



# British Nationality Act 1948

## CHAPTER 56

### BRITISH NATIONALITY ACT 1948

#### PART I

##### BRITISH NATIONALITY

- 1 British nationality by virtue of citizenship
- 2 Continuation of certain citizens of Eire as British subjects
- 3 Limitation of criminal liability of citizens of countries mentioned in s. 1 (3) and Eire. Status of citizens of Eire and British protected persons

#### PART II

##### CITIZENSHIP OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES

###### *Citizenship by birth or descent*

- 4 Citizenship by birth
- 5 Citizenship by descent

###### *Citizenship by registration*

- 6 Registration of citizens of countries mentioned in s. 1 (3) or of Eire and wives of citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies
- 7 Registration of minors
- 8 Registration in countries mentioned in s. 1 (3), colonies, etc.
- 9 Effect of registration as a citizen

###### *Citizenship by naturalisation*

- 10 Naturalisation of aliens and British protected persons

*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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*Citizenship by incorporation of territory*

- 11 Power to specify citizens by Order in Council on incorporation of territory

*Transitional*

- 12 British subjects before commencement of Act becoming citizens of United Kingdom and Colonies  
13 British subjects whose citizenship has not been ascertained at the commencement of this Act  
14 Women who have ceased to be British subjects by reason of marriage  
15 Persons who have ceased to be British subjects by failure to make declaration of retention of British Nationality  
16 Persons who have ceased to be British subjects on loss of British nationality by parent  
17 Registration of births occurring before commencement of Act  
18 Applications for naturalisation pending at the commencement of Act

*Renunciation and Deprivation of citizenship*

- 19 Renunciation of citizenship by reason of dual citizenship or nationality  
20 Deprivation of citizenship  
21 Deprivation of citizenship of United Kingdom and Colonies where persons deprived of citizenship elsewhere  
22 Deprivation in colonies and other territories

**PART III**

SUPPLEMENTAL

- 23 Legitimated children  
24 Posthumous children  
25 Certificate of citizenship in case of doubt  
26 Discretion of Secretary of State, Governor or High Commissioner  
27 Evidence  
28 Offences  
29 Orders in Council, regulations and rules  
30 Protectorates and protected states  
31 Assimilation of status of natural-born and other British subjects under existing enactments  
32 Interpretation  
33 Channel Islands and Isle of Man  
34 Short title, commencement and repeal

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SCHEDULES

FIRST SCHEDULE — Oath of Allegiance

SECOND — Qualifications for Naturalisation  
SCHEDULE

*Aliens*

- 1 Subject to the provisions of the next following paragraph, the...

2 The Secretary of State may if in the special circumstances...

*British protected persons*

3 The qualifications for naturalisation of a British protected person who...

*Application to colonies, protectorates and trust territories*

4 The foregoing provisions of this Schedule shall, in their application...

THIRD SCHEDULE — British Subjects without Citizenship under Section Thirteen of this Act

1 The law in force before the commencement of this Act...

2 So long as a person remains a British subject without...

3 If while a male person remains a British subject without...

FOURTH SCHEDULE — Enactments Repealed

PART I — ENACTMENTS RELATING TO NATURAL-BORN BRITISH SUBJECTS

PART II — OTHER ENACTMENTS