

Citizenship is the particular legal bond between an individual and his or her State, acquired by birth or naturalisation, either by declaration, choice, marriage or other means under national legislation.

A **third country national** is any person who is not a citizen of the European Union (EU), including stateless persons - see Art. 2.1 (i) of the [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 862/2007](#) .

A **stateless** person is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law, as set out in Article 1 of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons¹.

A **recognised non-citizen** is a person who is not a citizen of the reporting country nor of any other country, but who has established links to that country which include some but not all rights and obligations of full citizenship. Recognised non-citizens are not included in the number of European Union (EU) citizens.

Related concepts

- [Asylum](#)
- [Migration](#)
- [Residence permit](#)

Statistical data

- [Residence permits - statistics on first permits issued during the year](#)

Notes

¹For additional information, please consult [UNHCR Guidelines on Statelessness No. 1: The definition of "Stateless Person" in Article 1\(1\) of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons](#) , 20 February 2012, HCR/GS/12/01;