



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 – 55th session
**Item 3 – Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief-
Hatred on the basis of religion or belief**

Statement by Jean-François Kammer, Deputy Permanent Observer
6 March 2024

Mr President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

The Sovereign Order of Malta commends the Special Rapporteur's Report on Hatred on the basis of religion or belief and shares her conclusions.

Freedom of religion or belief constitutes a fundamental human right. Hatred on the basis of religion or belief can in no way be tolerated, because it puts into question the basic equality of the members of a society. The political authorities as well as the religious leaders have an essential role and responsibility in combating intolerance and hate speech. At the same time the protection of the places of worship not only safeguards physical structures but also upholds fundamental human rights, fosters community cohesion, and promotes social harmony and tolerance. This, in turn, contributes to the overall protection and well-being of believers and society as a whole.

It is our common responsibility, in full accordance with the Istanbul Process for combating intolerance, discrimination and incitement to Hatred, to promote diversity and freedom of expression in the multicultural world of today.

States and non-State actors, and in particular Faith Based Organizations, must invest in promoting open interfaith and intercultural dialogue, at the local, national and international levels. Developing action plans accordingly would protect those who are targeted on grounds of their religion or belief, and protect also the human rights of persons belonging to minorities.

Thank you.