



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 ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

***Human Rights Council - 38th Session - Item 3
Interactive Dialogue with the
Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons***

***Statement by Professor Michel Veuthey
Ambassador of the Order of Malta to monitor and combat human trafficking
Deputy Permanent Observer
Geneva, 20 June 2018***

Mr. President,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The Order of Malta would like to thank the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, Judge Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, for her very interesting Report (A/HRC/38/45).

We welcome her recommendations to help States, international organisations and civil society to improve the effective protection of victims and potential victims of trafficking by implementing international and domestic legal instruments dealing with trafficking in persons, with refugees and with children.

Mr. President, allow us to ask two questions to the Special Rapporteur:

- Firstly, would it be possible to include the **role of Faith-Based Organisations (FBOs)** in the prevention of human trafficking, as well as the protection and rehabilitation of victims and survivors? Furthermore, could fundamental universal values – and religious leaders – support the effective respect for the life and human dignity of every human being, whatever his or her legal status? The Joint Declaration of Religious Leaders signed on 2 December 2012 and other good practices could be one example among others (www.bit.ly/FBOsHT).
- Second, the Special Rapporteur mentions some good practices, such as the Portuguese National Action Plan (paragraphs 49 & 50). Would it be possible to **collect such good practices of Governments, as well as of international organisations and of civil society on a dedicated website**? Such practical examples could be easily consulted, regularly updated, and contribute to the effective prevention of human trafficking, as well as to the protection of victims and rehabilitation and reinsertion of survivors (www.bit.ly/GOODPRACTICES).

Preventing and combating human trafficking is a huge task. The Order of Malta would like to acknowledge all those fighting this contemporary plague. This includes but is not limited to: Government officials, social and humanitarian workers, medical doctors, educators, and of course also the survivors themselves, who bear witness and help others to escape modern slavery and regain their human dignity.