

63rd Human Rights Council Session

Joint Statement

General Debate - Item 4

Speaker: Rana El Araj (ISHR)

I am Rana Aaraj, representing the Anti-Racism Movement in Lebanon. We work alongside migrant communities to challenge racism and discrimination.

Since Israel's bombing of Lebanon in March 2026, migrant workers have described being trapped between employer abandonment (passport confiscation, no pay) and the kafala system on one side, and bombings on the other.

The lack of reliable and disaggregated data on migrant workers limits their visibility in planning and response mechanisms..

During the recent conflict and displacement in Lebanon, migrant communities faced barriers to access information, evacuation, shelter, and protection, particularly those with precarious legal status or whose residency is tied to an employer.

For these reasons, we call on the Council and the international community to urge Lebanon, to ensure that crisis preparedness and response mechanisms include migrant communities, regardless of residency status, and that migrant-led organizations meaningfully participate in their design and monitoring, while putting in place strong safeguards on how their data is collected, accessed, used, and protected.

We further call on States as well as the Special Procedures to consider the situation of migrant workers in Lebanon when addressing the current conflict.

Exclusion begins when people are not recognized or considered in systems designed to protect them. Better data must never come at the cost of exposing communities to harm.