



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 – 51st session

Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on Older Persons

Statement by Mr. Jean-François Kammer, Deputy Permanent Observer

19 September 2022

Mr. President,
Mrs. Independent Expert
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The Order of Malta commends the Independent Expert's report and shares her conclusions. Deprivation of liberty has indeed a pervasive impact on older persons, depriving them of an essential part of their human rights.

The international community should recognize and codify the right to personal liberty and security of older persons. The loss of liberty based on age cannot be tolerated.

My Delegation would certainly welcome, as proposed by the Independent Expert, the elaboration of an international human rights law instrument that would prohibit harmful traditional, cultural, social and religious practices, leading to the deprivation of liberty for specific groups of older persons.

In the context of immigration all forms of deprivation of liberty affecting older persons should be strictly prohibited.

As far as care is concerned the Order of Malta, in its worldwide assistance programs in more than 120 countries, gives special attention to an adequate care of older persons. It insists in particular on the necessity to maintain older persons in their communities, in their family environment, so as to ensure them a life in dignity. It is essential that older persons can benefit from their full liberty, liberty of choice, liberty of seeing their cultural, spiritual traditions and beliefs preserved.

Thank you.