Following a fourth evaluation round, on 6 May 2026 the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) of the Council of Europe published the evaluation report on Malta, covering the period 2021-2025.

Chapter 3 includes a dedicated section on asylum seekers and refugees, following which Greta made the following recommendations to the Maltese government:

“59. GRETA urges the Maltese authorities to strengthen their efforts to prevent asylum seekers and refugees from becoming victims of trafficking in human beings, in particular by:

- ensuring that when there are reasonable grounds to believe that an asylum seeker is a child, the person concerned is presumed to be a child and is granted special protection measures pending age verification. This includes prompt separation from any unrelated adults and transfer to appropriate accommodation;

- taking actions for preventing and following up on any disappearances of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and ensuring that all such cases are registered promptly and thoroughly investigated.

60.--Further, GRETA considers that the Maltese authorities should:

- improve the social and economic integration of asylum seekers and refugees, notably their access to employment and vocational training, to prevent them from becoming vulnerable to exploitation and THB;

- continue to raise awareness of asylum seekers and refugees of their rights and the risks of human trafficking, including recruitment and abuse through Internet/social networks”

Source(s)

- Council of Europe (6 May, 2026), [Evaluation Report: Malta. Measures to prevent and detect vulnerabilities to human trafficking], https://rm.coe.int/greta-evaluation-report-on-the-implementation-of-the-council-of-europe/48802b9425

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For more information, please contact: ias@euaa.europa.eu

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