



DONINU (MALTA) INTERNATIONAL MASTER STATUTES

**Rules, Regulations, Guidelines & Strategic Notes
Including Legal References and Humanitarian Policy Briefs**

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1: Legal and Ethical Standing of Doninu (Malta) International

1. Introduction

Doninu (Malta) International was founded in June 2023 as an autonomous, voluntary, and non-profit organization committed to assisting individuals and families in vulnerable situations—particularly persons with disabilities—through non-monetary aid such as food, clothing, furniture, and psychosocial support. The organization operates without engaging in financial activity and is not registered with the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations (OCVO), in full compliance with both Maltese and international law.

2. Legal Basis and Operational Autonomy

- **Voluntary Organisations Act (Cap. 492, Laws of Malta):**

Under Article 4(3), voluntary organisations that do not fundraise or handle public funds are not required to register.

Doninu (Malta) International:

- Does not collect or manage money
- Has no bank accounts
- Operates with a gross income of €0

It is therefore **legally exempt from OCVO registration.**

- **Council of Europe Treaty Series No. 124 (1986):**

Malta ratified the European Convention on the Recognition of the Legal Personality of International NGOs.

- Article 5 protects NGOs that choose not to register or seek legal personality, if their right to exist and function is respected.
- Doninu (Malta) International is fully protected under this treaty.

- **Fundamental Rights under Maltese and EU Law:**

- *Article 42* of the **Constitution of Malta** and *Article 11* of the **European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)** guarantee the **freedom of association.**
- Doninu (Malta) International lawfully exercises this right through its humanitarian mission without financial transactions or political affiliation.

3. Ethical and Spiritual Foundations

- **Christian and Islamic Values:**

Doninu (Malta) International is inspired by the universal spiritual imperative to care for the vulnerable. Its guiding ethics are reflected in:

- Christian teachings such as Matthew 25:40 (“Whatever you did for the least of these...”) and Matthew 19:14.
- Islamic principles from the Qur’an and Hadith emphasizing care for the poor, orphans, and the hungry.
- The organization is **inclusive and non-denominational**, welcoming volunteers and beneficiaries regardless of faith.

4. Support from the Catholic Magisterium

Doninu’s work reflects the Catholic Church’s call to defend the dignity of every person:

- **Pope Francis:** “Each Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor.” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 187)
- **Pope John Paul II:** “The Church cannot abandon the poor...” (*Novo Millennio Ineunte*, 49)
- **Pope Benedict XVI:** Emphasized responsibility of both individuals and the Church to serve the needy (*Deus Caritas Est*, 20)

Any attempt to delegitimize or obstruct Doninu’s mission based solely on its non-registration status **contradicts these teachings**.

5. Alignment with National Values and Leadership Statements

- **Maltese Prime Ministers**, across administrations, have expressed clear support for humanitarian priorities:
 - *Dom Mintoff:* “Il-bniedem qabel il-profit.” (“People before profit”)
 - *Dr. Robert Abela:* “We must never turn our backs on the vulnerable.”
 - *Dr. Joseph Muscat* and *Dr. Lawrence Gonzi* likewise emphasized social justice and protection of those in need.
- These statements reinforce that organisations like Doninu (Malta) International—providing voluntary, non-financial support—serve the **public interest** and should not face discrimination or obstruction based on technicalities of registration.

6. Constitutional Framework

Doninu (Malta) International operates fully in line with:

- **Article 32** of the Constitution of Malta – protecting fundamental human rights.
- **Article 35** – safeguarding against discriminatory actions by public authorities.
- **Articles 2 and 9** – promoting social justice and cultural welfare.

Conclusion

Doninu (Malta) International is a legally compliant, ethically grounded, and publicly aligned humanitarian organisation. Its autonomy from financial transactions and voluntary status affirm that it **requires no registration under Cap. 492**. Efforts to delegitimise or suppress its work based on non-registration not only violate legal norms but also contradict Malta's constitutional principles and moral commitments.

The organisation calls upon public authorities, faith institutions, and civil society to respect its lawful operation and uphold its mission to serve the vulnerable in dignity and peace.

2: Legal Standing of Doninu (Malta) International

2.1 – Applicability of Maltese Law (Cap. 492)

Doninu (Malta) International operates in full conformity with the *Voluntary Organisations Act* (Cap. 492 of the Laws of Malta). According to Article 3 of the Act and as amended by Act XX of 2018, voluntary organisations that neither engage in public fundraising nor manage financial resources, and whose gross annual income is zero, are **not legally required to register** with the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations (OCVO).

2.2 – Financial Neutrality and Operational Transparency

The organisation expressly refrains from:

- Soliciting or receiving monetary donations;
- Holding or using bank accounts;
- Conducting financial transactions of any kind.

This ensures total transparency in line with both domestic legal requirements and the organisation's founding principles.

2.3 – Protection under International Treaty Obligations

Doninu (Malta) International asserts its legal right to operate under **Article 5** of the *European Convention on the Recognition of the Legal Personality of International Non-Governmental Organisations* (1986), which Malta has ratified. This Article explicitly affirms that:

“Nothing in this Convention shall require a Contracting Party to recognise an association or foundation which does not have legal personality, or which is not registered... provided that the right of such groups to exist and function is respected.”

Thus, the organisation enjoys legal recognition and operational protection under both international and national law.

2.4 – Protection Against Fraudulent Misrepresentation

Any individual or entity found to be **fraudulently soliciting or collecting funds** in the name of Doninu (Malta) International shall be subject to criminal prosecution under **Articles 308 to 310 of the Criminal Code** (Cap. 9, Laws of Malta), which cover offences of fraud, misappropriation, and unlawful enrichment. The organisation maintains a

zero-tolerance policy toward such abuse and will cooperate fully with law enforcement in prosecuting offenders.

3: Financial Governance

3.1 – Financial Non-Engagement Principle

Doninu (Malta) International operates strictly as a **non-monetary voluntary organisation**. It does **not receive, solicit, or manage financial donations** under any circumstance. This policy is foundational to its operational model and legal standing.

3.2 – Redirection of Financial Support to Beneficiaries

In line with its non-financial nature, any individual or organisation wishing to provide monetary assistance is **formally directed to donate directly to the intended beneficiary**.

Any member or affiliate of Doninu (Malta) International found to breach this principle may face **legal action** and **internal disciplinary sanctions**.

3.3 – Humanitarian Exceptions: Direct-to-Beneficiary Aid

In exceptional humanitarian cases—such as medical emergencies involving critically ill children or families in extreme distress—Doninu (Malta) International may, with strict procedural safeguards, **publish the verified bank or Revolut account of the beneficiary** to facilitate direct public aid.

This process is governed by the following safeguards:

- **No funds are received or managed** by Doninu (Malta) International.
- The **beneficiary's identity and need** are verified through valid documentation.
- The **express written consent** of the beneficiary is obtained prior to publishing their financial details.
- All public appeals include a disclaimer stating that **the funds are sent directly to the individual/family**, not to Doninu (Malta) International.

This approach is **fully compliant** with the *Voluntary Organisations Act* (Cap. 492), which applies only to funds received or managed by organisations, not direct-to-beneficiary aid.

3.4 – Legal and Fundamental Rights Protections

This practice is further protected under the following legal frameworks:

- **Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)** – Protects the right to freedom of expression, including the dissemination of information for charitable and humanitarian purposes.
- **Article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)** – Affirms the right to freedom of association, including informal or unregistered groups engaging in humanitarian activity.

- **Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union** – Prohibits discrimination against individuals or groups offering assistance to the vulnerable.

3.5 – Safeguards Against Misrepresentation

Any third party who **falsely claims affiliation** with Doninu (Malta) International for the purpose of collecting money shall be **reported to the Malta Police** and prosecuted under **Articles 308–310 of the Criminal Code (Cap. 9)**, which address fraud, misrepresentation, and abuse of public trust.

4: Collaborations and Affiliations

4.1 – Ethical Partnership Framework

Doninu (Malta) International welcomes ethical, **non-financial collaborations** with non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community groups, and public entities—local, national, or international—whose mission aligns with its core humanitarian values.

4.2 – Conditions for Collaboration

All partnerships must adhere to the following principles:

- **Organisational autonomy;**
- **Non-financial engagement;**
- **Transparency and accountability;**
- **Respect and dignity for all beneficiaries.**

4.3 – Legal Basis for Collaborative Rights

Doninu (Malta) International's right to form ethical partnerships is protected by Maltese, European, and international law, provided such collaborations:

- Are **non-monetary** in nature;
- Serve a legitimate **public interest purpose**;
- Respect the **dignity** of vulnerable persons;
- Preserve the organisation's **independent status**.

Legal Instruments Supporting This Right:

- *Constitution of Malta*:
 - Article 41 – Freedom of expression
 - Article 42 – Freedom of association
- *Voluntary Organisations Act (Cap. 492)* – Articles 4(1), 4(2), and 5(1), as amended by Act XX of 2018
- *Civil Code (Cap. 16)* – Legal basis for non-financial obligations and cooperation
- *EU Charter of Fundamental Rights*: Articles 11, 12(1), and 21
- *TFEU*: Articles 11 and 15 – Transparency and social inclusion
- *European Convention on the Recognition of the Legal Personality of INGOs (1986)* – Articles 1 and 5

4.4 – Right to Collaborate Regardless of Registration Status

Doninu (Malta) International **has the legal right to cooperate** with public bodies, ministries, agencies, and local councils regardless of its non-registration with the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations (OCVO).

Since the organisation neither collects public funds nor engages in financial transactions, it falls outside the scope of mandatory registration under Cap. 492.

Any attempt by OCVO or its agents to obstruct cooperation **solely due to non-registration** is legally unfounded and may violate:

- *Voluntary Organisations Act* (Cap. 492), Article 11
- *Constitution of Malta*, Articles 42 (freedom of association) and 45 (protection from discrimination)
- *Public Administration Act* (Cap. 595), Article 4 – good governance and legality
- *European Convention on Human Rights* (ECHR), Article 11
- *EU Charter of Fundamental Rights*, Articles 12 and 21
- *UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders*, Articles 5 and 6

Unlawful interference can be challenged before:

- **Office of the Ombudsman** (Malta and EU)
- **National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE)**
- **European Commission – DG Justice**

4.5 – Safeguards Against Discriminatory State Interference

4.5.1 – Legality of Non-Registration

Doninu (Malta) International complies fully with Cap. 492 of the Laws of Malta. Article 6(1) confirms that **organisations not collecting funds or receiving public money are not required to register**.

4.5.2 – Limits on OCVO Authority

Any **instruction, interference, or pressure** by the OCVO to prohibit lawful collaboration based solely on registration status is **ultra vires** and may infringe upon national and international rights.

4.5.3 – Maltese Legal Protections Include:

- *Voluntary Organisations Act*, Articles 5 and 6(2)
- *Constitution of Malta*:
 - Article 38 – Privacy and association
 - Article 41 – Expression
 - Article 42 – Assembly and association
- *Public Administration Act*, Cap. 595 – Fair and lawful conduct by state entities

4.5.4 – International Legal Protections Include:

- *European Convention on Human Rights:*
 - Article 11 – Freedom of association
 - Article 14 – Non-discrimination
- *EU Charter of Fundamental Rights:*
 - Article 12 – Freedom of association
 - Article 21 – Equality
 - Article 41 – Good administration
- *European Convention on Recognition of Legal Personality of INGOs*
- *UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders (1998)*

4.5.5 – Remedies Against Unlawful Interference

If unlawful discrimination or obstruction occurs, Doninu (Malta) International may escalate the matter to:

- **National Audit Office (NAO)**
- **NCPE**
- **European Ombudsman**
- **European Commission (DG Justice)**
- **Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights**

4.5.6 – Public Bodies Must Not Discriminate Based on Registration

No authority in Malta may deny lawful cooperation with Doninu (Malta) International **on the sole basis of its unregistered status**, provided it:

- Does not manage or solicit funds;
- Upholds all civil and human rights;
- Operates transparently and lawfully.

4.6 – Engagement with Local Councils and Public Agencies

Doninu (Malta) International reiterates that **local councils and public entities are not legally barred from collaborating** with non-registered organisations that do not handle financial resources.

Local councils that refuse cooperation solely due to registration status may be acting **contrary to:**

- *Voluntary Organisations Act (Cap. 492)*
- *Article 14 of the Constitution of Malta* – Promotion of social wellbeing
- *European Convention on Human Rights* – Article 11
- *EU Charter of Fundamental Rights* – Article 12
- *Principles of Administrative Law* – including good governance, proportionality, and equality

4.6.1 – Councils and agencies are encouraged to:

- Seek **independent legal guidance**, free from OCVO influence;
- Establish **non-financial Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)** with Doninu to jointly serve vulnerable individuals and promote the public good.

4.7 – Affirmation of Lawful Operation Without Registration

Doninu (Malta) International affirms its **right to operate lawfully, transparently, and independently** under national and international law.

Attempts by public authorities—including the OCVO or Ombudsman—to **misinterpret the law or impose obligations that do not apply** will be considered a breach of:

- *Voluntary Organisations Act*, Article 6(1)
- *Constitution of Malta*, Article 40 – Freedom of association
- *Public Administration Act* – Fair conduct and no abuse of power
- *European and UN instruments* – As outlined above

4.7.1 – Right to Appeal and Report

Should unlawfully pressure or exclusion arise, Doninu reserves the right to:

- File a complaint with the **Commissioner for Standards in Public Life**
- Petition the **Maltese Parliament Standing Committee on Public Appointments**
- Submit a case to the **European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)** upon exhaustion of domestic remedies
- Notify the **UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Association**

4.7.2 – Notification of Rights to Public Bodies

All public institutions approached by Doninu (Malta) International shall be **informed in writing of the legal protections** that permit the organisation to operate, and the **remedies available** against discriminatory treatment.

