



**National Statement, delivered by Mr. Umair Khalid, Second Secretary, during the Interactive Dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery**  
**54<sup>th</sup> HRC Session**  
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Mr. President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for the report and its thematic focus on homelessness as a cause and consequence of contemporary forms of slavery.

We echo SR's concerns that displaced persons, refugees and asylum-seekers, inevitably experience homelessness until they have access to a durable alternative and adequate housing solution.

The plight of these vulnerable groups was further exacerbated due to the compounding effects of armed conflicts, terrorism, natural disasters, climate crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic.

We agree with the SR that unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in temporary accommodations are particularly vulnerable, as they can easily be targeted by criminals and others for exploitation, especially sexual and labour exploitation.

However, one of our key concerns remains on the labour exploitation taking place in various parts of the world as lack of legal migration channels forces vulnerable communities to adopt desperate measures. The pushback by several countries of the global North against asylum seekers has resulted in several incidents of widespread human rights violations.

Similarly, the increasing prevalence of xenophobia, racism and racial discrimination has greatly accentuated scapegoating of migrant workers and refugees in many of these countries.

We call on such States to review and revise laws, policies and administrative measures to bring them in full compliance with their international obligations and commitments and take measures to protect the economic, social and cultural rights of these vulnerable groups.

I thank you!