



## Quaker United Nations Office

Avenue du Mervelet 13  
CH-1209 Geneva, Switzerland

Tel +41 (22) 748 4810

Fax +41 (22) 748 4819

Email [quno@quno.ch](mailto:quno@quno.ch)

FWCC Oral Statement for the Human Rights Council (51<sup>st</sup> Session) Enhanced interactive dialogue on the report of the High Commissioner and the report of the International Independent Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement.

Presented by Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge  
QUNO Geneva Director  
3 October 2021

I am Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge and I represent FWCC as Director of the Quaker UN Office in Geneva. I speak from direct experience of police violence under a system of legalised racism. I was detained without trial and held for a year in solitary confinement by the State. The UN and the world condemned legalised racism in apartheid South Africa and supported the effort to end it.

Eradicating structural racism requires sustained collective effort. We support the call for States to collect disaggregated data, by race or ethnic origin, to monitor racism in law enforcement. We are committed to transformation for racial justice and to better understand how this cuts across all aspects of our work.

We are aware of the scale of your task, and we stand with you and others seeking transformation of systemic racism. James Baldwin observed: **“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”**

Our questions are:

Acting High Commissioner:

- ✧ States arm and train the police. How can you help us hold States and not just individual officers accountable for racial violence in law enforcement?
- ✧ How can we ensure this work remains a high priority for the Office, including hearing directly from victims of racism?

Members of the Expert Mechanism:

- ✧ How can faith communities like Quakers, with our commitment to non-violence and equality, support the steps you recommend?

I thank you.