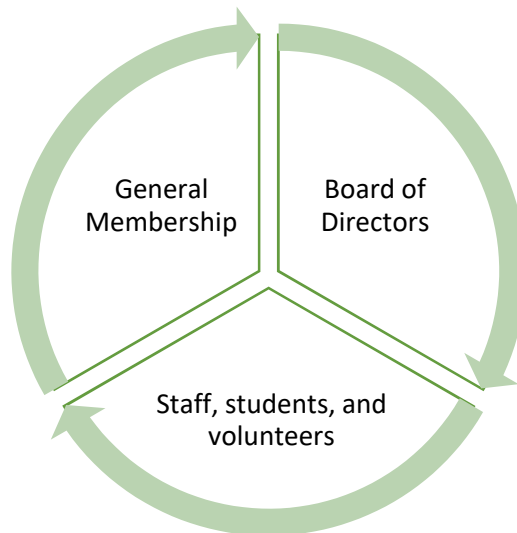
Dawa is a policy advisor with the federal government. She has lived experience of being a stateless person and the issue of statelessness, especially childhood statelessness, is close to her heart. She has a Master of Arts in Asia Pacific Policy Studies from the University of British Columbia.

JOCELYN KANE

Jocelyn is the founder of CCS and is a PhD candidate in Political Studies at the University of Ottawa where she researches voluntary statelessness.

operations

The CCS organisational structure is based upon a participatory approach in which our members, Board of Directors, and staff work together and make decisions within a horizontal consensus model.



research

Yuriko Cowper-Smith and Jocelyn Kane have collaborated on a forthcoming chapter in an edited volume on *Forced Migration in Canada*. Due to be published with McGill Queens University Press in 2024, the chapter, **“The Shifting Landscape of Statelessness in Canada”**, is a comprehensive introduction to statelessness in Canada in the context of forced migration. We identify key debates in the field and ways in which statelessness occurs in Canada – forced migration, Indigenous disenfranchisement, second generation children born abroad, and crimmigration – and the gaps inherent in both the ways of thinking about statelessness in Canada generally and Canadian protection strategies.

Our National Belonging and Health Outcomes Of Non-Citizens In Canada project is nearing completion. The author team – Jocelyn Kane, Gezy Schuurmans, and Miho Kitamura – has published one article in 2023 in the *Journal on Human Migration and Human Security*, which explores the physical and mental **“Health Care Experiences of Stateless Persons in Canada”** which includes access to health services and the relationship between one’s sense of self and their legal status. In this article, we hear from stateless people directly. You can read this Open Access article here <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/23315024231200200>. We are now in the process of completing our second research article, which focuses on the belonging of stateless persons and permanent residents in Canada.

Late last year, as part of a consultation with global civil society and regional and international institutions, CCS offered recommendations on government data collection and reporting on statelessness to the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP, and Statelessness Statistics. The **International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS)** report was submitted to the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2023 and addresses data collection in several areas ranging from definitions and demographics to process change. You can read the report here <https://egrisstats.org/recommendations/international-recommendations-on-statelessness-statistics-iross/>.

advocacy

In June 2022, CCS was happy to submit an application for membership in the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees **Global Alliance to End Statelessness Taskforce**. The Taskforce supports the establishment of the Global Alliance and comprises a small but esteemed group of stakeholders in civil society, academia, international organisations, and foundations. CCS was selected as a member of the Taskforce and has been an active member since the group started meeting in August 2022. The term of the taskforce has been extended to April 2024. You can read more about the Taskforce here

<https://www.unhcr.org/ibelong/the-new-global-alliance-to-end-statelessness/>



In September 2022, CCS developed a policy brief based on our findings from our **National Belonging and Health Outcomes of Non-Citizens In Canada** study. We prepared an outline of our findings concerning the physical and mental health experiences of stateless persons, and their feelings of belonging in Canada, and made several policy recommendations. We submitted this brief to the offices of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, Sean Fraser.

That month CCS also joined the Migrant Rights Network and thousands across the country who **marched to demand equal rights and permanent resident status** for all undocumented people, migrant workers, students, families and refugees. We called on the Canadian government to regularize stateless people who reside in Canada.



In April 2023, CCS sent a brief to the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration concerning **Bill S-245**, An Act to amend the Citizenship Act (granting citizenship to certain Canadians). Bill S-245 was introduced in the Senate on 12 May 2022 and addressed a category of Lost Canadians – persons who thought they were Canadian citizens but who either lost their citizenship or were never citizens in the first place. It passed the Senate and was introduced in the House of Commons, which referred the bill to the Committee for further study. We made two recommendations:

- That the Committee consider including within Bill S-245 a definition of a de jure stateless person as “a person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law” as defined in the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 1961 *Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness*, to which Canada acceded in 1978.
- That the Committee consider a streamlined means for stateless persons *who do not have a bloodline connection* to a Canadian but who *reside* in Canada to apply for and be granted citizenship.

