Questions by Stateless Children

As I learnt about more situations of statelessness from around the world and started making friends with more young people who themselves are stateless, I started receiving questions from them. Many of their questions were very difficult for me to answer. They really made me think. Some of them also made me very angry, that even today, children have to ask such questions about their own lives. How would you answer these questions?

Why don’t I have nationality, although I was born in this country?  
– Bakhrom, 14 years old, Kyrgyzstan

Why is it that a person like me, who is the second generation born in Madagascar and who has no link with any other country, cannot have Malagasy nationality?  
– Mohamed, 14 years old, Madagascar

Do I look any different than anyone here?  
How do I ask a question, when everything I plan about my future ends with endless questions?  
– Subhashini, 12 years old, Malaysia

Why is it that my brothers have documents, but (like so many other girls) I do not?  
– Zalina, 19 years old, Tajikistan

How long will I have to wait to have equal rights with other people? I have been fighting for this my whole life.  
– Phra, Thailand

What will happen if I never continue my education beyond this year?  
– Sheellin, 15 years old, Malaysia

Does the world care about us?  
How much longer must I wait?  
– Andrew, South Africa