



**FWCC Oral Statement to be delivered at the 46th Session of the Human Rights Council
Item 3 - Interactive Dialogue: Special Rapporteur on minority issues**

Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers) welcomes the attention the special rapporteur has given to hate speech in recent activities.

The racist, discriminatory and xenophobic narratives we see surrounding migrants and migration contribute to situations in which their human rights are violated. Language used to describe migrants enables them to be constructed as threats which leads to their further exclusion and stigmatization. We are deeply concerned by how this has been exacerbated in the treatment of migrants in relation to the spread of Covid-19.

The deep-rooted nature of anti-migrant narratives means that active work is required to create alternative narratives that celebrate what unites us rather than emphasizing divisions.

We would like to draw the Council's attention to OHCHR's migration narratives toolkit which provides practical means to build human rights-based narratives on migrants and migration.¹ Drawing on migrants' experience and expertise should be central to measures taken by States to shift narratives and to end hate speech against minorities. We encourage all States to use this toolkit and to join the call to Stand Up for Migrants.

Our question to the Special Rapporteur is:

What actions can States take to create safe and enabling environments for minorities, including migrants, to be at the centre of efforts to shift narratives?

ENDS

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¹ OHCHR, Seven key elements: On Building Human Rights-Based Narratives on Migrants and Migration (2020)
<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Migration/SevenKeyElements.pdf>