



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 GENÈVE

***Human Rights Council – 32<sup>nd</sup> Session – Item 3  
Interactive Dialogue on trafficking in persons  
Statement by Counsellor Jean-François Kammer  
Geneva, 14th June 2016***

Mr. President,  
Distinguished Delegates,

My Delegation thanks the SR for her report and fully shares her conclusions on human trafficking, particularly in conflict and post conflict situations.

The true nature of human trafficking is a complex and all-embracing social phenomenon. Its victims are women, men, children of all races, nationalities, religions. The problem thus warrants a holistic approach in order to properly address it in all its manifestations and directions.

As we can witness it the phenomenon affects people fleeing conflict, during conflict and also in post-conflict situations.

The role faith-based institutions can play in this respect should be considered of great value. Their knowledge of the realities of human trafficking, their integration in the local concerned communities as well as the trust they benefit inside the given population can contribute directly to foster the resilience of the concerned people, among them especially women and children.

The Order of Malta's worldwide humanitarian action, be it after natural disasters or in situations of conflict, must be considered in this context.

Combating human trafficking needs the engagement of all stakeholders including civil society. They have shared values, and the primary one is a desire to end human trafficking because its very existence offends human dignity.

Religions have successfully produced results in prevention, protection and partnership approaches to human trafficking. This expertise, combined with the structural capacity to respond in a global way to the organized criminal networks, make religions an integral component in the fight against human trafficking. Moreover, as the international dialogue pivots to a focus of cultural shifts, the message of religions regarding demand and collective responsibility complement this direction. Building upon these components one can say that religion is not only a relevant but a necessary actor to attain the human trafficking's eradication desired by all.