



Quaker United Nations Office

FWCC Oral Statement to be delivered at the 58th session of the Human Rights Council General Debate on Item 2

“Recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world”¹

We believe this is as true today as it was when it was used as the opening to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We echo the High Commissioner’s concern about “concerted efforts to undermine the rights of refugees and migrants.”

We are disturbed by the dehumanization of migrants in narratives and actions that seek to divide us and continue to present people more as a risk than at-risk. As the Secretary General has said:

Such narratives can lead to violence against migrants and human rights defenders and have corrosive effects on wider society.²

They undermine that foundation of freedom, justice and peace.

Noting statistics on loss of life and disappearances in migration the Secretary General states that:

The scale of this tragedy and the frequency of preventable deaths and disappearances constitute an intolerable and solvable humanitarian crisis.³

The Secretary General’s recommendations, requested by Member States in the International Migration Review Forum Progress Declaration include action for accountability – including investigation and monitoring and prompt, effective remedies and action for prevention – including establishing independent review bodies to assess and mitigate the impact of laws, policies and practices on the risk of migrants dying or going missing.⁴

We believe that the Office and the Council have a role to play in this and reiterate the call for an independent international monitoring mechanism⁵ and our call for a High-Level Panel on Deaths in Transit.

¹ United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, 217 A (III), 10 December 1948, <https://www.refworld.org/legal/resolution/unga/1948/en/11563>, Preamble [accessed 24 February 2025].

² UNGA, Report of the Secretary-General on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, A/79/590 (2024), para 44.

³ UNGA, Report of the SG on the GCM, A/79/590 (2024), para 66.

⁴ UNGA, Report of the SG on the GCM, A/79/590 (2024), Annex 1, para 1.

⁵ ‘Joint Letter Calling for Mechanism on Human Rights Violations at Borders,’ (25 June 2023), <https://quno.org/sites/default/files/resources/EN%20%E2%80%93Joint%20Letter%20Calling%20for%20Mechanism%20on%20HR%20violations%20at%20borders%20-%20English%20-%20signatories%2025%20June.pdf>.

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Migration justice requires not only recognition of our shared dignity but action to uphold this for all members of our human family.

*** ENDS ***

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