

Abstracts

Mind the Gap? Protection as a Definitional Trap for Statelessness in Europe

Statelessness affects at least 10 million people globally and over 500,000 of the displaced populations who are deemed as stateless are in Europe. To be stateless is a legal anomaly that curtails access to fundamental civil, political, economic, cultural and social rights. It also leads to a scale of criminalizing acts of states that target the migrants, refugees and other displaced populations. Especially since the Syrian exodus (circa 2011) and despite the growing size of stateless populations arriving at Europe's gates, European Union member or candidate states do not espouse a common framework either for recognition of stateless peoples or the protection of their most basic rights. This is despite the fact that all the aforementioned countries are signatories of the 1964 Convention on Statelessness. This paper analyzes the disjunct between the letter of the law and state practices concerning both official and societal denial of stateless peoples as worthy and grievable subjects, and thus in practice creating a new class of Europe's subalterns.



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