



Security Council briefing: MIPS - Implementation of Resolution 2686 on Tolerance, 14 June 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Mr Darren Camilleri
Political Coordinator of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, President, and I also thank Special Adviser Nderitu for her briefing.

This meeting takes place in a global context where intolerance, hate speech, and discrimination are on the rise, offline and online. This undermines social cohesion and can lead to tensions and violence.

The genocides we have witnessed since World War II are haunting reminders of the catastrophic consequences of incitement to violence, hate speech, and intolerance for international peace and security.

Respect for international law, human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law, remain at the core of this Council's work.



All member states have the responsibility to protect and uphold the full spectrum of human rights for all, including persons of diverse ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity, and members of marginalised groups. The Security Council must condemn, unequivocally, all forms of violence, discrimination and hate speech, including homophobia and transphobia.

International human rights law provides a robust framework for protecting freedom of expression and religion in the context of peace and security. Every individual has the right to choose their religion, change it, or have no religion at all, and to practice their beliefs publicly and/or privately. Yet, on a daily basis we see religious minorities being repeatedly targeted, particularly during armed conflict.

Religious communities and leaders also have a responsibility to reject hate speech, and we commend the peacemaking role played by some religious leaders and organisations in this regard.



Freedom of religion or belief is inseparable from freedom of expression, which should only be limited by the boundaries strictly defined by international law. We are deeply concerned by the rising instances of harassment, coercion, and reprisals, including by State and non-State actors, against human rights defenders and others exercising their right to free speech.

On this day, we also reaffirm the essential role of civil society in preserving peace. The private sector, in particular tech companies, have a responsibility to comply with human rights obligations, and effectively handle misinformation, disinformation, and hate speech.

We deplore the misuse of broadly defined extremism laws to target women human rights defenders, journalists, and political opposition. Further, we are deeply concerned by the impact of discriminatory laws, the gender-biased enforcement and application of existing laws and structural gender inequalities.



Advancing gender equality and ensuring the full, equal, meaningful, and safe participation and leadership of diverse women in all efforts to build peace and prevent conflicts are goals unto themselves. They must never be reduced to counterterrorism ‘tactics’, which can negatively impact women and women’s human rights organisations. This is why gender-responsive approaches are essential for responding to the potentially harmful impacts of counter terrorism measures on women and girls, and to strengthening prevention and respect for human rights.

The role of this Council is to work for the maintenance of international peace and security. Human rights are the bedrock of peace. It is therefore incumbent on us to guarantee these rights for all persons, in all their diversity.

I thank you.