



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 GENÈVA

***Human Rights Council – 33<sup>rd</sup> Session – Item 3  
Interactive Dialogue on the Rights of Older Persons  
Intervention of Professor Michel Veuthey  
Deputy Permanent Observer  
Geneva, 15 September 2016***

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The Order of Malta would like to thank Mrs. Rosa Kornfeld-Matte for her Report on the Rights of Older Persons (A/HRC/33/44).

The international, regional and domestic **legal instruments** shall be better understood and implemented if based on **ethical principles** anchored in public conscience. Older persons should be respected and taken care of in a **familial** and **community** context, with the welcome support of medical doctors, nurses and social services. These services should be covered by **social insurances**.

We could all take inspiration from **best practices within our own history** as well as of **traditions of other civilisations**, which acknowledge and integrate older persons as bearers of wisdom and experience.

**The protection of life and dignity of older persons** is not only the task of legal experts, medical doctors, nurses and social workers. In order to integrate older persons in families and society, they must be systematically taken into account by architects and city planners as well as communication, cultural, educational and transportation professionals.

**Assistance to families** should be encouraged to better take care of the needs of older persons.

The Order of Malta has programmes in many countries designed to provide assistance to older persons. We would like to highlight the **important role of Faith-based organisations (FBOs) and volunteers** on behalf of older persons. In interest of avoiding desperate solutions, they play a unique role in protecting the life and dignity of older persons through palliative care, both in hospitals or at home, **with human solidarity and spiritual support.**

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