5: Political and Religious Neutrality

5.1 – Political Non-Alignment

Doninu (Malta) International is a politically neutral organisation. It shall not engage in, endorse, or fund any political campaigns, parties, candidates, or partisan movements at local, national, or international levels.

5.2 – Secular Humanitarian Identity

The organisation maintains a **secular and inclusive operational framework**. While respecting all faith traditions, Doninu shall not promote any religious doctrine or institution in its activities.

5.3 – Ethical Boundaries on Advocacy

In line with its humanitarian values, Doninu (Malta) International shall not support or affiliate with any initiative that undermines the **inherent dignity and value of human life**. This includes, but is not limited to, campaigns advocating:

- Against Abortion

This ethical position is rooted in a commitment to protect the most vulnerable members of society and to uphold the right to life as recognised in both national and international human rights instruments.

6: Support for Domestic Violence Victims

6.1 – Legal and Operational Framework

Doninu (Malta) International provides non-financial, rights-based support to victims of domestic violence in alignment with:

- **Domestic Violence Act (Cap. 581)**
- **Victims of Crime Act (Cap. 539)**
- **Criminal Code (Cap. 9)**
- **Council of Europe Istanbul Convention**
- **General Data Protection Regulation (EU Regulation 2016/679)**
- **Data Protection Act (Cap. 586)**

The organization acts **independently of the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations (OCVO)**, as permitted by law, and does not engage in any financial operations. All interventions are based on the **informed consent of the victim** and conducted in a non-invasive, privacy-respecting, and safety-conscious manner.




6.2 – Services Offered

With the consent of the victim, Doninu (Malta) International may:

- **Accompany** victims to file police reports, including at the Domestic Violence Unit or local police stations.
- **Refer** individuals to certified shelters (e.g., Appoġġ, Dar Merħba Bik).
- **Provide essential material support** (food, clothing, furniture, transport).
- **Offer emotional guidance** and facilitate access to qualified counsellors and legal aid services.

Volunteers must never impersonate licensed professionals and must strictly avoid acting beyond their role unless legally accredited.

6.3 – Standard Operating Procedure for Supporting Victims

Action	Details
 Confidential Listening	Offer a safe and private space to listen without pressure or coercion.
 Informed Consent	Clearly explain available support options. Obtain verbal or written consent before proceeding.
 Risk Assessment	Ask basic questions to determine immediate danger. Advise calling 112 if the situation is urgent.

2 Referral to Police	Accompany the victim to file a report or assist in contacting the Domestic Violence Unit (Tel: 2294 3155).
3 Shelter Coordination	Call 179 or liaise directly with Appoġġ or Dar Merhba Bik for temporary safe accommodation.
4 Legal Aid Referral	Guide victims to Legal Aid Malta for free legal assistance and offer help with related paperwork.
7 Emotional Support	Refer to certified professionals through agencies like Appoġġ, Caritas, or Safe Haven. Volunteers may not act as therapists.
8 Material Assistance	Provide essential goods such as clothes, hygiene products, and safe transport, particularly in emergency displacement scenarios.

6.4 – Legal Validity of Non-Registered Support

Under Maltese and international law, **non-registered organisations and individuals may lawfully support domestic violence victims** provided their actions are:

- Conducted in good faith;
- Consent-based;
- Non-financial in nature;
- Respectful of privacy and dignity;
- Focused on humanitarian support and referral, not professional intervention.

Obstruction of such lawful actions by public bodies or the OCVO may constitute a breach of national and international obligations, particularly in relation to victims' rights and the duty to prevent further harm.

7: Child Protection Policy

7.1 – Mandatory Reporting Obligation

In compliance with the **Protection of Minors (Registration) Act (Cap. 518 of the Laws of Malta)**, all volunteers and representatives of Doninu (Malta) International are legally and ethically obliged to **immediately report any suspected case of child abuse**—physical, emotional, sexual, or neglect—to the relevant authorities. Failure to do so may constitute an offence under **Article 9** of the same Act.

7.2 – Child Protection Support Procedures

All interactions involving children must prioritize safety, confidentiality, legality, and the child's best interests. Volunteers must never conduct their own investigations. The following procedure outlines the organization's step-by-step protocol:

Action	Details
Identification of a Suspected Case	Any volunteer or third-party may observe indicators of abuse (e.g., bruises, fear, malnutrition, verbal disclosure) during outreach or service delivery.
Confidential Internal Documentation	The Doninu Child Protection Liaison Officer (or the founder if no officer is appointed) logs basic, information only. No opinions or investigations.
Mandatory Reporting to Authorities	In line with Article 5, Cap. 518 , suspicions must be reported to:

- The Police Vice Squad
- The Child Protection Services (Appoġġ or Children's Authority)

| **4** | **Cooperation with Investigations** | All documented observations must be handed over without delay. Volunteers must remain available for testimony, complying with the **Data Protection Act** and **GDPR**. |

| **5** | **Emergency Protection Request** | If the child is at risk of imminent harm, Doninu may request intervention by police or social workers for relocation to a licensed emergency shelter. |

| **6** | **Non-Financial Support (Short and Long-Term)** | With guardian or case worker approval, Doninu may continue offering basic items (food, hygiene kits, clothing), strictly without exposing the child to the media or public. |

7.3 – Legal and Human Rights Framework

National Laws:

- **Protection of Minors (Registration) Act (Cap. 518)**
 - *Article 5*: Mandates immediate reporting of suspected abuse.
 - *Article 9*: Criminalises failure to protect or report.
- **Criminal Code (Cap. 9)**
 - *Article 208A*: Criminalises all forms of child abuse.
 - *Articles 251A–251B*: Prohibits neglect, abandonment, and failure to protect.
- **Child Protection (Alternative Care) Act (Cap. 569)**
 - Governs emergency removal, protective custody, and alternative care procedures.
- **Data Protection Act (Cap. 586) & GDPR (Reg. 2016/679, EU)**
 - *Article 6(1)(c)*: Permits data sharing when legally required (e.g., reporting).
 - *Article 9(2)(g)*: Allows processing of sensitive data for reasons of substantial public interest, such as child safety.

International Instruments:

- **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child** (Ratified by Malta)
 - *Article 3*: Best interests of the child must prevail in all decisions.
 - *Article 19*: States must ensure effective prevention, protection, and reporting mechanisms.
- **Council of Europe Lanzarote Convention**
 - Binding on Malta, obliges signatories to implement legal measures for prevention, victim assistance, and mandatory reporting in cases of sexual abuse.

Note: Doninu (Malta) International operates solely in a **non-financial, non-invasive, and referral-based capacity**. Volunteers must not engage in investigative activities or physical intervention unless legally instructed by state authorities. The safety and dignity of the child are paramount.

8: Support to Children and Vulnerable Persons

8.1 – Nutritional Support to Children from Disadvantaged Backgrounds

Doninu (Malta) International is committed to providing **non-financial, voluntary food assistance** to children from economically disadvantaged or vulnerable families. This support includes staple, non-perishable food items such as **pasta, rice, legumes, bread, milk, vegetables, and canned goods**, and is delivered with dignity, discretion, and in line with health and safety standards.

Though the organization does **not operate as a licensed food bank**, all actions are lawful under national and international frameworks recognizing voluntary charitable acts.

Applicable Legal Framework

Under Maltese Law:

- **Protection of Minors (Registration) Act (Cap. 518):** Recognizes volunteer-based safeguarding of children.
- **Civil Code (Cap. 16, Arts. 871–889):** Permits lawful donations in kind.
- **Food Safety Act (Cap. 449):** Permits voluntary distribution of non-expired, unopened food without commercial licensing.
- **SCSA Guidelines:** Support non-residential, non-monetary, voluntary assistance.

Under International Law:

- **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Articles 24 & 27:** Uphold children's right to adequate nutrition and role of NGOs.
- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 25:** Asserts the right to food.
- **EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, Article 24:** Affirms children's right to care and dignity.

Step-by-Step Implementation

1. **Identify the Need:** Based on community referral or observed hardship.
2. **Inventory Check:** Ensure all food is **safe, unopened, and within safe date**.
3. **Prepare Food Packs:** Assemble packages with available nutritional items.
4. **Deliver with Dignity:** Ensure respectful, discreet handover.

5. **Optional Recordkeeping:** Anonymous internal logs may be kept for transparency.

8.2 – Distribution of 'Best Before' Food Products

To minimize food waste and support food-insecure families, Doninu (Malta) International may distribute food items **past their “Best Before” date**, provided they are still safe and suitable for consumption.

8.2.1 – Legal Basis

This practice complies with:

- **Regulation (EU) No. 1169/2011:** Consumer food information requirements.
- **Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002:** General food safety.
- **Malta Food Safety Act (Cap. 449).**
- **Legal Notice 307/2004:** General Food Law Regulation.

These provisions allow the donation of food items **past their "Best Before" date** where they remain fit for human consumption and the recipient is clearly informed.

8.2.2 – Safety Assurance

Food distributed under this clause must:

- Be **visually inspected** for intact packaging and no signs of spoilage (e.g. mold, swelling, leakage, odor).
- **Not be past a "Use By" or "Expiry Date"**, unless verified as safe by a food safety professional.

8.2.3 – Disclosure and Consent

Recipients must be clearly informed:

- That the item is past its **"Best Before" date**.
- That the term refers to **quality**, not safety.
- That the food remains safe when stored properly.

Disclosure may be made verbally or with a written note. Where feasible, recipients may acknowledge receipt and understanding.

8.2.4 – Recordkeeping

Basic records shall be maintained, including:

- Type and quantity of food.
- Donor details (if any).
- Distribution date.
- Condition verification notes.

8.2.5 – Limitation of Liability

Doninu (Malta) International disclaims liability for adverse effects from consumption of donated food under this clause, provided:

- The food was **safe, undamaged, and clearly disclosed**;
- It was **not misrepresented**;
- It was **not distributed negligently or in bad faith**.

8.2.6 – Good Practice

Volunteers will receive **basic food safety and hygiene training**. This clause will be periodically reviewed in line with updated **Maltese and EU food safety guidance**.

9: Delivery Protocols – Safe Delivery Policy

9.1 – Authorized Deliveries by Vetted Volunteers

Only volunteers who have undergone **Doninu (Malta) International's internal vetting and induction process** may perform deliveries of aid, including food, hygiene products, clothing, or other support items. This protocol ensures the **safety of both volunteers and beneficiaries**, as well as **legal compliance** with Maltese and EU law.

Legal Compliance Framework

- **Data Protection Act (Cap. 586)**: Prohibits the disclosure or misuse of beneficiary information by unauthorized persons.
- **Civil Code (Cap. 16)** and **Occupational Health and Safety Authority Act (Cap. 424)**: Require safe and lawful conduct by volunteers during outreach activities.
- **EU General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679)**: Regulates how personal data is accessed, stored, and used during deliveries.

Step-by-Step Protocol

1. **Vetting & Induction**: Volunteer undergoes screening and signs conduct/data protection agreements.
2. **Authorization**: Delivery approval is granted by the head office based on task necessity and recipient data.
3. **Minimal Data Sharing**: Volunteers receive **only essential delivery details** (name, address, contact method).
4. **Identification**: Volunteers must carry visible Doninu ID during deliveries.
5. **Delivery Execution**: Volunteers complete the delivery without unnecessary delay or deviation.
6. **Reporting**: Issues or irregularities are reported back to the office and logged for transparency.

9.2 – Restrictions on Entering Private Residences

To protect vulnerable persons and volunteers, **entry into a private residence is strictly prohibited** unless the following **three conditions are all met**:

1. **Written Approval** is issued by Doninu's management.
2. **Informed Consent** is obtained from the beneficiary.
3. **At Least One Safeguarding Measure** is present, such as:

- a. Accompaniment by another **authorized volunteer**;
- b. Presence of a **community representative**, such as a social worker or known third-party adult.

Unauthorized entry or solo visits are forbidden and considered a **breach of policy and safeguarding law**.

Legal Justification

- **Protection of Privacy Act (Cap. 440):** Upholds the right to personal and residential privacy.
- **Criminal Code (Cap. 9):** Criminalizes trespass, harassment, or any form of coercive behaviour.
- **Safeguarding of Vulnerable Persons Act (Cap. 527):** Imposes obligations to prevent risk during services to minors, elderly, and disabled persons.
- **International Conventions (e.g. UNCRC, UDHR):** Affirm the right to dignity, privacy, and informed participation in aid processes.

This Safe Delivery Policy protects the integrity of Doninu’s outreach services while upholding human dignity, data protection, and legal compliance across all delivery operations.

10: Non-Judgmental Principle

10.1 – Principle of Human Dignity, Neutrality, and Non-Discrimination

Doninu (Malta) International upholds a core commitment to **non-judgment, dignity, and inclusion** in all its operations. All individuals—beneficiaries, volunteers, donors, business partners, and collaborators—shall be treated with **respect, compassion, and equality**, regardless of:

- Personal or family background
- Religious, cultural, or gender identity
- Economic status
- Legal or judicial circumstance (including investigations or pending trials)

The organization **does not assume the role of a moral, religious, or legal judge**. As a voluntary humanitarian initiative, Doninu (Malta) International is mandated to serve vulnerable persons **without discrimination, stigma, or premature conclusions based on unproven allegations**.

