



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 – 58<sup>th</sup> session**  
**Item 3 – Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a  
component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-  
discrimination in this context.**

**Towards a just approach to the global housing crisis and migrants**

**Statement by Silvia Vandi, First Secretary**  
7 Mars 2025

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

The human right to adequate housing for migrants is a fundamental part of human dignity and equality. Governments, international organizations, and civil society must work together to ensure that all migrants, regardless of status, have access to safe and affordable housing without discrimination.

Humanitarian organizations play a crucial role in ensuring that refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants have access to adequate housing in host countries. Through its worldwide humanitarian activities, the Sovereign Order of Malta provides shelter and aid in key transit and crises regions. For example, in Ukraine and neighboring countries, Lebanon and Syria, several African countries as well as in Colombia and Venezuela. Our projects include temporary and emergency shelter and other housing related support.

While refugees and migrants can add pressure to housing markets in certain areas, they are not the root cause of the crisis. The housing shortage is primarily driven by policy, economic and urban planning factors. Rather than blaming migration, solutions should focus on increasing affordable housing supply, regulating rental markets, and ensuring inclusive urban development.

Humanitarian organizations can help ensure that refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants have access to safe, dignified, and sustainable housing in host countries by taking certain measures, such as working with governments to implement fair housing policies that ensure access to shelter for displaced populations; advocating for legal frameworks that prevent discrimination against refugees and migrants in housing; encouraging donor agencies and governments to allocate sufficient funds for housing programs.



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Furthermore, it is important to address discrimination and social barriers and promote infrastructure development and urban integration programs rather than isolating displaced persons in camps.

In this spirit the Order of Malta supports the Special Rapporteur's recommendations which relate directly to its ongoing global assistance to displaced populations.

I thank you.