



56th Session of the Human Rights Council
Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur the human rights of migrants
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Mr. President,

Franciscans International welcomes the report of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants. It appreciates the Rapporteur's concentration on the positivity of the contributions to society of migrants and the conclusion that "Supporting an evidence-based narrative on migration is crucial for upholding migrants' rights and ensuring that their contributions are acknowledged and valued".¹

Franciscans International has raised the issue of legislation in the United Kingdom (UK), which has passed in recent years and aims to deter migrants who may have legitimate claims of asylum. This includes the Illegal Migration Act 2023 and the Safety of Rwanda Act 2024. In respect of the former Act a judgement of the High Court² in Belfast on 14 May 2024 disapplied provisions of the Act as contrary to the Windsor Framework, which protects Northern Ireland from diminutions of human rights secured under European Law. The Court also declared that several provisions were incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights.

The latter Act appears as a direct attack on the rule of law as it attempts simply to flout the finding by the UK Supreme Court³ that Rwanda is not a safe country for asylum seekers due to the risk of refoulement.

The threat to fly migrants to Rwanda remains in abeyance awaiting the result of the election in the UK. Any new government must respect international law and repeal legislation, including the aforementioned, which is contrary to it. The UK must uphold the human rights of migrants and asylum seekers, and end their policies, practices and statements that demonize and re-traumatize them. I thank you.

¹ Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, Gehad Madi at para 118.

² <https://www.judiciaryni.uk/judicial-decisions/2024-nikb-35>

³ Judgement of Supreme Court 15 November 2023 in R (on the application of AAA and others –v- Secretary of State for the Home Department (2023) UKSC 42