10.2 – Legal Protections Supporting this Principle

This non-judgmental principle is grounded in national and international law:

- **Constitution of Malta – Articles 32 & 45**
Guarantee the right to dignity and prohibit discrimination based on sex, race, status, or belief.
- **Equal Treatment of Persons (Cap. 456)**
Protects individuals from arbitrary or unjustified exclusion based on perceived characteristics or legal status.
- **Charities and Voluntary Organisations Act (Cap. 492)**
Does not prohibit collaboration with legally registered persons or entities unless a final criminal conviction exists.
Important Distinction: Being under **investigation or on trial is not the same as a criminal conviction. Only a court judgment can impose legal restrictions on participation in voluntary work or donation activities.

- **EU Charter of Fundamental Rights – Article 21**
Prohibits discrimination of any kind and affirms the dignity and equal treatment of all persons.
- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights – Article 1**
“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”

10.3 – Clarification Through Example

A man who operates a grocery store donates food to Doninu. He is involved in a civil court case over a contractual dispute.

Doninu accepts his donation if the source is lawful and the goods are safe. His unresolved case does **not disqualify** his goodwill.

However, if the same person is **convicted of a serious offense** (e.g., fraud involving donated goods), Doninu will reassess collaboration in line with legal and ethical obligations.

10.4 – Interfaith Ethical Foundations

Christian Scriptures:

- *John 8:7* – “Let he who is without sin cast the first stone.”
- *Matthew 7:1* – “Do not judge, or you too will be judged.”
- *Romans 15:7* – “Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you.”

Islamic Teachings:

- *Qur’an 49:11* – “Let not a people ridicule another people; perhaps they may be better than them.”
- *Surah Al-Ma’idah 5:8* – “Do not let hatred of a people prevent you from being just. Be just: that is nearer to righteousness.”
- *Hadith (Sahih Muslim)* – “He who helps his brother in his time of need, Allah will be there in his time of need.”

These spiritual teachings underscore a shared moral responsibility to act with **mercy, fairness, and restraint**, especially in times of vulnerability or hardship.

10.5 – Binding Ethical Application

This principle shall form a **binding part of Doninu (Malta) International’s Code of Conduct**. It governs all internal and external decisions regarding:

- Acceptance of aid or donations
- Volunteer recruitment and retention
- Collaboration with persons or organizations

No person shall be excluded based on unproven allegations, background, or societal prejudice—**only clear legal obligations or confirmed court convictions** may trigger justifiable restrictions.

11: Membership Policy

11.1 – Open and Voluntary Membership

Membership in Doninu (Malta) International is **open to all individuals** who share the organization's values and mission of supporting vulnerable persons through **non-financial humanitarian aid**.

- **Voluntary Participation:**
Individuals may choose to join or withdraw from the organization at any time without coercion, obligation, or penalty.
- **No Fees or Financial Contributions:**
In line with Doninu's non-commercial and non-monetary policy, **membership is entirely free of charge**.
No form of membership fee, donation, subscription, or financial transaction is permitted or required as a condition of membership.

11.2 – Equal Access and Non-Discrimination

All prospective and current members shall be treated equally, without discrimination based on:

- Gender, religion, nationality, or ethnicity
- Legal status or political opinion
- Disability, age, or social background

Membership eligibility is based solely on a person's **willingness to support Doninu's mission**, follow its statutes, and uphold its ethical and operational principles.

11.3 – Membership Application and Record-Keeping

- Membership may be formalized via a **voluntary written or digital declaration**, subject to basic identity verification (as required for safeguarding or coordination).
- Doninu will maintain an **internal and confidential record** of active members for coordination and legal accountability purposes, in accordance with the **Data Protection Act (Cap. 586)** and **EU GDPR (Reg. 2016/679)**.

11.4 – Member Conduct and Duties

While no financial contribution is ever required, members are expected to:

- Act respectfully and uphold Doninu’s humanitarian principles
- Participate in meetings or activities when possible
- Protect the dignity, privacy, and safety of all beneficiaries
- Report misconduct or violations of the organization’s statutes

Membership may be suspended or revoked in cases of serious breach of conduct or abuse, as outlined in the organization's internal regulations.

11.5 – Legal and Ethical Framework

This membership policy is consistent with the following:

- **Civil Code (Cap. 16)** – Articles on lawful associations and contracts
- **Charities and Voluntary Organisations Act (Cap. 492)** – Principles of voluntary participation and non-profit conduct
- **EU Charter of Fundamental Rights – Articles 12 and 21** – Rights to free association and protection from discrimination
- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights – Article 20** – Right to freely associate with others

12: Volunteer Code of Conduct & Legal Protections

12.1 – Code of Conduct for All Volunteers

All individuals who offer their time and effort to Doninu (Malta) International as volunteers are bound by this official Code of Conduct. Volunteers are expected to:

- **Uphold the values and principles** of Doninu, including respect, compassion, neutrality, non-judgment, and transparency.
- **Comply strictly with all rules and policies** outlined in the organizational statutes, operational protocols, and official briefings.
- **Refrain from collecting or handling any form of money**, donations in cash, or payments on behalf of the organization.
- **Avoid any political affiliation or endorsement** while volunteering in Doninu's name.
- **Respect the privacy and dignity** of all beneficiaries, donors, and fellow volunteers.
- **Never engage in harassment, discrimination, or coercion** of any kind.
- **Report any irregularities, misconduct, or violations** to the Doninu headquarters without delay.

12.2 – Chain of Command and Operational Integrity

To maintain consistency, legal safety, and operational control:

- **Volunteers shall take instructions exclusively from the Doninu headquarters** located in San Ġwann or from designated team leaders officially appointed by the Doninu founder or board.
- **Unauthorized instructions or rogue actions** may result in suspension or dismissal from the volunteer program.

This centralized chain of command helps prevent misinformation, ensures accountability, and protects both volunteers and vulnerable persons.

12.3 – Legal Protections for Volunteers

Volunteers engaged in lawful, non-financial humanitarian aid through Doninu (Malta) International are afforded **statutory and human rights protections** under Maltese and EU law:

Under Maltese Law:

- **Voluntary Organisations Act (Cap. 492):**
Acknowledges the right of individuals to volunteer in charitable and social causes, even outside the register of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations, provided that:
 - No monetary donations are collected or handled.
 - The activity is lawful, non-profit, and benevolent in nature.
- **Occupational Health and Safety Authority Act (Cap. 424):**
Volunteers have the right to safe working conditions. Doninu must assess risks and provide a safe environment to the extent reasonably practicable.
- **Data Protection Act (Cap. 586):**
Volunteer personal information must be stored, processed, and handled lawfully, securely, and with respect for privacy.

Under EU and International Law:

- **EU Charter of Fundamental Rights – Article 15:**
Confirms the right of every person to freely engage in work or volunteer service within the EU without discrimination.
- **European Convention on Human Rights – Article 11:**
Recognizes the right to freely associate with others and join voluntary organizations for peaceful and lawful purposes.
- **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Reg. 2016/679):**
Provides volunteers and beneficiaries alike with rights over their personal data, ensuring that such data is never shared or exploited improperly.

12.4 – What This Means for Volunteers

As a volunteer with Doninu (Malta) International:

- You are legally protected while offering your time and services, even if the organization is not registered with the CVO, provided no financial transactions occur.
- You cannot be harassed, intimidated, or penalized merely for assisting in a non-profit humanitarian cause.
- You are expected to act ethically, protect others' dignity, and uphold the law.
- If you are ever asked to violate Doninu's policies or to perform illegal or unethical actions, you must report it immediately to the official Doninu office.
You are never alone, and you are not required to obey unlawful instructions from anyone.

13: Needs Verification Protocol

13.1 – Purpose of Verification

Doninu (Malta) International is committed to protecting both the **dignity of individuals requesting aid** and the **safety and integrity of its volunteers and services**. For this reason, all requests for assistance must be supported by a **referral from a trusted authority** to ensure that the need is legitimate, urgent, and properly understood.

Referrals may be accepted from:

- Social workers or care professionals;
- Religious leaders such as parish priests, imams, rabbis, or chaplains;
- School administrators, guidance teachers, or registered youth officers;
- Local government officials, such as mayors or community doctors;
- Accredited shelters or officially recognized aid institutions.

Referrals must be submitted to the official Doninu email address:

doninumalta@gmail.com

13.2 – Why We Require Referrals

Doninu (Malta) International **does not judge** any person in need. However, to maintain **fairness, safety, and transparency**, a basic verification process is necessary.

This approach ensures:

- **Authenticity:** Requests are genuine, not fabricated or abusive.
- **Prioritization:** Limited aid reaches those in **greatest need** (e.g., survivors of violence, families with children with disabilities, persons in severe poverty).
- **Volunteer Protection:** Volunteers are not misled, placed at risk, or exposed to fraudulent situations.
- **Organizational Integrity:** Prevents misuse of resources and supports responsible distribution of aid.

13.3 – Legal Basis for Needs Verification

This policy is fully compliant with Maltese, European, and international legal frameworks:

Under Maltese Law:

- **Data Protection Act (Cap. 586):** Ensures that personal data shared in referral documents is stored securely and used exclusively for aid assessment purposes.
- **Child Protection (Alternative Care) Act (Cap. 569):** Requires verification of the status and needs of children before intervention or provision of support.
- **Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act (Cap. 413):** Justifies the verification of disability or vulnerability to guarantee rights and appropriate aid.
- **Voluntary Organisations Act (Cap. 492):** Supports the right of voluntary groups to operate in aid delivery when genuine needs are confirmed, even if the group is unregistered, provided that the activities are non-financial and non-abusive.

Under European and International Law:

- **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Articles 3 and 27:** Supports NGO assistance for children based on verified needs, with dignity and care.
- **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD):** Upholds the right of persons with disabilities to receive tailored and lawful support when vulnerability is documented.
- **European Convention on Human Rights – Article 8:** Protects family life and privacy, which includes confidential handling of aid cases.

13.4 – Summary of Policy

The request verification process is not a tool of judgment — it is a **mechanism of protection**:

- For vulnerable individuals who deserve real, prioritized support.
- For volunteers, to ensure they operate safely and ethically.
- For the organization, to uphold accountability and legal standards.

Every child, person with a disability, or vulnerable family has a **right to dignified support**. Doninu (Malta) International fulfils that right **carefully, respectfully, and lawfully**.

14: Reporting Illegal Activities & Whistleblower Protection

14.1 – Obligation to Report

All volunteers, collaborators, and beneficiaries of **Doninu (Malta) International** have a **legal and moral duty** to report any illegal or unethical conduct committed within the organization or by anyone acting in its name.

Reports must be made immediately to **both** of the following:

1. **The Malta Police Force** or relevant law enforcement authority;
2. **Doninu (Malta) International Central Management**
 - a. Via email: doninumalta@gmail.com
 - b. Or in person at the Head Office. (Helpline +356 79793332)

Illegal conduct includes but is not limited to:

- Physical, psychological, or emotional abuse;
- Fraud, theft, or misappropriation of goods or services;
- Harassment, discrimination, or bullying;
- Misuse of authority or access to personal data;
- Any form of exploitation, particularly involving children, persons with disabilities, or vulnerable adults.

14.2 – Legal Protection for Whistleblowers (Malta)

Any individual who reports in **good faith** is protected under Maltese law, including:

- **Whistleblower Protection Act (Cap. 527):**
Protects volunteers, staff, and any reporting party—even within **unregistered voluntary initiatives**—from retaliation when reporting serious misconduct.
- **Criminal Code of Malta (Cap. 9):**
Encourages reporting of crimes and imposes a legal duty to act in cases of serious offences (e.g., abuse, violence, exploitation).
- **Protection of Minors Act (Cap. 518):**
Requires the immediate reporting of **suspected abuse or endangerment of minors** to the appropriate authorities.

14.3 – International Standards & Safeguards

Doninu (Malta) International aligns with global human rights and child protection frameworks:

- **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) – Article 19:**
Obligates parties and affiliated organizations to protect children from **all forms of violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation**.
- **Lanzarote Convention (Council of Europe):**
Requires **immediate action** by institutions and individuals in reporting suspected child sexual exploitation or abuse.
- **UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights:**
Extend ethical duties of **transparency, prevention, and accountability** to all entities, including voluntary organizations and non-profits.

14.4 – Purpose of This Clause

This clause is intended to:

- Create a **safe and ethical environment** for all participants and beneficiaries;
- Ensure **swift protection and intervention** where vulnerable individuals may be at risk;
- Prevent and deter serious misconduct;
- Promote a **culture of accountability, honesty, and trust**.

14.5 – Non-Retaliation Guarantee

Doninu (Malta) International guarantees **zero tolerance** for retaliation against anyone who reports misconduct in **good faith**.

Individuals who submit **malicious, false, or defamatory accusations** will be subject to internal disciplinary review and may be referred to legal authorities.

This policy forms a **core element of Doninu (Malta) International’s integrity and safeguarding framework**. It is binding on all members, volunteers, and collaborators and is integral to maintaining public trust and organizational credibility.

