**Friends World Committee for Consultation Oral Statement to be delivered at the 36th Session of the Human Rights Council in the General Debate on Item 3**

**A Global Compact for Migrants**

This time last year, in the New York Declaration, States committed to “fully protect the human rights of all refugees and migrants, regardless of status” noting that “all are rights holders”.[[1]](#footnote-1)

The OHCHR compendium[[2]](#footnote-2) is a valuable reminder of the legal framework in place to protect the rights of migrants and its annex is a useful collection of States’ practical actions grounded in this legal framework.

This report will be transmitted as part of the consultation phase of the global compact on safe orderly and regular migration, but it should also be used as a tool, internationally in the negotiation of this compact and domestically in reviewing and reforming policies and practices.

We encourage you to share this report with your capitals and relevant line ministries to assist them in improving domestic implementation of the rights of migrants. But we also call on all of you, as you enter the compact’s negotiation phase, to use this report, along with the full acquis of the Council (and the Commission before it) on the rights of migrants, as a reminder to you and your colleagues of the international human rights law framework which provides the strong foundation on which to build a human rights based global compact.

The suffering that prompted the New York Declaration persists, as the High Commissioner’s update reminded us, ending this must be forefront in your minds as you work for a global compact that is ambitious, effective and human rights based;[[3]](#footnote-3) for a global compact which is not just on migration but which is for migrants.

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Delivered by Laurel Townhead (Representative, Human Rights and Refugees)

1. [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/71/1), A/RES/71/1, paragraph 5 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the compendium of principles, good practices and policies on safe, orderly and regular migration in line with international human rights law](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session36/Documents/A_HRC_36_42_EN.docx), A/HRC/36/42 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. For further information on our work on the global compact on safe orderly and regular migration, please see: <http://www.quno.org/areas-of-work/refugees-and-migrants> and <http://www.quno.org/timeline/Refugees-and-Migrants> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)