



# Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani

## Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem

*Oral Statement presented during Panel 5*  
**COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW55)**  
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS  
New York, 2 March 2011

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*Co- Sponsored by the following ECOSOC accredited NGOs:*

- **IAW** (International Alliance of Women) (*General Consultative Status*)
- **IIROSA** (International Islamic relief organization- Saudi Arabia) (*General Consultative Status*)
- **ICJW** (International Council of Jewish Women) (*General Consultative Status*)
- **OSMTH** (Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem) (*Special Consultative Status*)
- **INPEA** (International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse) (*Special Consultative Status*)
- **WFMH** (World Federation for Mental Health) (*Special Consultative Status*)
- **David M. Kennedy Centre** (*Special Consultative Status*)
- **ICW** (International Council of Women) (*Special Consultative Status*)
- **3 HO Foundation** (*Roster Status*)

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Thank you Mr President,

I speak in the name of 9 NGOs.

We support the UN Millennium Development Goals and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, and we welcome the new UN Women entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Mr President, the empowerment of women and gender equality are at risk in many areas of the world. We take note of four threats in the immediate future to women's security and economic empowerment; land price increases, energy cost increases, unavailability of clean water and food price increases. These threats to the status of women can be reduced by forward-looking and equitable governments which work to improve the lot of women. In the light of a fast ageing population in all regions of the world, older women and especially widows are often faced with tragic circumstances, rejected by society and without resources.

A population growing to 7 billion by 2015 is creating a greater stress on the available resources in three basic categories; water, food, and energy. We must ensure that the less favoured of Humankind (and this refers primarily to women in many places), can have easy and equal access to those basic requirements of life.

Having the political right and the economic means to buy, own, or inherit land is, in many cases, a necessity to attain self-sustainability. Growing one's own food supplies (or at least some of them), is one way out of hunger and dependence. Having easy access to sufficient clean and safe water for consumption and sanitation, to low-priced food, and to affordable renewable energy

should be a top priority of governments. These are often denied to women because of their gender, economic or education level.

We call upon the United Nations, its constituent bodies, and all member states to work in a spirit of peace and cooperation, with respect and appreciation to the different cultures of the world, to develop and implement policies to eradicate hunger and thirst. This will assure availability of these fundamental resources. These resources must be made accessible, without sex-based limitation to all. We believe strongly that civil society stake holders, and specifically, NGOs can help United Nations Member States in this very noble endeavour and welcome the opportunity to do so.

The Millennium Development Goals and Women's Rights are inseparably linked.

Thank you Mr. President