



Quaker United Nations Office

Human Rights Council 53rd Session (19 June -14 July 2023)

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants

Quoting the UN Secretary General: “Every person searching for a better life deserves safety & dignity”

Special Rapporteur we thank you for your work towards greater safety and dignity for migrants, for your reports and strong recommendation to:

Put an end to the criminalization of irregular migrants and promote solidarity towards migrants to change the narrative on migration and combat xenophobia, racism and discrimination.¹

The human cost of criminalisation of irregular migrants, of dangerous narratives, and of policies and practices that systemically fail to uphold safety and dignity or worse deliberately undermine them remains shockingly high.

Deaths and grave human rights violations in transit require this Council’s attention.

- **To Listen** – by making space space to hear directly from migrants and family members and act on their recommendations
- **To Learn** – for example by enabling detailed discussion with independent human rights monitoring mechanisms operating in transit areas, identifying good practices and challenges in addressing impunity
- **To Lead** – by answering the call from over 220 civil society organisations and groups, echoed by the Special Rapporteur and highlighted by Luxembourg earlier, to create an independent mechanism to investigate human rights violations in transit around the world and engage the political will needed to ensure change.

Special Rapporteur:

How can the Council better meet its responsibilities to uphold the safety and dignity of migrants in transit?

**** ENDS ****

Delivered by Laurel Townhead

Representative, Human Rights and Refugees

¹ How to expand and diversify regularization mechanisms and programmes to enhance the protection of the human rights of migrants, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, A/HRC/53/26, para. 72(I)