



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/53/34**  
**Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion**  
**and protection of human rights in the context of climate change**  
**Mr. Ian Fry**

**Statement by Professor Michel Veuthey**  
**Ambassador to monitor and combat trafficking in persons, Deputy Permanent Observer in Geneva**  
**Geneva, 27 June 2023**

Mr. President, Excellencies,

The Sovereign Order of Malta wishes to express its thanks to the Special Rapporteur, **Mr. Ian Fry** and his team for their well-documented report ([HRC/53/34](#)).

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 rights abuses, especially trafficking in persons, in the context of climate change.

The [Order of Malta](#) intervenes to help people affected by climate change through its worldwide humanitarian organization "[Malteser International](#)", [both with emergency relief and in the context of long-term projects](#).

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

- **Prevent and condemn** the violations of basic human rights displaced people can face such as **abuse, violence and trafficking** (*Par. 18*).
- **Make use of existing legal instruments such as the Palermo Protocols ([Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air](#) or the [Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons](#))** (*Par. 29*).
- **Encourage regional organizations to expand their legal arrangements** to include legal protection of persons displaced in regions where there are no regional organizations (*Par. 71 e*).
- **Ensure full compliance with targets 5.2** (*to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls [...]including trafficking, sexual and other types of exploitation*), **8.7** (*to take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking*) and **16.2** (*to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children*) of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** (*Par. 54*)

The Order of Malta has organised 28 webinars on human trafficking and is planning to have a webinar on climate change and human trafficking. On this and other matters, the Order of Malta would welcome an **increased collaboration with the Special Rapporteur**.

Thank you.