Neither recommendation was adopted by the Committee. Bill S-245 was an opportunity for Canada to at least define statelessness in its citizenship legislation. As a result, statelessness is addressed only in the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*, which states a foreign national is “a person who is not a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident, and includes a stateless person.” You can read our brief here

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/Committees/en/CIMM/StudyActivity?studyActivityId=11922066>,

and a summary of the development of Bill S-245 here

https://lop.parl.ca/sites/PublicWebsite/default/en_CA/ResearchPublications/LegislativeSummaries/441S245E.

In the Spring of 2023, CCS began working with Canadian and international allies to develop a proposal for the Canadian government to express its commitment to resolving statelessness at home and abroad. The first step was to draft a **Pledge** to address specific gaps in Canadian law and policy concerning defining statelessness and protecting stateless people, and to support global initiatives including the Global Alliance to End Statelessness and the Friends of the #IBelong Campaign. Our hope is that the Canadian government adopts this Pledge and presents it formally to the Global Refugee Forum to be held in Geneva in December 2023.

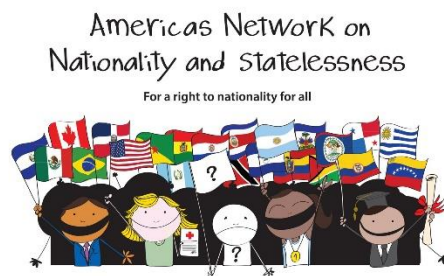
In an effort led by the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, CCS joined organisations and individuals across the world calling for **an immediate end to indiscriminate attacks on the Palestinian people** in the October 2023 Hamas Israel conflict. Among others, allies called for

the “realisation of the Palestinian right to self-determination and nationhood as essential to ending the persistent and gross denial of human rights that is Palestinian statelessness” You can read the statement here <https://www.institutesi.org/news/call-for-an-immediate-end-to-indiscriminate-attacks-on-the-palestinian-people>.

networking and raising awareness

In 2022 and 2023, CCS continued to maintain and build relationships with its supporters and allies worldwide.

Since its founding in 2014, CCS has been a member of the Americas Network on Nationality and Statelessness. The Network comprises civil society organizations, academic initiatives, and individual experts committed to address statelessness in the Americas.



Since 2015, CCS has been a member of the Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights which mobilizes international action to achieve law reform in countries that deny women equal nationality rights with men.



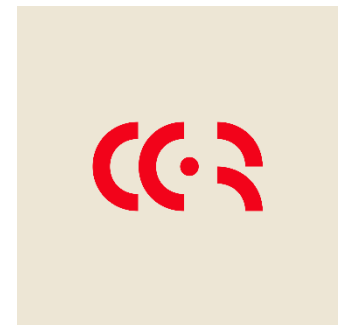
Since 2020, CCS has been a member of ISI's wider [global statelessness movement building](#) initiative.



In the spring of 2022, CCS became a member of Volunteer Ottawa, and renewed its membership in 2023.



In the winter of 2022, CCS became a member of the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR). The Council is a national non-profit umbrella organization committed to the rights and protection of refugees and other vulnerable migrants in Canada and around the world and to the settlement of refugees and immigrants in Canada. renewed its membership in 2023.



financial report

Since its foundation, CCS has received numerous in-kind donations from stakeholders that have allowed CCS to carry out various activities, including office space, promotional tools, and financial assistance for attending international events. A very special thank you is extended to the Human Rights Research and Education Centre, University of Ottawa.

Jocelyn Kane, Treasurer, Board of Directors, October 23, 2023 Toronto, Ontario Canada.

	Jan - Oct 23	Jan - Dec 22	Jan - Dec 21
PROFIT AND LOSS 2021 - 2023			
INCOME			
Individual Donations	375.00	450.00	500.00
Interest	0.05	0.26	0.36
Bank Refund	0.00	0.00	1.95
Membership Dues	50.00	75.00	175.00
TOTAL INCOME	425.44	525.26	677.31
EXPENSE			
Business Expenses (business cards, annual corporation registration, CCR membership, events)	181.85	148.88	12.00
Communications (website)	0.00	218.12	0.00
Other (PayPal fee)	0.00	5.26	23.46
TOTAL EXPENSE	181.85	372.26	35.46
NET INCOME	243.59	153.00	641.85
BALANCE SHEET 2021 - 2023			
ASSETS			
Current Assets	2000.14	1,780.19	1,655.55
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY			
Current Liabilities	-160.58	-136.94	-108.58
Equity			
Unrestricted Net Assets	1917.13	1,764.13	1,122.28
Net Income	243.59	153.00	641.85
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	2000.14	1,780.19	1,655.55

contact us

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www.statelessness.ca



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