**FWCC Oral Statement for 49th Session of the Human Rights Council**

**General Debate Item 2: Strengthening Human Rights Protection at and Across Borders**

Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers) thanks you, High Commissioner, for your clear call for human rights based leadership,[[1]](#footnote-1) your call to put the world’s people at the centre of decision making and your call to recognise the interconnectedness of the threats to human rights and our interconnectedness as people.

In the midst of the multiple threats to human rights that you outline, we take this opportunity to draw attention to human rights violations at borders and in transit and to what you have so powerfully described as lethal disregard for people on the move.

Whilst attention may be on the most recent large movements or those closest to where we are there is a global pattern of human rights violations in transit and at borders. A global pattern well documented by this Council’s Special Procedures.[[2]](#footnote-2) A global pattern that compelled the Secretary General to identify preventing loss of life and other tragedies during migration as a priority for action in his recent report on implementation of the Global Compact for Migration.[[3]](#footnote-3)

Heeding the recommendations of the Special Procedures, informed by the dialogues of this Council and answering your call for monitoring at borders we look to all States to take concrete steps through the upcoming International Migration Review Forum to support sustained attention, provide expert analysis and foster dialogue with the aim of ending lethal disregard. We believe it is time for a mechanism such as a High Level Panel on Preventing Deaths in Transit.

The human cost of the status quo requires us to find new responses, the IMRF is a chance to show leadership, leadership that upholds the rights of all of regardless of the borders we seek to cross or why.

**\*\*\* ENDS \*\*\***

Delivered by Laurel Townhead

Human Rights and Refugees Representative

1. <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=28163&LangID=E> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For example: [Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants report on means to address the human rights impact of pushbacks of migrants on land and at sea, A/HRC/47/30](https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/47/30) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [Report of the Secretary-General on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, A/76/642](https://undocs.org/A/76/642) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)