



61th Session of the Human Rights Council
Benelux Intervention

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur in torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of punishment, Dr. Alice J Edwards

2 March 2026

Mr. President,

I have the pleasure to deliver this statement on behalf of: Belgium, the Kingdom of Netherlands, and my own country, Luxembourg. We subscribe to the statement of the European Union.

Torture remains a widespread practice in many countries around the globe. Survivors suffer not only from physical harm but also from mental effects which they carry throughout their life. The feeling of vulnerability, fear and shame, consequences of the scourge of torture, are hidden and often ignored, while the victims right to redress including psychological, medical, and legal support, remains too often unfulfilled.

We therefore want to extend our sincere appreciation to the Special Rapporteur for her report. We welcome the presentation of the Charter of the Rights of Victims and Survivors of Torture, and we appreciate that it was developed by the victims themselves, thereby placing them at the center of public policy.

Benelux reaffirms the absolute nature of the prohibition of torture, and recalls the obligation of all States to prevent, combat, investigate, prosecute all violations and ensure the possibility of redress for victims in this regard.

For this Charter to become widely adopted, what support can you and/or your office provide to facilitate States' implementation of it?