



53rd Regular Session of the Human Rights Council (19 June – 14 July 2023)

ITEM 3: ID with the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children

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

Check against delivery.

APG23 thanks the Special Rapporteur for her report on “Trafficking in persons and protection of refugees, stateless persons and internally displaced persons” and for recalling States to ensure full and proper access to international protection for trafficked persons and persons at risk of trafficking.

As widely reported, refugees, displaced persons and migrants, especially women and girls, are ever more targeted by human traffickers who take advantage of their vulnerability.

According to our experience on the ground in defending, welcoming and supporting victims of trafficking, we reiterate the key role of the early identification of persons who have been or are at risk of being trafficked; indeed, victims of human trafficking require immediate protection and have specific needs. We stress that a multi-agency and intersectional approach during the identification process is crucial to save the victims from their traffickers and grant international protection.

Furthermore, it is also urgent to provide adequate training to workers and social services at the borders and in reception centres for asylum seekers to facilitate the identification of the victim through intercultural and interreligious approaches.

In this regard, professional workers welcoming asylum seekers have to know how to recognize a potential victim, especially in those situations where the victim is accompanied by exploiters or partners who are part of a criminal network. For instance, many times we detected that a fellow countryman acting as a partner and/or father of a young girl could instead prove to be responsible for her trafficking.

In conclusion, we urge all States to ensure all necessary measures to identify, protect and assist refugees and migrants, especially women and girls victims of trafficking who too often are trapped in the invisible human trafficking net.

Thank you!