



47th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 21 June – 15 July 2021

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in persons, especially women and children

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

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Madam President,

APG23 congratulates Ms Siobhán Mullaly on her appointment as UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children and welcomes her report for the 47th Regular Session of Human Rights Council in which she analyzes the current challenges in the implementation of the non-punishment principle.

Our Association, with its long experience, especially in Italy, in rescuing women trafficked for sexual exploitation and reduced to slaves, is heavily committed to eliminate human trafficking and its root causes since it is firmly convinced - as Pope Francis constantly underscores – that ‘Human Trafficking is a Modern Slavery’ and that its practice is a “Crime against Humanity”.

Indeed, “trafficked persons shall not be detained, charged or prosecuted for the illegality of their entry into or residence in countries of transit and destination, or for their involvement in unlawful activities to the extent that such involvement is a direct consequence of their situation as trafficked persons ».

Concerning women sexually exploited and enslaved into prostitution, APG23 would like to emphasize that States should never criminalize the victims of sexual exploitation but should instead consider the criminalization of those who buy sex as an instrument to combat human trafficking, to counteract men’s violence against women and not the least – to protect human rights and achieve gender equality. In this regard, APG23 supports the so called “Nordic Model” that reduces the demand for sexual exploitation by fining the clients.

We reiterate that human trafficking should be addressed by different angles. Decriminalizing migration, reducing the demand for sexual exploitation, and involving the very same victims into the recovery and remedy process, are key aspects to tackle this major human rights threat.

Thank you!