



SOVEREIGN HOSPITALLER ORDER
OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM OF RHODES AND OF MALTA

Ambassador to monitor and combat trafficking in persons

Human Rights Council - A/HRC/53/28
Report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons,
especially women and children, Ms Siobhán Mullally

Statement by Professor Michel Veuthey
Ambassador to monitor and combat trafficking in persons, Deputy Permanent Observer in Geneva
Geneva, 28 June 2023

Mr. President, Excellencies,

The Sovereign Order of Malta wishes to express its thanks to the Special Rapporteur, Professor **Siobhán Mullally** and her team for their well-documented report ([HRC/53/28](#)).

The Order of Malta would like to highlight the value of the concrete action of many religious congregations, with whom we collaborate, in the protection, promotion and rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking and to underline the importance "[Joint Declaration of Religious Leaders against Modern Slavery](#)", signed at the Vatican on 2 December 2014, to inspire spiritual and practical action by all global faiths and people of good will everywhere to eradicate modern slavery.

The Order of Malta through its [National Associations](#) and its worldwide humanitarian organization "[Malteser International](#)" as well as its national relief corps, such as [CISOM](#), [Malteser Werke](#)), closely work to prevent human trafficking and to promote the protection and rehabilitation of the victims, especially through:

- Supporting a **shelter in Lagos** (Nigeria) for trafficking's victims and planning to establish a few others
- **Providing material aid** and psycho-social support to victims and survivors
- **Welcoming, hosting** and protecting refugees at the borders
- **Training helpers through an [online course](#)** in four languages
- **Organizing [webinars](#)** (29 as of today) on human trafficking with **the best international specialists**.

The Order of Malta supports the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur calling upon Member States to

- **Ratify the [ILO Domestic Worker Convention of 2011 \(n. 189\)](#); the [1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees](#) and its Protocol; the [1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons](#); and the [1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness](#), as well as the [Palermo Protocol](#). (Par. 70 a of *A/HRC/53/28/add.1* and Par. 76 a, b and c of *A/HRC/53/28*)**
- **Recognise the special obligations of assistance and protection arising under the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)**, States must ensure the best interests of children seeking asylum, including timely appointment of a guardian and legal representative for unaccompanied and separated children, and a protective environment (Par. 76 g)
- **Ensure the prevention of trafficking in persons in all actions to achieve realization of [Sustainable Development Goal target 10.7](#)**. (Par. 76 j)
- **Ratify and implement the [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)**, ensuring that all measures to combat trafficking in persons effectively protect the rights of trafficking persons with disabilities, and persons with disabilities at risk of trafficking (Par. 76 k)
- In accordance with UN entities, humanitarian and protection actors, **recognise the particular risk of trafficking of children in situations of conflict and violence**, ensure that prevention of trafficking and assistance and protection of child victims of trafficking are integrated into humanitarian and protection action (Par. 77 a).

The Order of Malta would like to encourage the Special Rapporteur to participate in the Global Refugee Forum (Geneva, 13-15 December 2023) in order to address the issue of human trafficking of refugees, returnees and stateless.

The Order of Malta would welcome an **increased collaboration with the Special Rapporteur**. Thank you.