15: Prohibited Items for Distribution

15.1 – Strictly Prohibited Aid Items

To ensure the safety, legality, and dignity of its humanitarian work, **Doninu (Malta) International** strictly prohibits the collection, distribution, or handling of the following items:

- **Prescription Drugs**
- **Alcohol**
- **Tobacco Products**
- **Hazardous Materials** (including flammables, sharp or toxic items)
- **Expired Goods** (more than 15 days past the "Best Before" date)

Rationale and Legal Basis

1. Prescription Drugs

Prescription medications must be prescribed and dispensed only by licensed medical professionals. Improper handling or distribution could result in serious harm and legal liability.

- **Medicines Act (Cap. 458, Malta)**
- **EU Directive 2001/83/EC** – Relating to the community code for medicinal products for human use

2. Alcohol

Donating or distributing alcohol is incompatible with humanitarian ethics, particularly when working with vulnerable individuals, families in crisis, or minors.

- **Liquor Licensing Act (Cap. 315, Malta)**
- **Public Health Act & Subsidiary Legislation (Malta)**

3. Tobacco

Tobacco use poses well-documented public health risks and is incompatible with an organization committed to wellbeing and prevention.

- **Tobacco (Smoking Control) Act (Cap. 315, Malta)**
- **WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)** – Promotes public health protection worldwide

4. Hazardous Materials

This includes any item classified as flammable, explosive, corrosive, poisonous, or sharp, such as blades, chemicals, or cleaning agents with danger symbols.

- **Occupational Health and Safety Authority Act (Cap. 424, Malta)**
- **EU Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008** – Classification, labelling, and packaging of substances and mixtures

5. Food Items Exceeding 15 Days Past “Best Before” Date

While "best before" does not indicate immediate spoilage, the organization prohibits distribution of goods exceeding **15 days past the best-before date**, to maintain quality standards and public trust.

- **Food Safety Act (Cap. 449, Malta)**
- **EU Regulation (EC) No 178/2002** – General Food Law Regulation

Supporting International Standards

- **Sphere Humanitarian Standards Handbook** – Food and aid must be **safe, appropriate, and culturally acceptable**.
- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) – Articles 25 & 28:** Upholds the right to a standard of living adequate for health and well-being.
- **Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Article 24:** Requires protection from harmful products and access to nutritious, safe food.

Purpose of This Policy

This clause is designed to:

- Ensure **compliance with Maltese and EU health regulations**
- Prevent any **accidental harm** to beneficiaries or volunteers
- Maintain the **professional integrity** and ethical commitment of the organization
- Uphold the **dignity, safety, and well-being** of all individuals served by Doninu (Malta) International

16: Baby Essentials Policy

16.1 – Safety and Expiry Standards

All baby-related products, including but not limited to **infant formula, food, creams, nappies, wipes, and hygiene items**, must be **sealed, undamaged, and within the 'Best Before' or expiry date** at the time of distribution.

This is to protect the **health, hygiene, and safety** of infants and young children, and to comply with:

- **Food Safety Act (Cap. 449, Laws of Malta)**
- **Consumer Affairs Act (Cap. 378)**
- **General Product Safety Regulations (S.L. 427.60)**
- **EU Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 – General Food Law**
- **Directive 2001/95/EC – EU General Product Safety Directive**

16.2 – Open-in-Presence Protocol

To promote accountability, **baby essentials such as formula, baby food, nappies, and similar items must be opened or checked in the presence of the recipient** upon handover. This applies to both individual recipients and institutions.

Why this matters:

- Ensures aid is **not resold or misused**
- Protects vulnerable children from **expired, damaged, or substituted items**
- Upholds public trust in the organization

Legal and Ethical Framework:

- **Child Protection (Alternative Care) Act (Cap. 569, Malta)**
- **Consumer Affairs Act (Cap. 378)**
- **General Product Safety Regulations (S.L. 427.60)**
- **EU Product Safety and Infant Food Directives**
- **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)** – Articles 6, 24, and 27
- **WHO Infant Nutrition Guidelines** – Promotes safe, transparent feeding practices

16.3 – Provision of Second-Hand Items for Infants and Children

Doninu (Malta) International may distribute **second-hand baby and child items** such as:

- Clothing
- Bottles
- Blankets
- Pushchairs, prams, or walkers
- Cots, beds, or playpens
- Toys or similar accessories

Conditions for Distribution:

- Items must be **clean, functional, and safe for normal use**
- Items must be **physically inspected by an authorized volunteer**
- Any **damaged, unsafe, or unhygienic items must be refused or repaired** before use

Legal Basis for Second-Hand Distribution:

- **Product Safety Act (Cap. 427, Malta)** – Applies to all products, including donated goods
- **EU General Product Safety Directive (2001/95/EC)** – Requires that second-hand items must not pose a safety hazard
- **Consumer Affairs Act (Cap. 378)** – Even free items must meet basic standards and must not mislead or endanger the recipient
- **UNCRC Article 27** – Children are entitled to a standard of living that supports their health and development

Simple Summary for Beneficiaries:

We give safe baby products — new or second-hand — to help families in need. But we always check everything first. We never give expired food, broken toys, or dangerous items. Everything must be clean and good for children. We open items together to show we are honest and want to protect your baby.

Purpose of this Policy

This section ensures that **all aid for infants and children** is delivered with the **highest level of care, transparency, and legal compliance**, reflecting both the vulnerability of the recipients and the public responsibilities of Doninu (Malta) International

17: Charity Hub Guidelines

17.1 – Purpose of the Charity Hub

Doninu (Malta) International operates a **Charity Hub** exclusively for the **free distribution of essential non-monetary items** to vulnerable individuals and families in Malta. These items may include:

- Food
- Clothing
- Hygiene products
- Toys and baby items
- Furniture and household goods
- Psychosocial support materials (e.g. educational books, well-being items)

The hub exists to uphold the organization's **humanitarian mission** without engaging in any commercial activity.

17.2 – No Monetary Transactions

No items distributed through the Charity Hub may ever be:

- **Sold,**
- **Exchanged for goods, or**
- **Used in barter transactions.**

This ensures full alignment with **Doninu's statutes** and ethical principles of **unconditional aid and non-commercial operation**.

17.3 – Legal Protections and Compliance

The Charity Hub's activities are protected and regulated under the following Maltese and EU legal frameworks:

- **Civil Code (Cap. 16)** – Under the doctrine of *liberalità*, charitable gifting of goods is lawful and does not constitute a business.
- **Value Added Tax Act (Cap. 406, Art. 3)** – No VAT applies since no economic transaction occurs.
- **Occupational Health and Safety Authority Act (Cap. 424)** – Requires safe, clean premises for volunteers and beneficiaries.
- **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR - EU Reg. 2016/679)** – Personal information must be handled lawfully, securely, and confidentially.

- **Public Health Act (Cap. 465)** – Hygiene in storage and distribution must be maintained. The Hub does **not** require a food operator license unless food is prepared on site.

17.4 – Distribution Protocol

All distributions from the Charity Hub must be:

- **Logged** by authorized volunteers for transparency
- **Prioritized based on verified need** (as per Clause 13)
- **Conducted with dignity, respect, and fairness** (as per Clause 10)
- **Supervised to prevent misuse, resale, or hoarding**

17.5 – Safe Storage and Sorting Standards

All donated goods must be:

- Inspected for **safety, cleanliness, and validity (e.g., best-before dates)**
- Labeled clearly where applicable
- Stored in areas that are clean, dry, and protected from pests or harmful substances

17.6 – Limitations of Premises

The Charity Hub is **not a shelter or medical clinic**. Therefore:

- No persons may **reside overnight** on the premises
- No **medical treatment** or clinical services may be provided
- Referrals must be made to **certified care providers or authorities** as appropriate

17.7 – Local Authority Recognition and Cooperation

Local Councils and community bodies are **encouraged and legally permitted** to support the Charity Hub by:

- Providing **logistical or moral support**
- Donating **excess municipal-use items** (e.g., furniture, books, clothing)
- Using **noticeboards or communication channels** to inform the public of free distribution

Legal Frameworks Supporting This Cooperation:

- **Local Councils Act (Cap. 363, Art. 33)** – Councils may support social and charitable efforts for community welfare
- **Voluntary Organisations Act (Cap. 492)** – No prohibition exists against collaborating with **legally functioning unregistered charitable initiatives** operating in the public interest

17.8 – Redistribution of Surplus Donations

If Doninu (Malta) International receives more goods than can be distributed immediately to its primary beneficiaries, surplus may be **ethically redistributed** to:

- Other **non-profit organizations**
- **Faith-based groups** providing community support
- **Informal volunteer initiatives** or recognized local aid networks

Conditions for Redistribution:

- Surplus must be **checked for quality and safety**
- Consumables must be **within usable date thresholds**
- Transfers must be **logged internally for traceability**
- Redistributed goods must **not be sold or monetized** and must be used solely for **charitable or welfare purposes**

Legal Basis:

- **Voluntary Organisations Act (Cap. 492)** – Allows for redistribution among legal, non-commercial entities
- **Food Safety Act (Cap. 449) & Product Safety Act (Cap. 427)** – Permits redistribution if items are safe and lawful for use
- **Waste Management Regulations (S.L. 549.63)** – Encourages the reuse and ethical redistribution of usable goods to reduce waste

International Support for Redistribution:

- **UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12.3** – Calls for reduced food waste through safe redistribution
- **EU Circular Economy Action Plan (2020)** – Encourages donation of goods and food to reduce environmental impact
- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights – Article 25** – Endorses initiatives that ensure basic needs are met through community solidarity

Simple Explanation for Volunteers:

We give items for free, never for sale. If we have more than we need, we pass them to other groups helping people in need. But we always check that everything is safe and clean, and that the other group will not sell the items. We are doing this with respect, honesty, and within the law.

18: Furniture and Bulky Items

18.1 – Donation Approval of Furniture and Bulky Items

All donations involving **furniture or large/bulky items** (e.g., beds, wardrobes, sofas, appliances) must receive **prior approval** from Doninu (Malta) International's headquarters. This is to ensure **safety, hygiene, and usability** before collection or redistribution.

Approval requires:

- Verification that the item is **free from infestation**, including mould, insects, or bedbugs
- Confirmation that the item **poses no safety risk** (e.g., no sharp edges, broken supports, exposed wires)
- Visual inspection **either in person or via photos/videos** submitted by the donor

This process protects both recipients and the organization under applicable safety laws.

18.2 – Responsibility for Transport and Delivery

The **recipient or their designated representative** bears full responsibility for the **collection and delivery** of approved bulky items.

NO Exception: Doninu may NOT support transport:

This selective assistance model is fully lawful under Maltese legislation.

18.3 – No Pickup or Delivery Policy

Doninu (Malta) International **does not engage** in the collection or delivery of furniture or bulky goods. Recipients must arrange **all logistics** independently or through their social caseworkers. Doninu accepts **no liability** for accidents, damage, or delays related to third-party transport.

Legal Justification – Malta

Product Safety Act (Cap. 427):

Donated items must be “safe under normal or reasonably foreseeable use.” By inspecting and approving donations, Doninu complies with this standard while not assuming commercial liability.

Health and Safety at Work Act (Cap. 646, Nov 2024):

Replacing Cap. 424, this act obliges organizations to protect volunteers and staff. Furniture transport may present physical risk; abstaining mitigates health and safety liabilities.

Civil Code (Cap. 16 – Tort Law):

Organizations may be held liable for negligence or harm during operations. Avoiding transport limits legal exposure.

Voluntary Organisations Act (Cap. 492):

As an unregistered but legally functioning voluntary body, Doninu is **not mandated** to offer transportation. Clear service boundaries help prevent misinterpretation of duties or implied liabilities.

Data Protection (GDPR and Malta Data Protection Act):

When referrals come via third parties, any names, addresses, or personal circumstances must remain confidential. Only trained and designated personnel may access or store such data, and only with the subject's consent.

International Legal and Policy Frameworks

EU Framework Directive 89/391/EEC (Health & Safety):

Promotes employer and volunteer protection. Doninu aligns with this directive by avoiding high-risk manual handling tasks.

United Nations Guidelines on the Role of NGOs:

Recommends clear, realistic definitions of NGO scope and capacity. Doninu's no-transport policy reflects best practice for safe, sustainable volunteer action.

UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights – Article 1 & 34:

Supports the right to human dignity and access to basic material assistance.

European Charter of Fundamental Rights – Article 12:

Upholds the right of voluntary groups to operate freely and lawfully without discrimination or registration constraints, especially when no financial transactions are involved.

Clarification for Beneficiaries

Doninu (Malta) International does not collect or deliver furniture or other large items.

If you are receiving such goods, you or someone acting on your behalf (such as a social worker or family member) must arrange your own transport

19: Data Protection

19.1 – Legal Compliance

Doninu (Malta) International is fully committed to protecting the personal data of all beneficiaries, volunteers, donors, and collaborating partners. The organization complies with:

- **The Data Protection Act (Cap. 586 of the Laws of Malta)**
- **The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR – EU Regulation 2016/679)**

All data processing activities are conducted lawfully, transparently, and only for legitimate humanitarian or administrative purposes.

19.2 – *Prohibition of Unauthorized Disclosure*

The **unauthorized sharing, publication, or transfer** of any personal data obtained during Doninu’s activities is **strictly prohibited**. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Names and contact information
- Residential addresses
- Family or medical details
- Photographs or identifying media
- Information received through referrals by social workers, shelters, or public authorities

Breach of this policy may result in immediate dismissal from volunteer duties and potential legal consequences under Maltese and EU law.

