



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

Ambassador to monitor and combat trafficking in persons

**COLLOQUIUM ON SEX TRAFFICKING: FROM ARMED CONFLICT ZONES
EXPLOITATION IN THE COUNTRY OF DESTINATION TO EXPLOITATION IN THE
COUNTRY OF DESTINATION VIA THE MIGRATORY ROUTES**

11 May 2023 – Brussels

Report

On Thursday 11th of May, a Colloquium, entitled “*Sex Trafficking: from armed conflict zones to exploitation in the country of destination via migratory routes*”, took place in Brussels. The conference's first part examined sexual violence against women in armed conflict, highlighting that these acts constitute war crimes under international and national standards (Prof. Vaios Koutroulis). The case of Sahel illustrates how such violence can act as a "push factor," driving women to migrate to countries where they seek safety (Tamba Kouroma). The conference also focused on the legal and sociological aspects concerning children born as a result of these acts of war (Céline Bardet). Similar to children born from sexual trafficking, they face psychological trauma that may lead to their rejection before birth (Ajna Jusic). War serves as a "push factor" that forces people to flee and exposes them to routes of human trafficking, where sexual violence occurs. The conference employed a multidimensional approach, combining legal, factual, and journalistic perspectives. It includes concise presentations of on-site reports conducted by a reporter specializing in human trafficking, Frédéric Loore.

Furthermore, the conference addressed the exploitation of women in destination countries along trafficking routes. The last two presentations (Charles-Éric Clesse and Nicolas Le Coz de Kerlen) were concentrated on human trafficking, specifically in the context of sexual exploitation, which ranks as the third most lucrative criminal activity globally. The first presentation explored sexual trafficking based on international and regional conventions, while the second analyzed the responsibilities of States in prosecuting and judging perpetrators, as mandated by anti-trafficking legal instruments and international criminal law, including international humanitarian law

The Ambassador to monitor and combat trafficking in persons intervened as the first speaker, underlining the figures of human trafficking and the actual legal instruments that should be used in a more efficient way and concluded emphasizing the Order of Malta's work and activities to combat trafficking.

Below you can find:

- The [video-statement](#) of Ambassador Michel Veuthey
- The [presentation](#) of Tamba Kouroma, Director of the West Africa Coordination Office ECPAT France and ECPAT Luxembourg in Ouagadougou
- The [program and the list of speakers](#) of the Conference