



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

U.N. Human Rights Council – 54th regular session

Item 9

Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner's oral update on drivers, root causes and human rights impacts of religious hatred constituting incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence

Statement by Mr Yannick GALEAZZI, First Secretary

Thursday 5th October 2023, Geneva

Mr President,
Mr High Commissioner,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The Sovereign Order of Malta thanks the High Commissioner for his oral update and expresses its deep concern over the growing trends of incitation to religious hatred and condemns the increased desecration of Holy Books and places of worship.

We call for the full respect of the basic human right to freedom of religion or belief, respecting people of different or of no faith, as members of the one Human Family.

The Order of Malta is engaged in interfaith and intercultural dialogue, promoting faith literacy and mutual understanding.

Mr President,

The Sovereign Order of Malta wishes to stress here its firm opposition to blasphemy laws, which go against the very essence of the right to freedom of religion or belief, as well as the right to freedom of expression.

Only through tolerance and mutual respect can we build peaceful and inclusive societies.

Thank you.