



Company of the
Daughters of
Charity of Vincent
de Paul



38th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 18 June - 6 July 2018
Item 3: Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity and SR on the right to education

Joint oral statement

Mr President,

APG23 and other 8 co-signing NGOs welcome the report¹ of the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity where Mr Okafor delivers his vision-setting and lays out topics he intends or hopes to engage with during his mandate.

We are very glad to know that the Independent Expert intends, among other objectives, to build on the work of the previous mandate holders, to enlarge the consensus on the mandate among States and other stakeholders, and to put more efforts to demonstrate the deep interconnections between human rights-based international solidarity and many key international relations issues.

We understand that the Independent Expert is very keen to push forward the draft Declaration on the right to international solidarity presented by Ms Virginia Dandan at the 35th regular session of Human Rights Council. In this regard, being our NGOs advocators of the right to international solidarity, we wish to reiterate our full support.

The Independent Expert has introduced the wording “human rights-based international solidarity” and we think that this is a further important move to define both the principle and the right of international solidarity at international level. We are looking forward for Mr Okafor to further elaborate on this concept.

We are also glad that the Independent Expert will include in his future reports some thematic priorities of global concern. In our opinion, migration and climate changes are, above all, the greatest global challenges that require a renewed commitment to international solidarity by States and all the other stakeholders.

In regard to migration, Pope Francis once said²: “The duty of solidarity is to counter the throwaway culture and to give greater attention to those who are weakest, poorest and most vulnerable. Thus, a change of attitude towards migrants and refugees is needed on the part of everyone, moving away from attitudes of defensiveness and fear, indifference and marginalization – all typical of a throwaway culture – towards attitudes based on a culture of encounter, the only culture capable of building a better, more just and fraternal world”.

Finally, we invite all the Member States, UN agencies, National Human Rights Institutions and NGOs to attend our parallel event on International Solidarity and Migration that will be held on 20 June from 11 to 12 hours in room XV. The Independent Expert will intervene in the panel.

Thank You!

1 A/HRC/38/40

2 Message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, 5 August 2013.