19.3 – *Data Use and Minimization*

Data collected by Doninu is:

- Limited strictly to what is necessary for providing aid or fulfilling its humanitarian objectives
- Stored securely, either digitally or in locked physical storage
- Not retained longer than necessary, and deleted or anonymized when no longer required

No personal data shall be used for marketing, profiling, or commercial gain.

19.4 – Consent and Confidential Referrals

Where possible, written or recorded **consent** must be obtained from individuals whose data is processed. In cases where referrals are made by licensed professionals (e.g., social workers, shelters), Doninu shall:

- Accept referrals only from credible sources
- Handle all communications and data transfers via secure channels
- Store referral details confidentially, limiting access to designated personnel only

19.5 – Rights of Data Subjects

All individuals whose data is held by Doninu have the right to:

- Request access to their personal data
- Request correction or deletion of inaccurate or unnecessary information
- Withdraw consent for future data processing
- File a complaint with the **Office of the Information and Data Protection Commissioner (IDPC)**

Doninu will respond to all such requests promptly and transparently in line with its legal obligations.

19.6 – Volunteer and Staff Responsibility

All volunteers and personnel must:

- Sign a confidentiality agreement before handling any sensitive information
- Complete a basic orientation on data protection principles
- Report any suspected data breaches immediately to the head office

Data protection is a shared responsibility and a core part of Doninu’s ethical standards.

20: Use of Doninu Name and Brand Identity (LOGO)

20.1 – Unauthorized Use of Brand Identity

The name, logo, slogan, digital assets, and all other components of **Doninu (Malta) International’s visual or symbolic identity** are protected expressions of its humanitarian mission and organizational integrity.

No individual, entity, or group—whether internal or external to the organization—may **use, reproduce, or associate** with Doninu’s brand in any form **without express prior written authorization** from the Doninu Administration Team.

Prohibited actions include, but are not limited to:

- Use of the name, logo, or slogan on **social media, websites, printed materials, or digital platforms.**
- Public **representation or affiliation** with Doninu in events, campaigns, protests, or petitions.
- Creation of **unofficial merchandise**, derivative logos, or any **visual imitation** of Doninu’s identity.
- Use of the Doninu name for **fundraising, solicitation, or commercial activities** of any kind.
- Issuing **public statements**, media interviews, or written communications under the Doninu name without authorization.

Consequences of unauthorized use may include:

- Formal **cease-and-desist** letters
- **Civil action** for damages under Maltese law
- **Public disassociation** and revocation of volunteer or affiliate status
- Reporting of infringement to regulatory bodies or legal authorities

Legal Basis – Malta

- **Trademarks Act (Cap. 597 of the Laws of Malta)**
Protects both registered and unregistered trademarks. Unauthorized use that causes confusion, misleads the public, or exploits the reputation of a brand may result in civil liability or injunctions.
- **Civil Code (Cap. 16 – Articles on Unfair Competition)**
Provides remedies against unauthorized appropriation or misuse of another entity’s name or distinguishing marks, even in non-commercial settings.

International Frameworks

- **Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property**
Guarantees international protection for names, emblems, and trademarks used by charitable and humanitarian associations.
- **EU Trademark Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2017/1001)**
Ensures cross-border protection within the European Union for organizations operating with identifiable branding.

20.2 – Preserving Public Trust and Brand Integrity

The Doninu brand represents **trust, humanitarian neutrality, and non-commercial service**. Unauthorized or improper use risks public confusion, misrepresentation, and reputational harm.

All branding and communications must therefore:

- Reflect Doninu’s **non-political, non-commercial, and rights-based** approach
- Avoid associating Doninu with views, initiatives, or entities outside its core mission
- Be used only by **designated and authorized representatives** in official capacities

21: Activities and Inclusion

21.1 – Inclusive Participation

Doninu (Malta) International is committed to fostering **inclusive and equitable access** to all events, services, and outreach activities, in full alignment with local laws and international standards on disability rights and human dignity.

All activities organized by Doninu must:

- **Be accessible to persons with disabilities**, including individuals with mobility, sensory, cognitive, and psychosocial impairments.
- Take place in **barrier-free venues**, including those with wheelchair access, ramps, and accessible toilets where possible.
- Provide **reasonable accommodations**, such as:
 - Sign language interpretation,
 - Easy-to-read formats,
 - Verbal descriptions of visual content,
 - Priority seating or assistance when needed.
- Ensure that **communications and promotional materials** are made accessible, including:
 - Clear and plain language,
 - Visual contrast in printed materials,
 - Availability of digital formats compatible with screen readers.

Legal Basis – Malta:

- **Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act (Cap. 413):**
Prohibits direct and indirect discrimination based on disability and imposes a duty on organizations to ensure equal access to goods, services, and events.
- **National Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disability (2021–2030):**
Calls for community-based inclusion, accessible environments, and active involvement of persons with disabilities in civic and charitable life.

International Frameworks:

- **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD):**
Malta’s ratification of the UNCRPD binds all public and non-governmental actors to uphold accessibility, participation, and equality for persons with disabilities in all societal domains.

21.2 – Non-Commercial Nature of Activities

In accordance with its foundational statutes, Doninu (Malta) International shall not engage in any **commercial or financial activity** during its events, campaigns, or service distributions.

Strictly prohibited activities include:

- Selling or auctioning goods or services during events
- Accepting cash or card donations on-site
- Hosting raffles, lotteries, or paid competitions
- Partnering with for-profit entities for revenue generation

All activities must be carried out **purely for humanitarian, educational, or social support purposes**, without any expectation or request for monetary contribution.

Legal Basis – Malta:

- **Voluntary Organisations Act (Cap. 492):**
Regulates voluntary bodies, specifying conditions under which fundraising may occur. Doninu, being a **non-registered and non-fundraising organization**, is exempt from the licensing requirements but must refrain from monetary solicitations to maintain this status.
- **Public Collections Regulations (S.L. 492.03):**
Requires permits and oversight for any fundraising in public spaces. Doninu avoids such activity entirely, thereby remaining in compliance with regulatory frameworks.

International Frameworks:

- **European Union Guidelines on Non-Profit Organizations:**
Promote the non-commercial integrity of civil society actors and reinforce the need for transparency, particularly in distinguishing between advocacy/service provision and fundraising ventures.

Conclusion

This policy ensures that **Doninu (Malta) International's activities are fully inclusive**, legally compliant, and uncompromised by commercial interests. These standards:

- Promote equality and accessibility for all beneficiaries
- Uphold ethical transparency

- Preserve Doninu’s independence as grassroots, non-monetary, voluntary support entity

22: Event Participation Guidelines

22.1 – Written Requests for Participation

To ensure transparency, consistency, and alignment with its core values, **Doninu (Malta) International** requires that all **external invitations or requests for organizational participation** be formally submitted in writing. These requests must be addressed to the Executive Body or an officially designated representative.

The written request must include the following **minimum information**:

- Full name and contact details of the requesting individual or organization
- A clear description of the **nature, purpose, and objectives** of the event or initiative
- Dates, times, and location(s) of the proposed activity
- The **type of participation** being requested (e.g., speaker presence, distribution of materials, co-branding, volunteer support, disable persons or vulnerable families /persons to attend, Inclusive)
- Any **commitments, duties, or expectations** anticipated from Doninu or its members
- Whether there will be any **media coverage, publicity, or usage** of Doninu's name, logo, or likeness

Key Principle:

No form of participation or endorsement shall be presumed **without formal written approval** by the Executive Body. **Verbal agreements, informal messages, or social invitations are non-binding** and will not be honoured as official commitments.

The Executive Body reserves full discretion to **approve, reject, or seek further clarification** before granting any such engagement.

22.2 – Use of Doninu Name and Logo in Co-Organized Events

In cases where Doninu (Malta) International **officially co-organizes or co-hosts** an event, campaign, or initiative, the Organization's name and logo must be **clearly and correctly represented** on all associated materials.

These include, but are not limited to:

- Printed items: posters, banners, brochures, event programmes
- Digital assets: websites, event pages, email campaigns, social media graphics
- Media and press materials: press releases, interview backdrops

- On-site signage, presentations, and merchandise (if applicable)

All logo usage must comply with **Doninu’s official branding guidelines**, which will be made available upon confirmation of partnership.

Strict Requirements:

- The logo must **not be altered**, stretched, recoloured, or used out of context
- **Prior written approval** is mandatory for any use of the Doninu name or logo
- Failure to comply may result in Doninu **withdrawing participation** and pursuing formal action to protect its brand identity

22.3 – Ethical Non-Collaboration with Exploitative Entities

Doninu (Malta) International holds a **zero-tolerance policy** against involvement with any entity—public, private, or non-governmental—that is known to:

- Exploit, abuse, or manipulate vulnerable individuals or groups
- Discriminate based on race, gender, age, disability, socio-economic status, nationality, or political/religious identity
- Contribute to or profit from systems of oppression, trafficking, forced labor, or institutional injustice
- Misuse, divert, or withhold aid meant for at-risk populations
- Violate local, national, or international human rights laws

The Executive Body retains the exclusive right to:

- Conduct **independent assessments or due diligence** on any prospective partner
- Rely on **credible legal findings, whistleblower reports, regulatory actions, or journalistic investigations** in making determinations
- Withdraw, suspend, or publicly disassociate from any partnership that contravenes Doninu’s ethical principles

This clause reflects Doninu’s unwavering **commitment to human dignity, transparency, and the defence of vulnerable persons**, consistent with its founding mission.

Conclusion

This policy ensures that Doninu (Malta) International:

- **Maintains integrity and professionalism** in public engagement

- **Protects its reputation and legal standing** through structured approval processes
- **Adheres to ethical frameworks** by refusing to associate with entities engaged in harm or exploitation

All collaborations and participations are contingent upon **adherence to this policy** and subject to oversight by the Executive Body.

23: Authority Granted to the Founder

23.1 – Founder's Authority to Establish Collaborations

The **Founder of Doninu (Malta) International** is vested with discretionary authority to initiate, negotiate, and formalize collaborations with individuals, entities, institutions, or public bodies, provided such collaborations:

- Are fully compliant with the Organisation's Statute and governing policies;
- Align with Doninu's humanitarian mission, core values, and operational principles;
- Comply with applicable legal instruments, including the **Voluntary Organisations Act (Cap. 492 of the Laws of Malta)**, and relevant national or international regulations;
- Do not contravene the ethical restrictions outlined in **Clause 22.3 – Ethical Non-Collaboration**.

Collaborations may encompass, but are not limited to:

- Joint humanitarian or social initiatives
- Mutual support arrangements
- Non-monetary resource sharing
- Forum participation or knowledge exchange
- Signing of **Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)** or equivalent protocols

Preconditions for Collaboration:

Before entering a formal arrangement, the Founder must ensure:

- The potential partner has no record of unethical, exploitative, or discriminatory behaviour;
- The collaboration will not compromise Doninu's **independence, neutrality, or non-monetary model**;
- A **written agreement or documented protocol** is created and securely archived, outlining the scope, purpose, and expected duration of the partnership.

If a proposed collaboration may significantly influence the Organisation's **public reputation, strategic direction, or operational framework**, the Founder shall seek consultation from the **Executive Body or a designated advisory group**, where such exists.

All Founder-led collaborations are subject to **periodic review** to verify continued alignment with Doninu’s principles and legal commitments.

23.2 – Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)

Doninu (Malta) International encourages the use of **Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)** as a transparent, non-binding mechanism to define the terms of collaboration with external partners.

Each MOU must include a clear reference to this Statute and affirm the following:

- The collaboration adheres to Doninu’s **ethical, operational, and statutory standards**
- The Organisation operates strictly under a **non-monetary model** and shall not solicit, receive, or distribute financial resources
- Doninu retains **full autonomy** in decision-making, representation, and internal governance
- The MOU does not impose any **financial, legal, or fiduciary obligation** upon Doninu (Malta) International
- Both parties are bound to principles of **transparency, dignity, and non-exploitation**, in line with Clause 22.3 and all applicable legal frameworks, including Cap. 492

Documentation and Oversight:

MOUs must be:

- Finalized in writing
- Signed by the **Founder or an authorized officer**
- Stored securely within the Organisation’s official internal records
- Shared with oversight bodies or relevant parties upon justified request for transparency

The Organisation reserves the right to **terminate any MOU without prior notice** if the partner breaches ethical or legal obligations under this Statute.

23.3 – Right to Terminate Partnerships Due to Ethical Conflict

Doninu (Malta) International reserves the **absolute and non-negotiable right** to suspend, withdraw from, or terminate any form of collaboration—including MOUs, joint events, or informal alliances—where an **ethical conflict arises** or is reasonably believed to exist.

Grounds for Termination Include:

- Conduct by the partner that violates Doninu's **mission, values, or humanitarian commitments**
- Involvement in **exploitation, abuse, discrimination, or unethical behaviour**
- Breach of **Clause 22.3** or any applicable national or international legal standard
- Dissemination of **false or misleading information** about the Organisation
- Misuse of Doninu's **name, logo, or reputation**
- Attempts to **influence or politicize** Doninu's neutral, apolitical, and non-sectarian stance
- Failure to act in **good faith** or to fulfil agreed commitments under the MOU

Upon identification of such concerns, the Founder or Executive Body may initiate an internal ethical review. If confirmed, the Organisation may issue a **formal termination notice**, effective immediately or within a reasonable timeframe to protect Doninu's interests and beneficiaries.

