



SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER  
OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM OF RHODES AND OF MALTA

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PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT BY

MR. JAMES BUCKLEY,  
COUNSELLOR

TO THE

THIRD COMMITTEE

[ITEM 27 (A)] ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

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17 OCTOBER, 2014

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(CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY)

MADAM CHAIR,  
MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU,  
ESTEEMED DELEGATES,

I am honored to address the Third Committee on behalf of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. As this is my delegation's first time addressing the Third Committee this session, allow me to congratulate you and the other members of the bureau for your election to head and wisely guide our committee. The issue of the advancement of women is one of utmost importance to the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, as well as an integral component of the work of the Third Committee, and we are pleased to have the opportunity to take the floor.

MADAM CHAIR,

Women and girls who experience violence suffer a range of health problems and, their ability to participate in public life is diminished. Violence against women harms families and communities across generations. Young women are particularly vulnerable to coerced sex and are increasingly being infected with HIV/AIDS. Over half of new HIV infections worldwide are occurring among young people between the ages of 15 and 24, and more than 60 percent of the HIV-positive youth are female.

The Order of Malta supports Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's recommendation that we need to deepen the UN campaign to end violence against women. The Order has played its part in the attempt to reach this goal. As of 2013 the Democratic Republic of the Congo sees a terrible number of rapes perpetrated on civilians, amounting to 1,100 rapes per month and averaging about 36 counts of rape daily. Since 1996, The Order of Malta has been active in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo. It runs numerous projects including health, educational, agricultural and social programs – to assist women traumatized by the violence.

Over the last ten years, through Malteser International – its relief agency – the Order has assisted and given support to 50,000 women victims of violence and rape and has also promoted awareness campaigns.

MADAM CHAIR,

The Order of Malta is active in over 30 countries in Africa. Fighting against the AIDS epidemic is just one of the many activities the Order is involved in. Malteser International has been fighting

against the AIDS epidemic in Nairobi for the past ten years. With a majority of the HIV positive patients being female, Malteser International has setup numerous clinics and hospitals for pregnant women and children who are HIV positive. Furthermore, Malteser International has trained and employed specialized staff members to care for the HIV/AIDS patients. This specialized staff has assisted over 24,000 HIV/AIDS victims in the past year.

MADAM CHAIR,

In order to live in a world with gender equality The Order believes that we need to empower young women in developing countries. Malteser International has helped create the ‘Mama Africa Sewing Project’ which continues to empower young disadvantaged women in African slums. The Project enables young African girls to earn a living by selling colorful cotton clothes which they hand make themselves. Additionally, in South Sudan, the Order has helped build a secondary school designed for young girls in order to advance their education, and to create a better future for them.

MADAM CHAIR,

Allow me to conclude by saying; the Sovereign Order of Malta is committed in its efforts to increase the advancement of women in societies throughout the world. I would also like to take this opportunity to say that as the Millennium Development Goals’ mandate comes to an end, there is still much to be done with regard to the fight against AIDS, maternal health, and the empowerment of women. We need to continue to work towards their ultimate completion. The Order of Malta is grateful for this opportunity for exchange and looks ahead for further collaboration with the United Nations, Member States, NGOs and other groups to strengthen the global position of women and girls.

Thank You.