



SOVEREIGN MILITARY 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/62/41](#)  
Report of the SRSG on Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children  
Statement by Prof. Michel Veuthey,  
Ambassador to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons,  
Deputy Permanent Observer in Geneva**

Excellencies,

The Sovereign Order of Malta thanks the Special Rapporteur for her comprehensive report, which addresses the full range of vulnerabilities faced by displaced and stateless children in relation to trafficking and reaffirms its commitment to the protection of every child.

Trafficking does not merely violate fundamental rights; it destroys life trajectories. A child who is trafficked today is denied the future on which every society depends. Through its humanitarian and medical presence in 130 countries, in refugee camps, at border crossings, and in conflict zones, the Order of Malta witnesses daily what this report documents so powerfully: that statelessness, irregular migration, and forced displacement are not merely contexts in which trafficking occurs. They are conditions on which trafficking feeds.

We wish to share three observations.

**First, on the right to family life.** The upcoming report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, to be presented to the next General Assembly, will focus on children's right to family life in migration and asylum contexts. Family unity is one of the most effective protections against child trafficking.

**Second, forced criminality and survivor voices.** The Sovereign Order of Malta regularly participates in the [OSCE Alliance against Trafficking in Persons annual conference](#), which this year focused on forced criminality. We heard survivors testify powerfully, including [Sosa Henkoma](#), who, displaced as a young child and separated from his family, was forced into criminal activity from the age of nine. His account powerfully illustrates what the non-punishment principle means in practice: justice owed to a child who was a victim, not a perpetrator.

**Third, on emerging risks through new technologies.** Traffickers are increasingly exploiting digital platforms and artificial intelligence tools to recruit, deceive, and control victims, including displaced and stateless children with limited digital literacy. This dimension may warrant attention to future work.<sup>1</sup>

We fully support the recommendations in the report and stand ready to contribute, through our operational networks, to their implementation. Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> See the Encyclical Letter “[Magnifica Humanitas](#)” of H.H. Pope Leo XIV (15 May 2026) on safeguarding the human person in time of artificial intelligence, especially “Breaking the new chains of new forms of slavery”, paragraphs 173-179.