



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

Ambassador to monitor and combat trafficking in persons

23rd Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons
It's About People: National Leadership to End Human Trafficking
Vienna, Austria, Hofburg, 18 – 19 April 2023

Report

The 23rd Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons, organized by the OSCE, took place on April 18th and 19th in Vienna. On behalf of the Order of Malta, the Conference was attended by:

- **H.E. Ambassador Prof. Michel VEUTHEY**
Ambassador of the Sovereign Order of Malta to monitor and combat trafficking in persons
Head of Delegation
- **H.E. Ambassador Sebastian PRINZ VON SCHOENAICH-CAROLATH**
Ambassador of the Sovereign Order of Malta to the Republic of Austria
- **H.E. Ambassador Prof. Günther A. GRANSER**
Head of Permanent Mission of the Sovereign Order of Malta to the United Nations, IAEA and other International Organizations in Vienna
- **Mr. Yannick GALEAZZI**
First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Sovereign Order of Malta to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva
- **Dott. Emanuele G. A. PILUSO** (*online via Zoom*)
Advisor & Executive Assistant to the Ambassador of the Sovereign Order of Malta to monitor and combat trafficking in persons

The Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference is an annual gathering of key stakeholders from across the OSCE region that aims to raise the political profile of the fight against trafficking in human beings and discuss emerging topics and trends in the area. The Alliance supports OSCE participating States in developing a harmonized approach to combat trafficking that seeks to protect human rights, security, the rule of law, and good governance.

The 23rd Alliance Conference against Trafficking in Persons, on the 20th anniversary of the OSCE Action Plan, focused on establishing effective national responses to combat trafficking. Despite being one of the largest organized criminal activities in the world, resources allocated to combat trafficking remain disproportionately low. Trafficking has also evolved—taking on new forms, moving more online, and growing in size. The conference aimed to renew the efforts to eradicate human trafficking and provide a roadmap for success for the next 20 years of the OSCE Action Plan.

The conference was structured to offer positive examples of anti-trafficking leadership, to explore the nature and scale of the problem of human exploitation and examine effective anti-trafficking systems and



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structures. It also discussed **game-changing laws and policies** and highlighted areas where legislative intervention is needed to combat labor exploitation in **supply chains**, address the misuse of **technology**, and **reduce demand** for fostering exploitation.

The two-day conference consisted of three panels:

- **Panel 1 focused on the nature and scale of the problem of human exploitation** and why strong leadership is necessary to overcome the challenge. The discussion covered different forms of exploitation and their manifestations, as well as developing trends and patterns. It explored gaps in responses across the OSCE region and their consequences.
- **Panel 2 discussed the most efficient systems and structures to combat human trafficking**, also known as the architecture for impact. The presenters emphasized the fundamental structures that are necessary in each country to effectively fight against human trafficking, including a national coordinator, an independent national rapporteur, a national anti-trafficking coordinating council or multi-agency task force, and a functional national referral mechanism. The speakers also highlighted the importance of promoting strong partnerships and multi-agency approaches to achieve a comprehensive approach from the government and society as a whole. Additionally, there was discussion about the importance of investing in, monitoring, and collecting data, as well as building sustainable capacity.
- **Panel 3 focused on groundbreaking laws and policies** that address the changing nature of human trafficking. This included a comprehensive anti-trafficking law that not only criminalizes the act but also includes structures for coordination, prevention, and protection mechanisms. The panel also emphasized the need for new legislative interventions that promote a "whole of society" approach, such as combating labor exploitation in supply chains, addressing the misuse of technology, and reducing the demand that fosters exploitation.

The Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons was attended by more than 300 representatives of the 57 OSCE participating States and 11 Partners for Cooperation, major international organizations and NGOs which are partners in the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons, as well as civil society, media, the private sector, faith-based organizations, academia and relevant professional networks of national anti-trafficking practitioners.

The Conference was an opportunity to establish and renew contacts with participants and to explain the role of the Order of Malta in combating human trafficking.

The conference agenda with the list of the speakers and the statement of the Ambassador to monitor and combat trafficking in persons is attached.

Geneva, 21 April 2023