



## **49th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council (28 February – 1 April 2022)**

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

### **ITEM 6: UPR Greece**

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Mr. President,

APG23 welcomes the engagement of Greece in the third cycle of the UPR process. We commend the Government of Greece for its efforts to implement the recommendations from the second cycle, and for having adopted the first national action plans regarding the rights of persons with disabilities, against racism and intolerance, and on the rights of the child, aimed at combating child poverty and protecting children on the move.

APG23 has been working in Greece since 2011, offering a wide variety of social actions in the field of promotion and defence of human rights, taking care of children, homeless people, people with disabilities, and drug users. We assist refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, and since 2019 we have had a periodic presence on the island of Lesbos.

In our submission for the 3rd cycle of the UPR Greece, we focused on the recommendations on the situation of migrants and asylum seekers, including children, which highlight the existence of a reception system that is not adapted to their needs, in terms of procedural and legislative safeguards to protect human rights.

For these reasons, we would like to recommend the Member State to:

- Promote viable alternatives to detention and administrative confinement by developing open reception and adequate infrastructure;
- Guarantee collaboration between relevant government services and civil society, ensuring access to NGOs in the camps;
- Promote the organization of humanitarian corridors.

We would also invite the Government of Greece to effectively implement the national action plans by promoting and encouraging the collection of timely and accessible national data on disability, and by ensuring the removal of architectural barriers and access to public goods and services. Finally, we recommend strengthening the process of deinstitutionalization of children with disabilities to ensure their right to be cared for by their parents, or by foster and adoptive families.

Thank you!