



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 –50<sup>th</sup> session**  
**Item 3-Violence and its impact on the right to health**  
**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Marie-Thérèse Pictet-Althann**  
**Geneva, 20 June 2022**

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

My Delegation shares the Special Rapporteur's concern regarding various forms of violence under the right to health framework, in particular towards women and children.

However, violence should not only be limited to gender issues, but, as stated by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, needs to address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as race, origin and faith. The most vulnerable among us are the victims of armed conflicts, national disasters and epidemics. In situations of emergency relief in crisis, the implementation of the fundamental right to health of refugees, migrants and IDPs protects them against violence such as human trafficking and sexual exploitation, thus ensuring the respect of their human dignity.

The Order of Malta's global humanitarian action in general and its health strategy in particular requires non-discrimination of any kind, with a particular emphasis on women and children. Access to medical and psychological support, legal and spiritual assistance, as well as care for victims of conflict-related sexual violence and the strengthening of medical structures are the focus of our daily health programs in accordance with the human right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

Thank you.