



**United Nations Human Rights Council
55th session (26 February – 5 April 2024)**

Item 3 – Interactive Dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Alice Edwards

Oral statement by FIACAT on behalf of the United against Torture Consortium

8 March 2024

Mr. President, Madam Special Rapporteur, Excellencies,

FIACAT, jointly with the members of the United Against Torture Consortium, including APT, IRCT, OMCT, REDRESS and OMEGA Research Foundation, welcome the thematic report of the Special Rapporteur.

There is an urgent need for global prison reform. Severe overcrowding, overuse of pre-trial detention, criminalization of petty offences, harsh conditions of detention, over-reliance on carceral frameworks as well as lack of adequate infrastructure, and human rights compliant management policies, including measures for groups in situations of vulnerability, collectively foster an environment ripe for torture.

We call States to step up efforts to adopt holistic and structural prison reforms to tackle systemic risks of torture with the active involvement of the criminal justice system and in consultation with civil society. This should encompass the integration of meaningful preventive and responsive measures to address crime, the implementation of non-custodial measures and the enhancement of prison management protocols that ensure a more humane and rehabilitative approach for detainees, including for groups in situations of vulnerability.

Madam Special Rapporteur,

How can CSO initiatives aimed at preventing and responding to torture be effectively integrated into these reform efforts?

Thank you.

Statement delivered by Emeline Swiderski, FIACAT representative to the United Nations.

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