Termination Rights:

- Do not preclude other remedial or protective measures, including **public disassociation**
- May be accompanied by reports to **regulatory or oversight bodies**, where applicable
- Must be **clearly disclosed** to all collaborators at the outset of engagement

This clause affirms that the **Founder's authority** is both a trust and a responsibility, exercised within a framework of **transparency, legality, and ethical integrity**. The Organisation remains firmly committed to **non-commercial, humanitarian principles**, and this authority is designed to protect, not dilute, those values.

24: Equipment Use

24.1 – Lending of Equipment for Charitable Use

Doninu (Malta) International may, at its sole discretion and in accordance with internal protocols, temporarily lend equipment, supplies, or other assets owned by the Organisation to trusted individuals, community groups, voluntary organisations, or institutions. This lending must serve **non-commercial, non-political, non-religious, and socially beneficial purposes** that align with the Organisation’s mission and statutory principles.

Conditions of Lending:

- **Permitted Use:** Equipment must be used exclusively for charitable or humanitarian activities that:
 - Serve vulnerable populations;
 - Promote community wellbeing or social inclusion;
 - Reflect the Organisation’s apolitical and non-sectarian stance.
- **Approval Process:** All equipment loan requests must be submitted in writing to the **Executive Body or delegated officer**, clearly indicating:
 - Purpose and scope of use;
 - Loan duration;
 - Location of use;
 - Identity and contact details of the responsible party.
- **Equipment Loan Agreement:** Prior to any handover, a formal **Loan Agreement** must be executed by both parties, detailing:
 - A full inventory of loaned items;
 - Duration and terms of use;
 - Conditions for care, maintenance, and secure return;
 - Liability for damage, loss, or misuse;
 - Terms for early termination or recall of equipment.
- **Prohibited Uses:** Equipment must *not* be used for:
 - Commercial or for-profit ventures;
 - Political campaigning or advocacy;
 - Religious conversion or proselytization;
 - Any action likely to mislead, harm, or exploit individuals or the public.
- **Inspection and Recall:** The Organisation reserves the right to:
 - Inspect equipment during the loan period;
 - Recall equipment with immediate effect upon any breach or misuse.

All assets remain the **permanent property** of Doninu (Malta) International. A central register (physical or digital) shall be maintained to document all loans, ensuring full transparency and accountability.

24.2 – Prohibition of Political or Commercial Use of Organisational Resources

No equipment, asset, insignia, or resource of Doninu (Malta) International may, under any circumstance, be used—directly or indirectly—for **political, commercial, or profit-driven purposes**.

Prohibited Use Includes (but is not limited to):

- Deployment at political rallies, campaign events, or gatherings affiliated with political parties, ideologies, or electoral agendas;
- Participation in activities that imply political endorsement or opposition by the Organisation;
- Commercial advertising, branding, or product placement tied to Doninu’s name, logo, equipment, or image;
- Usage by any party seeking financial or political leverage through the Organisation’s assets or reputation;
- Media or digital representations that mischaracterize the Organisation’s **non-commercial, apolitical, and non-sectarian** mission.

Violations of this clause shall result in:

- **Immediate termination** of the loan or agreement;
- **Recovery of assets** or legal remedies, if applicable;
- **Public disassociation** and, where necessary, notification to regulatory or enforcement bodies.

The Executive Body retains full authority to investigate violations, enforce sanctions, and protect the **neutrality, independence, and integrity** of the Organisation.

24.3 – Agreements with Commercial Entities: Non-Cash Exchanges

Doninu (Malta) International may enter **limited, strictly non-cash collaborations** with commercial entities, provided such arrangements:

- Involve **in-kind contributions** that support the Organisation’s humanitarian objectives;
- **Do not** include any form of financial donation, sponsorship, or monetary incentive;
- Respect the Organisation’s independence and ethical code.

Permissible In-Kind Support Includes:

- Donation or short-term loan of essential items (e.g., food, hygiene goods, clothing, educational tools);
- Temporary use of facilities, transportation, equipment, or logistics support;
- Voluntary service by staff of the commercial entity, subject to pre-approval.

Mandatory Conditions:

- **Written Agreement:** Every exchange must be formalized in a written contract clearly stating:
 - The nature, purpose, and duration of the arrangement;
 - An explicit clause affirming the **absence of any monetary consideration**.
- **Documentation and Transparency:**
 - The Organisation must maintain a complete record of all non-cash contributions if it's possible;
 - Where feasible, an **estimated fair value** shall be recorded for auditing and reporting.
- **No Branding or Endorsement:**
 - Doninu (Malta) International shall not be used for commercial advertising, promotion, or endorsement;
 - Any use of the Organisation's **name, image, or logo** requires **prior written approval** from the Executive Body.
- **Ethical Compliance:**
 - The commercial partner must not engage in unethical practices that conflict with Doninu's values, particularly those violating **Clause 22.3** concerning the protection of vulnerable individuals and communities.

The Organisation reserves the **absolute right** to reject or terminate any collaboration that presents risks of:

- Reputational harm;
- Mission drift or value compromise;
- Legal or statutory non-compliance.

Section 24 affirms Doninu (Malta) International's commitment to responsible stewardship of its resources. All equipment and collaborative arrangements must advance the Organisation's **humanitarian, apolitical, and non-monetary mission**, ensuring accountability, dignity, and the safeguarding of public trust.

25: DONINU MALTA MEDIA (DMM)

25.1 Mandate and Legal Recognition

Doninu Malta Media (DMM) is hereby formally recognised as the internal communications, media, and public messaging division of Doninu (Malta) International. DMM operates under the Organisation's humanitarian mandate to inform, educate, and advocate in the public interest, while strictly adhering to professional media standards and all applicable legal frameworks.

DMM shall:

- Operate in compliance with Maltese and EU laws, including the *Media and Defamation Act* (Cap. 579), the *General Data Protection Regulation* (GDPR), and related legislation concerning data protection, freedom of expression, and journalistic practice;
- Uphold the principles of ethical journalism: factual accuracy, impartiality, respect for privacy and dignity, and harm minimisation;
- Remain strictly non-commercial, non-partisan, and non-sectarian in its operations and outputs;
- Reflect the Organisation's values of neutrality, dignity, inclusion, and service to vulnerable communities;
- Use Doninu's name, logo, insignia, or resources only with prior authorisation from the Executive Body or Founding Authority, and solely in a manner that safeguards the Organisation's integrity.

DMM may comprise trained volunteers or professionals who shall adhere to internal editorial guidelines and a formal media code of conduct. All content is subject to internal review prior to dissemination.

25.2 Structure and Governance

(a) Appointment of Media Editor (DOI REGISTERED M/362)

The Executive Body shall appoint a Media Editor who shall serve as DMM's lead officer, responsible for all editorial functions. The Media Editor shall:

- Supervise contributors and media staff;
- Approve content for public dissemination;
- Enforce compliance with legal and internal standards;
- Liaise with the Executive Body and submit periodic reports.

(b) Editorial Independence and Accountability

DMM (**Doninu Malta Media**) shall retain editorial independence, provided all content upholds humanitarian relevance, legal compliance, and ethical integrity, including adherence to:

- The *Media and Defamation Act* (Cap. 579);
- The GDPR and applicable data regulations;
- Doninu’s ethical standards and the provisions of Clauses 22.3 and 24.2.

(c) Editorial Review Panel

The Executive Body may establish a one at least-member Editorial Review Panel with expertise in journalism, human rights, or nonprofit governance. This panel may:

- Review high-impact or sensitive content;
- Assess potential ethical or reputational risks;
- Advise on complex editorial matters.

(d) Training and Compliance

All DMM personnel (That is be also team management of Doninu (Malta) International) must undergo training in ethical journalism, data protection, and responsible communication. Shall sign a declaration of compliance, with any breach subject to suspension or removal.

25.3 Editorial and Content Standards

DMM (Doninu Malta Media) shall maintain the highest standards of journalistic excellence, with specific emphasis on:

(a) Accuracy and Verification

- All data, claims, and references must be evidence-based and verifiable;
- Anonymous sources may be used only when necessary and must be corroborated;
- Corrections must be issued transparently if factual errors arise.

(b) Humanitarian Focus

- Content must relate to Doninu’s mission of aiding the vulnerable;
- Sensationalism, fearmongering, or misinformation is strictly prohibited;
- Media must promote solidarity, awareness, and justice.

(c) Ethical Production

- Informed consent is required for publishing identifiable images or stories;
- Content must respect dignity and avoid stereotypes or exploitative depictions;
- AI-generated or altered media must be clearly disclosed.

(d) Oversight

All content is subject to internal editorial review. The Executive Body may order revisions, disclaimers, or removals to protect legal or ethical standards.

25.4 Duty to Contact Subjects of Coverage

DMM shall make reasonable efforts to contact individuals or entities that are direct subjects of media content. By email and give 3 days minimum to reply on the subject.

- **Notification & Response:** Subjects must be given an opportunity to respond, which shall be incorporated where appropriate. (3 Days' time)
- **Documentation:** All contact attempts must be logged, including method, timing, and outcome. (That why is on written base, Example: on email)
- **Exceptions:** Contact may be withheld where doing so would cause harm, pose a legal risk, or compromise humanitarian operations. This must be documented and justified internally.
- **Post-Publication:** Individuals not reached beforehand who later respond shall be granted the right to reply, subject to editorial review.

25.5 Editorial Independence and Political Neutrality

DMM (Doninu Malta Media) operates with full editorial freedom, while remaining bound to strict political neutrality.

(a) Autonomy:

DMM shall be free from interference by internal or external actors, including government bodies, political figures, or sponsors.

(b) Political Restrictions:

- No content shall promote or oppose any political party, candidate, or ideology;
- Content on public policy shall be presented factually, within a humanitarian context.

(c) Safeguards:

- Contributors with political affiliations must recuse themselves from relevant topics;

- Attempts to influence DMM shall be documented and reported.

(d) Oversight:

Any suspected breach of neutrality shall trigger an internal review. The Executive Body may take corrective action, including content retraction and disciplinary measures.

25.6 Legal Status and Institutional Independence

Doninu Malta Media (DMM) functions as the official media watchdog and communications division of Doninu (Malta) International. To preserve its editorial freedom and oversight role, DMM shall **not** be registered with any regulatory body that may compromise its independence, including the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations (OCVO).

DMM is legally and ethically empowered to investigate or report on any public or private actor whose actions may undermine aid to vulnerable populations. It may criticise regulatory or governmental bodies without fear of reprisal.

DMM is protected under the following legal instruments:

- **Article 41 of the Constitution of Malta** – Freedom of expression;
- **Media and Defamation Act (Cap. 579, Malta)** – Press freedom and legal protections;
- **Article 10, European Convention on Human Rights** – Freedom of expression;
- **Article 11, EU Charter of Fundamental Rights** – Freedom of opinion and expression;
- **Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec (2016)4** – Protection of journalists and media watchdogs;
- **UNHRC General Comment No. 34 on Article 19, ICCPR** – Rights of media to operate freely and independently.

DMM shall not accept funding, oversight, or influence from any governmental body subject to its coverage or scrutiny.

This revised version strengthens your legal position, professional tone, and operational clarity, while maintaining full alignment with democratic standards for independent journalism and NGO communications.

26: PETITIONS

26.1 Authorization and Oversight

All petitions—whether digital or physical—must be pre-authorized by the Administration Team and coordinated through the Organisation’s Head Office. No petition may be launched, circulated, or promoted using the name, logo, or resources of Doninu (Malta) International without explicit, prior written approval.

26.2 Conditions for Petition Initiation

Petitions must serve purposes strictly aligned with the Organisation’s core mission, specifically:

- Defending and supporting vulnerable individuals and families;
- Advocating for the rights and integrity of ethical NGOs;
- Advancing human dignity, equity, and humanitarian justice.

26.3 Procedure for Public Petitions

Before launching a public petition, the Administration Team shall issue a **formal petition notice**, which must include:

- The objective and justification of the petition;
- The designated recipient(s) (e.g., Parliament, Government Ministries, EU Institutions);
- The format of collection (written signatures, online forms, or both);
- The defined petition period (start and end dates);
- The method and format of submission (electronic or physical delivery).

All approved petitions must be entered into the Organisation’s **Petition Log** and **archived** accordingly for recordkeeping, audit, and transparency purposes.

26.4 Legal and Rights-Based Framework

All petitions undertaken by Doninu (Malta) International must operate within the scope of applicable national and international legal instruments, including but not limited to:

- **Article 42 of the Constitution of Malta** – Freedom of peaceful assembly and association;
- **Public Meetings Act (Cap. 311, Laws of Malta)**;

- **Data Protection Act (Cap. 586, Malta)** and the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** – to ensure proper handling of personal data;
- **Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, Articles 11 and 12** – Freedom of expression and assembly;
- **Treaty on European Union (TEU), Article 11(4)** – Right of EU citizens to petition European institutions;
- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Article 19** – Freedom of opinion and expression;
- **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Article 21** – Right of peaceful assembly.

All petition-related activities must respect these legal protections, including ensuring informed consent for any personal data collected and preserving the non-partisan, lawful, and ethical character of the Organisation.

27: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS

27.1 Right to Organize Peaceful Protest

Doninu (Malta) International upholds and reserves the fundamental right to organize, support, and participate in peaceful public demonstrations in pursuit of its humanitarian mission—particularly in defending the dignity, rights, and welfare of vulnerable individuals and communities.

