**FWCC Oral Statement to be delivered at the 43rd session of the Human Rights Council**

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism**

Thank you Chair and thank you to the Special Rapporteur for her report.

Quakers have long advocated for the rights of children of incarcerated parents and would like to draw the Special Rapporteur’s attention to some of the specific issues faced by children of parents incarcerated for involvement with designated terrorist groups. These children’s rights are too often overlooked in counter-terror responses.

We thank the Special Rapporteur for her recent statement on foreign terror fighters, in which she reaffirmed that the best interests of the child must always be a primary consideration, and that not affording children associated with designated terrorist groups protection constitutes a moral failure by their home States,[[1]](#footnote-1) a message echoed in comments from the High Commissioner last Thursday.[[2]](#footnote-2)

All children have the right to be protected from discrimination, including on the basis of the activities of their parents. Policies or responses which treat all children of parents associated with designated terrorist groups as security threats, including detaining or punishing them, based solely on the activities or views of their parents therefore violate the rights of these children.

Every child has a right to a nationality, as recognised in Article 7 of the CRC, and all States must ensure that children, regardless of the crimes or alleged crimes of their parents, are not subjected to statelessness. International human rights law guarantees the right of every person to re-enter their own country: children, whatever their parents may have done, are no exception to this right and must not be barred from re-entering their country.

Special Rapporteur, what measures are needed to better protect the rights of these children and could this be explored in one of your future reports?

Thank you.

ENDS

Delivered by Lucy Halton

1. United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, statement given at the Joint Regional High-level Conference convened by the OSCE, UNOCT and Switzerland, in cooperation with the Albanian OSCE Chairmanship on “Foreign Terrorist Fighters – Addressing Current Challenges” (11-12 February 2020). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Update to the 43rd Session of the Human Rights Council under Item 2, 27 February 2020, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25621&LangID=E>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)