



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

ITEM 3: ID with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants

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

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Mr President,

APG23 welcomes the report of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of migrants and thanks Mr Morales for his significant work during his mandates.

As underlined in his conclusions “regularisation is, therefore, a protection and inclusion tool that benefits migrants, their families, destination countries and communities”.

Enhancing regular pathways is imperative to provide migrants full access to their rights but also to avoid them from falling into illegality, trafficking and smuggling.

In this regard, APG23 is deeply concerned about the precarious conditions that migrants keep on suffering; structural and bureaucratic obstacles as well as linguistic barriers and social bias make people on the move even more invisible and vulnerable.

In Lebanon, according to our experience on the ground, the lack of a proper regularisation process affects Syrian refugees’ everyday life. The possibility of obtaining a regular permit is precarious and often hindered by several requirements. Their right to work and adequate housing is completely denied.

Likewise, in Greece, the regularisation procedure is extremely complex and time-consuming. Furthermore, irregular migrants are marginalised and often pushed to the outskirts of society to hinder any kind of integration.

In Italy, restrictive migration policies aimed at narrowing the use of special protection status severely limit migrants' social protection and inclusion.

Sadly, another deplorable shipwreck happened in the Mediterranean Sea a few days ago.

We strongly reiterate that search and rescue at sea have to always be guaranteed regardless of the legal status of migrants or the reason that forces them to migrate.

Finally, we urge all states to deeply commit to safeguarding migrants' lives and rights by providing regular and safe pathways and enhancing accessible and clear regularisation procedures. No more lives are to be lost.

Thank you!