



SOVRANO MILITARE ORDINE OSPEDALIERO
DI SAN GIOVANNI DI GERUSALEMME DI RODI E DI MALTA

Sovereign Order of Malta's input to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

The Sovereign Order of Malta is pleased to provide its inputs, for consideration in the preparation of the *zero* draft on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

The Sovereign Order of Malta believes that the draft should underline the positive aspects of well-managed migration policies. We are also confident that it should be focused on practical actions. We believe that it can demonstrate that safe, orderly, and regular migration supports sustainable development, economic growth, prosperity, diversity.

The Sovereign Order of Malta's mission to uphold human dignity and care for people in need has, in the past and present, translated into assisting and supporting migrants as well as refugees and internally displaced persons around the globe. In the context of host countries, this has evolved into extensive assistance of migrants upon arrival and in the process of their integration into the host-society. The Sovereign Order of Malta's global network develops and implements projects in many countries. We have recently appointed two new Ambassadors tasked with combating human trafficking, in order to help strengthening the commitment of the Sovereign Order of Malta in dealing with migration, preventing the trafficking of humans and protecting the victims, with projects both at local and diplomatic level.

1- First of all, we would like to reaffirm the following principles:

- Migration has existed throughout all of human history. There is no reason to fear it.
- Migrants, whether lawful or documented, are human beings with inalienable rights, including those contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and succeeding covenants. The term "illegal person" should never be used -- there are no illegal persons.
- The inviolable dignity of the human person is the fundamental right from which all other human rights flow, including those derived from International Humanitarian Law.
- All migrants, regardless of their immigration status, should be able to have their basic needs met and access to essential services, including especially food and health care.
- Placing irregular migrants in detention situations with poor conditions of space, nutrition, sanitation and access to legal help, etc., are unacceptable violations of their basic rights.
- The flow of migrants is beyond the capacity on any State to address alone and that, as a global problem, it can only be dealt with through international and regional approaches and cooperation.
- The challenges of mass migration may have a negative impact on the internal politics of affected countries and must be depoliticised in order to address the crisis. Short-term measures, if mishandled, can aggravate the overall effort to deal with the challenges migration presents.

2- The Sovereign Order of Malta would like to submit the following inputs to the Secretary General's attention:

Combating human trafficking

- Develop stronger cross border, regional and inter-regional anti-trafficking policies, including cooperation on return and readmission.
- Do not criminalize people on the move, but bring to justice human traffickers and smugglers in countries wherever they operate.
- Promote safe and regular pathways.
- Enhance anti-trafficking policies, as trafficking is so often linked with migration.
- Give priority to security: security of people on the move, security of people in countries of origin and transit and in host countries
- Engage with local institutions and populations for the prevention of trafficking.
- Prevention and law enforcement are needed against human trafficking, which fund other illegal activities.

Providing assistance

- Highlight the need to protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants, paying particular attention to addressing the specific needs of migrants in vulnerable situations, as the victims of human trafficking, women and children.
- Strengthen the principles of solidarity and shared responsibility in dealing with large movements of migrants and promote and guarantee human rights of all migrants.
- Create legal and safe avenues for refugees and migrants.
- Invest more in enhancing capacities of local civil society and aim at translating programs into concrete action at a local level.

Facilitating integration

- Create appropriate policies in order to promote the inclusion of migrants into the labour market of the hosting communities.
- Adopt inclusive health policies, which could guarantee to migrants access to essential health care upon their arrival.
- Develop and strengthen family reunification policies. Restoring and protecting family unity is also a vital pillar for a successful integration into the social fabric since the family usually represents a source of emotional stability and support.
- Include migrants integration policies in education, skills training, employment, and other social programmes.
- Not all needs to be done by the state. The active engagement of civil society actors and of volunteers can be extremely important in carrying out successful integration strategies.
- Invest more in enhancing capacities of local civil society and aim at translating programmes into concrete action at the local and community levels.

Fostering cooperation

- Promote collaboration between key country players.
- Ensure coherence of all migration-related strategies and policy fields.
- Share all publicly available information on migration flows with all stakeholders, including migrants and media.
- Exchange factual and objective reports that analyse the situation concerning the refugee and migrant influx from a historic, legal and societal perspective.
- Increase cooperation between all actors and stakeholders through exchange of data and best practices to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration.
- Support the development of countries of origin through social and financial remittances.
- Set up training initiatives for national authorities on international law, aiming at reinforcing fundamental human values on the protection of human lives.
- Develop the culture of respect of human rights.
- Ask stakeholders to reflect on more concrete and speedy ways to assist and protect migrants through tracking methods that enable helpers/humanitarians and authorities to identify them so as to prevent exploitation and trafficking.

The role of faith-based institutions:

- Remind that due to their local roots, faith-based institutions are often first providers of material and spiritual assistance. Their access to community and cultural networks enables them to support inclusion of migrants in national and local systems and services such as housing, health care, education, social safety nets and psycho-social support.
- Faith-based institutions are also often in a position to increase their support to host communities through capacity building and investment in local structures. They should therefore be considered as a key actor on the various platforms and programmes of action
- Underline the role of faith-based institutions in the effort of preventing forced migration as well as to assist and protect people on the move.
- Promote the adoption of policies that guarantee the freedom of religion.

3- The Sovereign Order of Malta would like to propose some concrete actions in order to implement our inputs:

- Encourage countries to adopt policies and practices which offer protection to people, who emigrate for working reasons.
- Encourage and extend the use of student, family reunification and humanitarian visas.
- Create information programs in the country of origin for border workers on how to recognize signs of trafficking.
- Protect and assist the migrant communities abroad, for example through a dedicated institution.
- Foster programs, which can guarantee minors to continue their studies.

- Ensure to migrants access to education and training programs, with the same standards guaranteed to citizens
- Create courses for migrants to continue to study their own language and customs.
- Adopt policies which can facilitate migrants to work in the hosting country, for example giving them the possibility to open a bank account, to manage financial transactions, to start up an activity.
- Adopt national laws, which can facilitate returning migrants to access to the labour market in order to be reintegrated into society.