



Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani

- Knights Templar International -

Swiss Registration CH-660.1972999-4
DPI-ECOSOC NGO (Special Consultative Status) No. 19885



OSMTH OVERVIEW

Preamble

The following provides a general overview of OSMTH - the Knights Templar International.

Organisation and Purpose

OSMTH is a Swiss Registered (CH-660.1972999-4) Ecumenical Christian Confraternal Order, whose primary work is charitable and humanitarian in nature, focusing on *all peoples* afflicted by poverty, injustice, conflict and disaster.

Our national entities - Grand Priories - concentrate on humanitarian efforts and charitable projects, whilst OSMTH International - utilising personnel drawn from these national entities - represents the Order at the international diplomatic level to sovereign nations, regional and supranational bodies. At all levels such work is often carried out in partnership with and for the benefit of *all peoples* regardless of faith, creed or ethnic background.

OSMTH holds accreditation as a United Nations ECOSOC Non-Governmental Organisation (*in Special Consultative Status*, No.19885) maintaining:

- permanent missions in New York, Geneva and Vienna; and
- permanent delegations to the Department of Public Information (DPI); Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR); Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC); Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT); the Convention on Women; and the Convention on Bio-Diversity.

Furthermore, the Order is an active partner of:

- the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (EU FRA);
- NATO Confederation of Interallied Reserve Officers (NATO-CIOR);
- Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO);
- the International Peace Bureau (member), through which OSMTH serves as a nominating body to the Nobel Peace Prize Committee; and
- the International Centre for Religion and Diplomacy (through SMOTJ).

Approach

Although a Christian Order, OSMTH is not a church, fundamentalist group or missionary organisation - we do not give spiritual guidance nor judge those who follow another path of faith. We are not modern day "Crusaders". We express our Christian belief through our works.

As a modern-day Order we achieve these works through our "four pillars":

1. Peacemaking, Peacebuilding and Justice: mediation, facilitation, diplomacy, humanitarian relief, capacity building and development;
2. Clergy: close and active working relations with all Christian denominations, plus interfaith dialogue and bridge-building;
3. Membership: high-level membership with regards to professional expertise, motivation, and networks;
4. Tradition: expressed as a Chivalric Order through our *Ecclesiastic* protection and *Royal* patronage, the *Regula Moderna*, ethical code of conduct, academic and historical discourse.

However four other factors are crucial to the approach and governance of our Order: democracy, transparency, equality, and non-political activity or allegiance.

The Brussels Declaration: “Aiding Humanity on the Pilgrimage through Life”

OSMTH's raison d'être is expressed through our -

1. Vision and Commitment

- Christian Ethos, Spirituality and Chivalric Values
- Domestic Charity and International Humanitarian Aid
- Human Rights and the respect for Human Diversity
- Interfaith Dialogue and Bridge-Building

2. Mission

- Provide humanitarian aid to Christians and all peoples in need around the world, through physical, financial, and moral support.
- Continue programmes that aid Christians around the world, especially in the Holy Land.
- Promote a dialogue based on the principles of peace and justice amongst and between the faiths of the Sons of Abraham and the other great religions of the world, to establish better understanding and greater tolerance.
- Mitigate human suffering by actively participating in activities associated with disaster relief, humanitarian aid, human rights, peace building and sustainable development, and the respect of human diversity.
- Facilitate, mediate and advocate conflict-prevention and resolution by providing subject matter experts and supporting organizations in the fields of religious and international diplomacy.

Being a voluntary organisation, the Order's works are carried out *pro bono* by our membership as subject matter specialists within their given professions as advisors, facilitators and catalysts, furthered by effectively utilizing their related networks.

Structure

The Order is currently composed of 15 member nations (based throughout Europe and the Americas) and their associated areas of jurisdiction and operation (Asia, Continental India, Oceania, Africa and the Middle-East), with a combined full membership exceeding 6000 men and women, with an estimated thousand novices and associate members.

OSMTH International is the umbrella organisation, serving as the centralised executive and legislative government of the Order.

History and Tradition

Today's *Order of the Temple* was founded in France, 1705, officially reconstituted in 1804, and recognised as an Order of Chivalry by its patron Napoleon Bonaparte in 1805; this recognition was later ratified by Emperor Louis Napoleon III.

OSMTH does not claim *direct* descent or *continuation* from the Medieval Order founded by Hugues de Payens in 1118 and dissolved by Pope Clement V in 1312.

Contrary to popular belief the Order is not a Masonic Organisation nor maintains links - official or otherwise - with the aforesaid organisation.

OSMTH enjoys the Religious Protection of His Beatitude the Most Blessed Theodosius, Metropolitan (*ret.*) of the United States and Canada; and the Royal Patronage of HRH Princess Elisabeth zu Ysenburg und Büdingen, Princess zu Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glücksburg.

Closing Statement

In summary, OSMTH is an active and modern Ecumenical Christian Confraternal Order that seeks to address the very real humanitarian needs of today's world.