



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

PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN GENEVA

36th session of the Human Rights Council - Item 3
Clustered ID with the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

Geneva, September 13, 2017

Statement by the Sovereign Order of Malta

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to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

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The Sovereign Order of Malta would like to **thank** Ms. Urmila Bhoola, Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery for her very comprehensive reports (A/72/139 & A/HRC/36/43).

We reaffirm the Order's commitment to **contribute to reduce vulnerabilities of migrants and refugees and to protect them**, especially victims of contemporary forms of slavery.

The Order of Malta is about to **reinforce its efforts to address migrant vulnerability** through its international diplomatic network, on the multilateral level, as well as through its bilateral Ambassadors in 106 countries. In addition, we propose **social services and humanitarian actions** conducted by our National Associations and our worldwide relief agency "Malteser International".

The Sovereign Order of Malta would like to continue to listen to other stakeholders to learn from their **best practices**. We invite **cooperation** with Governments and civil society actors in order to contribute to **better protect and rehabilitate victims** of contemporary slavery.

Mr. Chairman, Madam Special Rapporteur, allow me to leave you with three questions:

- first how could **universal religious values of solidarity and respect for human life** and dignity support existing instruments of international law to stop contemporary forms of slavery?
- second how **Faith-based organizations contribute to protect and rehabilitate victims** of contemporary forms of slavery?
- third how, next year, the **70th anniversary of the adoption of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*** could be used to highlight the plight of victims of modern slavery and the pressing need for States and other stakeholders to assist and protect them?

Thank you and best wishes for your important mandate.