



### **FWCC Oral Statement to be delivered at the 37<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**

#### **High Level Panel on Mainstreaming**

The Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers) welcomes the focus of this Panel on the universal periodic review. Mainstreaming human rights is integral to better coordination between the three pillars of the United Nations – namely peace and security, human rights, and development. As part of our work on human rights and peace building we have been following up on the call in the twin General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on sustaining peace for Member States participating in the UPR process ‘to consider the human rights dimensions of peacebuilding’.

Sustaining peace is an overdue recognition within the UN that peacebuilding is not only a post-conflict activity but also preventing violence and destructive conflict. The link between this and the prevention work of the human rights council, would therefor merit further exploration and in particular the role of the UPR.

We see the UPR as a particularly useful vehicle to explore this because:

- Nationally owned – a principle also shared by peacebuilding
- Inclusive – an impetus for national dialogue
- Universal – similarly to the concept of sustaining peace

The fragmentation that those resolutions and this panel are seeking to address continues to pose challenges to closer coordination. In the course of our work on this we have observed:

- Concerns about the motives of closer coordination between Human Rights and Peacebuilding
- Lack of understanding across silos leading to missed opportunities, undermining work on prevention
- Concerns about potential additional workloads in light of current limited resources

Despite these challenges the costs of continued fragmentation are too high and further efforts to better link these issues through the UPR could be supported through:

- Inclusion of conflict analysis in the UN Compilation and Stakeholders Compilations as well as National Reports.
- Use of information prepared in the reports as part of horizon scanning and early warning
- Making and implementing recommendations that intentionally link technical assistance for the prevention of Human Rights violations that may lead to escalating grievances or even conflict

Our question for the panel is how do you see the UPR better contributing to peacebuilding and sustaining peace activities of the UN?