



78th session of the UN General Assembly, Third Committee, Interactive Dialogue with Ms. Siobhán Mullally, Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, 16 October 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Justine Micallef, First Secretary,
Permanent Mission of Malta to the UN

Thank you, Chair.

Malta aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and thanks Ms Mullally for her presentation.

Special Rapporteur,

We share your concerns about the inconsistent investigation and reporting on the gender dimension of human trafficking for sexual exploitation in conflict situations by UN fact-finding, investigative, and inquiry mechanisms. Effective prevention and protection of trafficked persons and those at risk requires greater synergies with the women, peace and security agenda. It also requires a comprehensive gender-responsive approach, that recognises the significant risks of reprisals against victims and witnesses, and their rights to remedies and reparations.

We welcome your call to move beyond stereotypes in identifying victims of trafficking and to recognise the intersecting and overlapping risks of discrimination that may lead to human trafficking in conflict situations.

Special Rapporteur,



Your report cites the lack of protection services or child-friendly procedures as a barrier to investigating trafficking of children for various forms of exploitation. These include sexual slavery, forced marriage, or labour, or pregnancy, or criminality.

Could you provide further details on what specific measures or strategies Member States could adopt to overcome these challenges and ensure the safety and well-being of children who have been victims of trafficking in armed conflict?

I thank you.