All protest actions shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the **Constitution of Malta**, relevant **national legislation**, and **European Union and international human rights law** governing freedom of assembly, expression, and civic participation.

(a) Legal Basis

This right is exercised under the following legal provisions:

- **Article 42 of the Constitution of Malta** – Freedom of peaceful assembly and association;
- **Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)** – Freedom of assembly and association;
- **Articles 11 and 12 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union** – Freedom of expression and peaceful assembly;
- Relevant provisions of the **Public Meetings Act (Cap. 311)** and **Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta**;
- **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Article 21** – Right of peaceful assembly.

(b) Purpose and Principles

Public demonstrations organized, endorsed, or supported by the Organisation must:

- Align directly with Doninu’s objectives to defend human dignity, social justice, and the rights of the vulnerable;
- Be peaceful, non-partisan, and non-violent in nature;
- Serve to raise awareness or express protest systemic injustice, poverty, abuse, marginalization, or violations of fundamental rights.

Types of permitted actions include but are not limited to marches, silent vigils, awareness campaigns, sit-ins, symbolic demonstrations, and peaceful rallies.

All actions must uphold the principles of **human dignity, lawfulness, public order, and respect for others**.

(c) Notification and Legal Compliance

When required by law, Doninu shall provide prior notice or seek authorization from the relevant Maltese authorities, including but not limited to:

- The **Commissioner of Police**;
- **Local Councils**;
- Other competent entities as provided under **Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta** and relevant administrative regulations.

The Organisation shall comply with all public safety, crowd control, and lawful conditions imposed in accordance with the principles of **necessity, proportionality, and legitimate democratic aims**.

(d) Conduct and Organisational Responsibility

All participants in demonstrations led or supported by Doninu must adhere strictly to the Organisation's **Code of Conduct**, which prohibits:

- Any form of violence, intimidation, or provocation;
- Hate speech, harassment, or discriminatory behaviour;
- Vandalism or unlawful obstruction.

Doninu may appoint trained **Marshals or Protest Coordinators** to guide participants, maintain order, and liaise with law enforcement as needed.

The Organisation disclaims responsibility for any actions carried out by individuals or groups who deviate from its official instructions or who compromise the peaceful character of the event.

(e) Media and Documentation

The **Doninu Malta Media (DMM)** division may support demonstrations through lawful media coverage, real-time documentation, and public communication efforts, consistent with **Clauses 25.1–25.5** of this Statute.

All media output shall avoid inflammatory language and shall aim to truthfully and respectfully represent the purpose, scale, and conduct of the protest.

This clause affirms Doninu (Malta) International’s commitment to legal civic engagement, responsible advocacy, and peaceful resistance against systemic harm, discrimination, or institutional neglect affecting vulnerable individuals.

28: ORGANIZATIONAL AUTONOMY

28.1 *Autonomy and Protection Against Undue Influence*

Doninu (Malta) International shall operate as a fully autonomous, self-governing, and non-partisan voluntary organisation. It shall remain free from interference, coercion, or control by any external entity—whether governmental, political, religious, commercial, or foreign. The Organisation’s internal governance, strategic orientation, and operational decisions shall be guided exclusively by this Statute and the founding humanitarian values upon which it is based.

The following provisions define and safeguard this autonomy:

(a) Legal and Structural Independence

- Doninu is legally constituted as a **non-governmental, non-profit, and non-affiliated organisation**, not subject to the authority or influence of any:
 - State or public institution;
 - Political party or movement;
 - Religious institution or doctrine;
 - Commercial or private sector sponsor;
 - Foreign or supranational authority whose goals contradict Maltese or EU law.
- All decision-making powers are vested in the Organisation’s internal structures as defined in this Statute, including but not limited to the **Founder, Executive Body**, and any officially mandated **committees or divisions**.

(b) Resistance to External Pressure or Influence

- The Organisation shall explicitly reject and document any attempt to exert undue influence that undermines its neutrality, independence, or ethical mission.
- This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Political endorsement, interference, or alignment;
 - Religious proselytism or theological control;
 - Commercial advertising, branding, or sponsorship demands;
 - Foreign intervention inconsistent with the Organisation’s mission or Maltese/EU legal frameworks.
- All such attempts shall be reported, where appropriate, to the **relevant Maltese authorities**, and resisted through formal protective measures.

(c) Integrity of Governance and Decision-Making

- All internal appointments, collaborations, partnerships, and public communications shall be determined solely by criteria of:
 - **Merit and transparency;**
 - **Humanitarian value and impact;**
 - **Alignment with statutory principles.**
- No individual or external party may bypass, override, or otherwise interfere with the Organisation's established governance processes or compel it to act contrary to its values.

(d) Ethical Screening of Support and Partnerships

- As affirmed in other parts of this Statute, **Doninu does not accept monetary donations or external financial support.**
- Non-monetary contributions (such as goods, services, or collaborative partnerships) may be accepted only after thorough **ethical review**, ensuring they do not compromise autonomy or result in hidden obligations.

(e) Internal Safeguards and Oversight

- The Executive Body shall establish formal **safeguards and mechanisms**, including:
 - **Ethical policies;**
 - **Conflict of interest declarations;**
 - **Independent review panels**, where necessary.
- Any suspected or actual breach of autonomy shall trigger a **formal internal review**, and may result in:
 - The **termination of any compromised agreement or relationship;**
 - **Disciplinary action or removal from office**, where applicable.

This clause enshrines Doninu (Malta) International's unwavering commitment to institutional integrity, operational independence, and ethical resistance against any attempt to subvert, co-opt, or dilute its mission.

28.2 Transparency and Political Neutrality

Doninu (Malta) International supports full transparency in the voluntary sector and **condemns all forms of political interference**, manipulation, or exploitation of public society organisations. The Organisation shall never serve partisan interests, nor be used as a tool for political leverage, propaganda, or electoral gain.

29: COLLABORATION STANDARDS

29.1 Ethical Non-Collaboration Registry

Doninu (Malta) International shall maintain an internal **Ethical Non-Collaboration Registry**—a confidential, non-public list of entities with which the Organisation shall not engage in cooperation, partnership, endorsement, or co-branding, due to serious ethical, legal, humanitarian, or reputational concerns. This registry upholds the Organisation’s integrity, defends its mission, and protects vulnerable individuals and communities from association with exploitative, harmful, or discredited actors.

The following provisions shall govern the establishment, administration, and oversight of this registry:

(a) Purpose

The registry shall identify organisations, institutions, corporations, or individuals that, in the considered judgment of the Executive Body, have engaged in conduct incompatible with Doninu’s founding values, including but not limited to:

- Exploitation, abuse, or neglect of vulnerable persons or communities;
- Discrimination or incitement to hatred based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or other protected characteristics;
- Corruption, gross human rights violations, or fraudulent practices;
- Political, religious, or commercial manipulation of humanitarian or social justice initiatives.

Inclusion in the registry results in a formal prohibition on all forms of collaboration, including joint initiatives, endorsements, resource-sharing, and public association.

(b) Criteria and Decision-Making

Entities may be proposed for listing by any officer or recognised committee within the Organisation.

The decision to include an entity in the registry must be approved by a **majority vote** of the Executive Body, following a documented **ethical risk assessment**, and—where feasible—a formal query or request for rectification addressed to the entity in question.

Inclusion must be based on substantiated, verifiable concerns or credible evidence. All decisions shall be documented and retained for internal audit.

(c) Review and Updates

The registry shall be maintained by the Secretary or another designated officer and shall be reviewed at least **annually**, or upon substantiated request, to determine whether grounds for inclusion remain valid.

Entities listed in the registry may submit a formal **request for delisting** or a **review of status**, which shall be considered fairly and in good faith by the Executive Body.

(d) Confidentiality and Discretion

The registry shall be treated as **strictly confidential**, accessible only to authorised internal members on a legitimate need-to-know basis.

Doninu shall not publicly disclose the identity of listed entities unless legally compelled or if necessary to prevent reputational harm or ethical compromise in the context of a specific collaboration request.

(e) Safeguards Against Misuse

The registry shall not be used for personal retaliation, political objectives, or in ways that violate the Organisation's impartiality and humanitarian neutrality.

Misuse of the registry, including breaches of confidentiality or malicious listings, shall constitute serious misconduct and may result in internal disciplinary measures.

This clause reaffirms Doninu (Malta) International's principled commitment to ethical independence, credible humanitarian partnerships, and protection against undue reputational risk or compromise.

30: STATUTE AMENDMENT PROCEDURE

30.1 Introduction of New Clauses via Internal Memorandum: Doninu (Malta)

International shall allow for the structured and transparent introduction of new clauses to this Statute through the formal issuance of an Internal Memorandum, subject to oversight, consultation, and alignment with the Organisation's mission, legal obligations, and procedural integrity.

The following provisions shall govern this process:

(a) Purpose and Scope

New statutory clauses may be introduced to address operational needs, legal developments, ethical standards, or strategic goals not sufficiently covered by the existing Statute.

The Internal Memorandum (hereinafter "Memo") process allows for timely amendment or supplementation without the need for immediate wholesale statutory revision, while ensuring documentation and accountability.

(b) Drafting and Proposal

A Memo proposing a new clause may be initiated by the Founder, a member of the Executive Body, or a formally recognised division of the Organisation.

The proposal must include:

- The full text of the proposed clause;
- A clear justification or explanatory note;
- A reference to relevant legal, operational, or ethical considerations;
- An indication of how the clause integrates with or affects existing provisions.

(c) Review and Approval

Upon submission, the Memo shall be circulated to all Executive Body members and, where applicable, legal or safeguarding officers, for review and commentary.

A majority vote of the Executive Body is required for adoption of the new clause. Where urgent action is required (e.g., legal compliance, safeguarding), the Founder may authorise temporary provisional application pending formal approval.

(d) Registration and Communication

Approved Memos shall be:

- Assigned a reference number and date;
- Archived in the Organisation's Statutory Register of Amendments and Additions;
- Communicated to relevant members and divisions through appropriate internal channels (e.g., digital platform, secure notice).

The clause shall become statutorily binding upon the date of issuance unless otherwise specified in the Memo.

(e) Integration and Consolidation

Periodically (at least annually), all clauses introduced via Memo shall be reviewed for formal consolidation into the main body of the Statute through a comprehensive update or codification process.

Clauses introduced through Memos shall hold equal legal and operational authority as those adopted in the original Statute, provided they have followed the procedure outlined herein.

(f) Safeguards

No clause introduced by Memo shall contradict the Organisation's founding principles, violate applicable Maltese or EU law, or undermine pre-existing ethical or safeguarding provisions.

Any clause found to be incompatible or unlawful shall be null and void and subject to immediate review.

This clause ensures that Doninu (Malta) International remains adaptive and responsive while maintaining rigorous standards of governance, legality, and accountability.

30.2 Amendment of Existing Clauses: Amendments to existing clauses of this Statute shall be permitted through a structured internal process that ensures legitimacy, stability, and continuity in the governance of Doninu (Malta) International. All amendments must be reviewed and approved by designated authorities to safeguard the Organisation's founding principles and operational integrity.

The following provisions shall apply:

(a) Authority to Amend

Any proposal to amend an existing clause of the Statute must receive formal approval by:

- The Founder of Doninu (Malta) International; and

- Two (2) duly appointed representatives of the Administration Team, acting independently and in good faith.

No single party shall hold exclusive power to unilaterally alter statutory provisions once they are in force.

(b) Proposal Procedure

A proposed amendment shall be submitted in writing as a formal Amendment Request Memorandum, including:

- The original clause text;
- The full text of the proposed amendment;
- A justification for the change, referencing operational needs, legal updates, or ethical imperatives;
- An impact assessment indicating how the amendment aligns with or modifies the broader Statute.

(c) Review Process

Upon submission, the proposal shall be reviewed by the Founder and circulated to the Administration Team for feedback.

A minimum of seven (7) calendar days shall be provided for internal review and discussion unless the amendment is deemed urgent by the Founder.

(d) Approval and Record

Final approval requires:

- Written or digitally signed confirmation from the Founder; and
- Written or digitally signed approval from two (2) separate members of the Administration Team, recorded by name and date.

Once approved, the amendment shall be:

- Logged in the Organisation's Statutory Register of Amendments;
- Assigned an official amendment code and date;
- Integrated into the official version of the Statute and published to internal stakeholders.

(e) Validity and Precedence

An amended clause shall take immediate effect upon publication unless otherwise stated in the approving memorandum.

In case of interpretive conflict between an amended clause and the original text, the most recently adopted version shall prevail.

(f) Safeguards Against Improper Amendments

Amendments may not be used to retroactively legitimise conduct that was previously in violation of the Statute.

Any amendment that violates the Constitution of Malta, EU law, or internationally recognised human rights standards shall be void ab initio and must be repealed through emergency internal procedure.

This clause ensures that all amendments to the Statute are made with the deliberate consent of both foundational and administrative leadership, balancing flexibility with accountability.

31: LEADERSHIP OF DONINU (MALTA) INTERNATIONAL

31.1 Founding Leadership and Non-Transferable Authority

The leadership of Doninu (Malta) International is vested in its Founder, who holds the position of permanent and irreplaceable Head of the Organisation. This foundational leadership status is inherent to the legal and moral establishment of the Organisation and cannot be contested, revoked, or superseded by any internal or external body, individual, or authority.

