



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

Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations Office
and other International Organizations in Geneva

Human Rights Council - A/HRC/56/60
Report of the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons,
especially women and children, Professor Siobhán Mullally

Statement by Professor Michel Veuthey
Ambassador to monitor and combat trafficking in persons, Deputy Permanent Observer
Geneva, 26 June 2024

Madam President, Excellencies,

The Order of Malta wishes to thank the Special Rapporteur for her excellent report ([A/HRC/56/60](#)) on “Trafficking in persons, mixed migration and protection at sea.”

The Order of Malta wishes to strengthen its awareness raising, prevention, and protection efforts to assist victims of trafficking through its [multilateral](#) and [bilateral](#) diplomatic networks.

The Sovereign Order of Malta wishes to continue to work with the Special Rapporteur and other stakeholders, including faith-based organizations and the business and academic communities, to share and improve its best practices.

The Order of Malta supports the conclusions and recommendations of the Special Representative which call for

- **Strengthen action to prevent trafficking in persons by expanding access to safe, regular migration pathways and to refugee protection [...]**
- **Ratify and implement instruments of international refugee law and human rights law providing safeguards for the rights of those in distress or rescued at sea [...]**
- **Ensure effective implementation of the non-punishment principle for all victims of trafficking without discrimination [...]**
- **Recalling the importance of partnerships with civil society actors ensuring an enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders, and recognizing their significant role in assisting victims of trafficking and persons at risk of trafficking and in the prevention of trafficking at sea.**

To conclude, the Order of Malta would like to highlight the work of religious congregations in serving victims and survivors of human trafficking, including the [Apostleship of the Sea \(AOS\)](#), [Apostolatus Maris](#), [Stella Maris Apostleship of the Sea](#), [Mary Star of the Sea](#) (Maritime Ministry Apostleship of the Sea) Port Chaplaincy, [Port Ministries International](#), and the [need to do more training](#) in the prevention of the different types of trafficking in persons at sea, to assist victims overcome trauma and obtain compensation.

Thank you.