

CONFERENCE

STATELESSNESS AND TRANSCONTINENTAL MIGRATION

24th - 25th July 2014






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X **Khadija Elmadmad**

**Statelessness and Migration:
The Case of de facto and de jure
Stateless Children in Morocco,
Khadija Elmadmad, Director of
the UNESCO Centre, The Law and
Migration, Rabat (Morocco)**

It is generally very difficult for a person to live as de jure or as de facto stateless. It is more difficult for a child to live as stateless and even much more difficult to live as a stateless migrant child. This situation results in three kinds of vulnerabilities: statelessness vulnerability, childhood vulnerability and migration vulnerability. It requires the protection of three kinds of rights: the rights of stateless persons, of children and of migrants.

A fieldwork conducted in Morocco with some Moroccan de facto stateless children and with some Sub-Saharan de jure stateless migrant children showed that, though the legal status of these two categories of children are different in theory, their needs for protection of rights are almost the same in practice. Both categories live on the margin of the society and without rights. As stateless, they are invisible both in the literature and in the actions relating to children and/or to migrants. Their rights need to be known and promoted.

This presentation will deal first with statelessness in general and with the relative invisibility of stateless people and of their rights throughout the world. It will then analyze the case of Morocco and will focus on stateless children and their rights and notably the case of the de jure Sub-Saharan stateless migrant children living in the country and their need for protection and assistance.

Khadija Elmadmad is a Law Professor and an Advocate. She is at present the Director of the UNESCO Centre "The Law and Migration" (CUDM), which is based in Rabat (www.cudm.net). She was before the Tenure of the UNESCO Chair "Migration and Human Rights", the Chair of the Rabat based Moroccan NGO "Migration and the Law" and the Coordinator of the Casablanca Law Faculty Postgraduate Programme on "Migration and the Law".
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