

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF SOUTH AFRICA

SUBMISSION ON BEHALF OF
THE SCALABRINI CENTRE OF CAPE TOWN

SEPTEMBER 2016

27TH SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP, MAY 2017

The Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town (SCCT) is a registered not-for-profit organisation that perceives migration as an opportunity and is committed to alleviating poverty and promoting development in the Western Cape while fostering integration between migrants, refugees, and South Africans. The Scalabrini Fathers have been providing welfare services in Cape Town to displaced communities since 1994. In providing assistance, the SCCT advocates respect for human rights and utilises a holistic approach that considers all basic needs including advocacy, development, and welfare services.

We welcome this opportunity to make submissions to the UPR process. This submission pertains to the human rights of migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and stateless people in South Africa and draws on the extensive and direct experiences of our organisation in the area of refugee and migrant rights through direct assistance, legal services, research and community outreach.

Key issues pertaining to the rights of migrants, including asylum seekers and refugees, were identified through the previous UPR process. While recognising that attempts have been made by the government of South Africa (GOSA) to address some of these issues, the SCCT advances the position that none of these recommendations have yet been fully or effectively implemented. In this submission, the SCCT will focus on the following issues where improvements can be made:

- 1) Barriers to accessing the asylum system;
- 2) Refugee protection legislation and policies;
- 3) Racial discrimination and xenophobia;
- 4) Statelessness;
- 5) Barriers in access to health care; and
- 6) Barriers to the principle of family unity.