



FWCC Oral Statement to be delivered at the 27th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with Independent Expert on Older Persons

Older Prisoners

Thank you Chair

Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers) extends a warm welcome to the Independent Expert. We are pleased to see so much of substance in a report covering a very short period since she accepted this new mandate.

We are particularly pleased to see that the report picks up the reference to older prisoners in resolution 24/20 (A/HRC/RES/24/20) establishing the mandate. In many countries there is a growing population of older prisoners because of increased life expectancy, longer prison sentences and other factors. However, this group is often overlooked.

We welcome the recognition that the right to life and to a dignified death should be understood to include a prohibition on the imprisonment of older persons and a prohibition on the death penalty for older persons.

As a minority within a socially excluded group, older prisoners are particularly at risk of human rights abuses, including the risk of cruel inhuman or degrading treatment and the lack of access to appropriate health care, in addition to the issue the Independent Expert identified regarding dignity in dying.

Will the Independent Expert seek to meet with older prisoners and communicate with older prisoners to ensure that she can include their experiences in the delivery of her mandate?

Thank you