



44th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 30 June – 20 July 2020

Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants

Oral statement delivered by: Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23)

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Madame President,

APG23 takes note of the report of Mr. Felipe Gonzalez Morales, the Special Rapporteur on Migrants, on the right to freedom of association as it is essential for migrants to express their needs, protect their right to life and defend their economic, social, cultural as well as political and civil human rights.

It is undeniable that the phenomenon of migration has become in recent years one of the most dramatic and complex phenomena of the modern era. In addition to that, the inability of migrants to exercise their right to freedom of association impinge on their leverage to change the conditions of employment or other social conditions that entrench poverty, fuel inequality and limit democracy. Therefore, we strongly recall that “given the interconnected nature of human rights, restrictions on migrants’ and their defenders’ freedom of association further hinder migrants’ enjoyment of other rights.”¹

As the right to freedom of association is a fundamental human right enshrined in article 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and in various other international human rights instruments, we believe that States, instead of approaching migration through a security-oriented lens, should give greater prominence to a rights-based approach, thus eschewing additional barriers to migrants’ freedom of association.

In fact, by exercising their right to freedom of association, migrants are empowered to claim other rights and overcome jointly the challenges they face at the different stages of migration.²

We would like to ask the Special Rapporteur: which steps can be taken in order to fully recognize in domestic laws migrants’ right to freedom of association and, at the same time, encourage them to self-organize, regardless of their migration status?

Thank you!

¹ A/HRC/44/42

² Ibid.