



40th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Oral intervention on the Universal Periodic Review of Malta

Friday 15th March, 2019

Speaker: Ms. Marie-Valentine Shaw

Thank you, Mr. President

Please allow me to welcome the delegation of The Republic of Malta to this morning's dialogue on the country's review.

RADDHO would also like to congratulate Malta for its implementation of the previous UPR recommendations and its ratification of some international human rights instruments.

However, RADDHO remains concerned by the inhumane treatment of African asylum seekers and migrants in Malta, particularly regarding the detention policy of migrants who seek protection under international norms. In this regard, we regret Malta's decision not to sign the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and the Members of their Families in full conformity with international standards.

We urge the Maltese authorities to fully ensure that the rights of asylum seekers and migrants are protected, to minimize the duration of detention of asylum seekers and to improve the conditions of those who are being detained. We also call on Malta to guarantee the rights of migrant women as well as unaccompanied minors all too often violated. In this regard, we fully support the recommendation made by the Special Rapporteur on migrants to provide unaccompanied children with free, competent and effective guardianship to ensure proper decision-making in all proceedings concerning such children, as well as free legal representation, to assist in all immigration and asylum proceeding.

We invite the Maltese government to ratify the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers, and to intensify its efforts to curtail the development of racism and xenophobia in the country.

In conclusion, we wish to express our hope that the Maltese government will continue to engage with the Human Rights Council and the Civil Society, in order to build a close relationship towards the betterment of its human rights record.

I thank you Mr. President