



50th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council (13 June – 8 July 2022)
ITEM 3: ID with the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

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

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Mr. President,

APG23 thanks the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health for her report on violence and its impact on the right to health.¹

APG23 is deeply concerned about the humiliations, violence, and threats suffered by migrants along some external European borders impacting their physical and mental health. Such practices, contrary to a human rights-based approach to migration, affect especially the right to health and life of people reaching borders.

We all have a collective responsibility to advocate for and promote the mental and physical health and well-being of every human being that decides to look for a better life or is forced outside the country of origin, but States, in particular, have both the duty to assure that human rights are respected at the borders and the duty to cooperate towards a better future for all.

Many migrant women and girls are subjected to multiple discrimination and violence. Awareness of the multiple violence suffered by women before, during, and after the journey is a fundamental starting point to be able to help the recovery of their mental health and wellbeing. The access to Gender-Based Violence services is already very difficult for migrant women. Language barriers, lack of information, different perception and awareness of rights, precarious conditions of work, uncertain legal status, and lack of solidarity network to rely on, are all conditions that make their journey out of situations of violence even more problematic.

APG23 would like to ask the Special Rapporteur: what can be done, at the borders, to facilitate access to gender-based violence services for migrant women that are especially focusing on their mental health?

Thank You!

¹ A/HRC/50/28