The Founder is the central guardian of the Organisation's vision, mission, statutory integrity, and ethical identity. His leadership role is constitutionally protected within the Organisation's Statute and may only be relinquished through voluntary act by the Founder himself, in accordance with the provisions of this Policy Brief.

31.2 Legal and Statutory Basis of Leadership

The Founder's role is supported and protected by the following legal and ethical frameworks:

- **Civil Law Principles** (Maltese Civil Code, Cap. 16): Recognising the right of the creator of a voluntary organisation to define and safeguard its founding vision and internal governance.
- **Freedom of Association** (Article 42, Constitution of Malta; Article 12, EU Charter of Fundamental Rights): Protecting the right of individuals to form and lead organisations without arbitrary interference.
- **Non-Governmental Organisation Principles** (European and UN Guidelines): Affirming the autonomy of NGO founders in defining leadership structures consistent with ethical and legal obligations.

31.3 Delegation of Leadership Authority

(a) Temporary Delegation

The Founder retains the right to temporarily delegate leadership authority to a trusted individual of his choosing. Such delegation must be formally recorded in writing, specifying the scope, duration, and conditions of the delegation. This temporary transfer does not diminish or compromise the Founder's ultimate authority and may be revoked at any time.

(b) Permanent Transfer of Leadership

Should the Founder elect to permanently transfer leadership to another individual, this transfer must be formalised through a written and signed Leadership Succession Agreement. This Agreement must be:

- Authenticated by at least two (2) witnesses or senior members of the Organisation;
- Documented in the Organisation's official Leadership Succession Register;
- Accompanied by a transitional clause outlining responsibilities, rights, and limitations of the incoming leader;
- In line with the Organisation's founding values and ethical obligations.

No leadership transfer shall be recognised unless these conditions are met.

31.4 Irrevocability of Founding Identity

While the Founder may delegate or transfer responsibilities, the identity of the Founder as the original leader and architect of Doninu (Malta) International remains permanent and must be acknowledged in all official documents, communications, and historical records. This identity shall never be erased, replaced, or misrepresented.

32: SUCCESSION UPON DEATH OF THE FOUNDER

32.1 Succession Framework in Absence of a Designated Heir

If the Founder of Doninu (Malta) International passes away without leaving a written and legally recognised designation of a successor, the succession of leadership shall follow the principle of family stewardship.

The following provisions shall apply:

(a) Family Stewardship and Succession Rights

- i. The immediate family of the deceased Founder shall be vested with the moral and ethical authority to determine the future custodianship of Doninu (Malta) International.
- ii. The family may collectively decide either:
 - To manage the Organisation through one or more family members; or
 - To appoint a non-family individual whom they deem capable, ethical, and aligned with the Statute and founding values.

(b) Oversight and Revocation Rights

If the family-appointed custodian or external leader significantly deviates from the Statute, violates the Organisation's ethical mandate, or compromises its integrity or mission:

- The family retains the right to revoke the leadership delegation;
- The Organisation shall revert to family custodianship until a new trusted leader is appointed in accordance with the Statute.

32.2 Irrevocability of Foundational Authority

- i. Upon the death of the Founder, all special privileges exclusively held by the Founder—including the unilateral power to amend any part of the Statute—shall cease to exist.
- ii. No future leader, including successors appointed by the family, shall have the authority to modify or override the Organisation's Statute unless such amendments follow the standard procedures outlined in clause 30.
- iii. The original Statute, as ratified by the Founder during his lifetime, shall become the supreme and immutable guiding document of Doninu (Malta) International, ensuring doctrinal continuity.

32.3 Legal Basis and Justification

This succession framework is based on and consistent with:

- The **principle of moral ownership** and **founder's intent**, commonly recognised under **civil law in Malta** (aligned with the *Civil Code*, Cap. 16 of the Laws of Malta);
- The **freedom of association and autonomy** of voluntary organisations under **Article 42 of the Constitution of Malta** and the **Voluntary Organisations Act** (Cap. 492), which allows such bodies to define their own internal leadership rules and succession mechanisms;
- The legal capacity of private individuals and families to manage *non-profit, non-governmental entities* in accordance with privately established statutes, provided they do not violate public policy or criminal law.

32.4 Principle of Permanency of Founding Values

This clause reinforces the core principle that Doninu (Malta) International is not to be altered or redirected after the Founder's death, beyond what is procedurally allowed under this Statute. Any attempt to transform the Organisation's purpose, merge it with external bodies, or amend its foundational vision without following the approved process shall be considered invalid and legally challengeable by the family or interested parties acting in defence of the Founder's legacy.

33: ORGANISATIONAL AUTONOMY AND NON-INTERFERENCE BY OUTSIDE AUTHORITIES

33.1 Autonomy of Doninu (Malta) International

Doninu (Malta) International is an autonomous, independent, and legally self-governed organisation that operates strictly according to its Statute and in full compliance with applicable Maltese and European Union laws. No external authority or governmental personnel may interfere with its internal operations, decision-making processes, or leadership structure unless compelled by a specific legal mandate backed by court order or constitutional provision.

33.2 Legal Basis for Organisational Autonomy

The autonomy of Doninu (Malta) International is protected under the following legal principles and instruments:

(a) Constitution of Malta (Article 42 – Freedom of Association):

Every person in Malta has the right to freely associate with others for lawful purposes, including the formation and management of independent voluntary organisations. This constitutional right cannot be limited by administrative authorities except where necessary to prevent criminal acts or safeguard public safety under the law.

(b) European Convention on Human Rights (Article 11 – Freedom of Assembly and Association):

This right includes the freedom to form and operate organisations without interference from public authorities, if the organisation is lawful and non-violent. Any restriction must be proportionate, necessary in a democratic society, and prescribed by law.

(c) Voluntary Organisations Act (Chapter 492 of the Laws of Malta):

While the Act provides for the regulation of *registered* voluntary organisations, it does **not grant any authority the right to interfere with non-registered organisations that are lawfully operating without financial transactions or donation handling**, as is the case with Doninu (Malta) International. Such entities are permitted to exist and function independently unless engaged in illegal activities.

(d) Civil Law Principles (Codified in Chapter 16 of the Laws of Malta):

Civil organisations, associations, and foundations are recognised as legal entities governed by their internal statutes. So long as they act in good faith, do not collect or misuse public funds, and do not breach criminal laws, external interference is legally prohibited.

33.3 Commitment to Transparency and Legality

Doninu (Malta) International fully adheres to transparency, internal accountability, safeguarding, and ethical governance standards as prescribed in its Statute. The Organisation:

- Operates without the collection of monetary donations;
- Serves the vulnerable through non-financial assistance;
- Maintains records and internal oversight;
- Submits to legal authorities only where mandated by law (e.g., in criminal investigations or safeguarding alerts).

33.4 Prohibition of Unlawful Interference

No authority—whether local, regional, national, or European—may intervene in Doninu’s affairs without:

- A demonstrable legal basis;
- Respect for the Organisation’s autonomous status;
- Prior notice and the right to reply or legal representation.

Any unauthorised attempt to suspend, dissolve, intimidate, or misrepresent Doninu (Malta) International shall be documented and may be challenged through legal remedy, including judicial review or appeal to the European Court of Human Rights if fundamental freedoms are breached.

34: RIGHT TO QUESTION AND REPORT AUTHORITARIAN MISCONDUCT

34.1 Freedom to Criticise and Expose Harmful Conduct

Doninu (Malta) International affirms its lawful right to **question public authorities, criticise abusive or harmful actions, and report misconduct, injustice, or threats to vulnerable persons** without fear of censorship or retaliation. This includes holding institutions accountable for unethical, discriminatory, or illegal practices affecting individuals or communities the Organisation seeks to protect.

34.2 Legal Foundations

This right is firmly protected under both Maltese constitutional provisions and binding European human rights frameworks:

(a) Constitution of Malta (Article 41 – Freedom of Expression):

“No person shall be hindered in the enjoyment of his freedom of expression, including freedom to hold opinions, and to receive and impart ideas and information without interference.”

This includes the right to publicly or privately express concerns about wrongdoing by public or private actors, and to act in defence of the public interest.

(b) European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), Article 10 – Freedom of Expression:

“Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority...”

This guarantees Doninu (Malta) International the right to publish or communicate findings, raise awareness, and report acts of harm or abuse even if such actions critique government or official institutions.

(c) EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (Articles 11 & 41):

- **Article 11** confirms the right to freedom of expression and information, including the ability to challenge and question authorities.
- **Article 41** guarantees “**the right to good administration,**” which implies a corresponding right to **challenge maladministration** and **expose abuse** when it occurs.

(d) Whistleblower Protection Act (Chapter 527 of the Laws of Malta):

Though primarily aimed at workers and public officials, the principles of this law reinforce **legal protections for those who disclose improper practices** or acts of corruption. Doninu may not be a whistleblowing body under law, but its actions to raise public awareness and defend ethical conduct are consistent with this framework.

34.3 Application to Doninu (Malta) International

Doninu (Malta) International reserves the right to:

- Publicly question actions or omissions by authorities that harm the vulnerable;
- File reports, petitions, or complaints against misconduct;
- Expose injustice or harmful policy through journalism, campaigns, or internal reports;
- Engage with legal, press, or civil society bodies to hold power accountable.

34.4 Protection Against Retaliation

Any attempt by authorities to retaliate against Doninu (Malta) International for exercising these rights may constitute a **violation of fundamental freedoms**, including:

- Suppression of lawful expression;
- Abuse of regulatory powers (e.g., licensing threats);
- Defamation or intimidation.

Such acts may be challenged via Maltese courts or escalated to international human rights mechanisms (e.g., the European Court of Human Rights or relevant EU oversight bodies).

34.5 Ethical Responsibility

Doninu commits to exercising these rights responsibly ensuring that any claims made are evidence-based, made in good faith, and aligned with the Organisation's founding mission of justice, dignity, and protection of the vulnerable.

35: LEGAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMISSIONER FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS (CVO)

35.1 Autonomy from the CVO Framework

Doninu (Malta) International is a **legally autonomous entity** that has **chosen not to register with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations (CVO)** under the **Voluntary Organisations Act (Chapter 492 of the Laws of Malta)**. As such:

- **Doninu is not subject to the jurisdiction or disciplinary authority of the CVO;**
- The CVO **has no regulatory power** to impose conditions, suspend operations, or issue binding directives on the Organisation;
- The Organisation is not bound by **reporting or registration obligations** that apply exclusively to *registered* voluntary organisations under Maltese law.

This legal position is protected by the **principle of freedom of association** under both **national and international law**.

35.2 Legal Foundations Supporting Doninu's Autonomy

(a) Constitution of Malta, Article 42 – Freedom of Association

“All persons in Malta shall have the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association with others...”

This allows citizens to establish charitable or social initiatives outside state-mandated registries such as the VO Register.

(b) Voluntary Organisations Act (Chapter 492), Article 4(1):

“No person shall be obliged to register a voluntary organisation.”

This clause explicitly **protects the right not to register**, thereby shielding such organisations from the reach of the CVO unless they opt in.

(c) EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, Article 12:

Guarantees the right to freedom of association in civil society, without unjustified interference.

35.3 What the CVO *Cannot* Do to Doninu (Malta) International

Because Doninu is **not registered**, the CVO **has no legal authority to:**

- Demand financial or administrative reporting;
- Suspend the Organisation's internal governance or events;
- Investigate or audit its internal practices;
- Refer the Organisation for enforcement unless Doninu is in **breach of other, unrelated laws**.

Any attempt by the CVO to exercise such powers **constitutes administrative overreach** and may be challenged through judicial review or constitutional proceedings.

35.4 Lawful Obligations Doninu Still Respects

Though independent of the CVO, Doninu (Malta) International remains fully **subject to Maltese law**, including but not limited to:

- **General civil and criminal law;**
- **Safeguarding regulations** (when working with minors or vulnerable adults);
- **Data protection laws (GDPR/Maltese DPA);**
- **Defamation laws**, if engaging in public criticism;
- **Public safety laws**, including those governing events and demonstrations.

These obligations are met **without requiring registration with the CVO**.

35.5 Ethical and Operational Transparency

Even though not bound by Chapter 492, Doninu voluntarily adheres to high standards of:

- **Transparency** in operations;
- **Accountability** to its beneficiaries and supporters;
- **Non-monetary ethical service;**
- **Legality** and **respect for human dignity**.

This reinforces public trust and credibility without needing endorsement from any public registry.

Doninu (Malta) International is **fully legal and legitimate** in its autonomous operation, and **not answerable to the CVO** unless it voluntarily opts into the framework under Chapter 492. Its obligations stem from **general national and EU law**, not from CVO-specific procedures.

36: UNLAWFUL INTERFERENCE AND DEFAMATORY OBSTRUCTION BY AUTHORITIES

36.1 Context

Doninu (Malta) International operates **legally and ethically** as an **autonomous voluntary organisation not registered with the CVO**. It exercises its right to **freedom of association** under both **Maltese and European law**.

If any authority—whether the CVO, a ministry, a local council, or another public body—**phones, writes, or otherwise contacts third parties (e.g. churches, registered NGOs, councils, or private businesses)** with the **intent to obstruct cooperation** by falsely implying illegality or wrongdoing **solely because Doninu is not registered**, this may constitute **administrative abuse, defamation, or discriminatory interference**.

36.2 Laws Violated by Such Behaviour

(a) Constitution of Malta – Article 42

Protects the right to **freedom of association**.

No public body may punish or isolate an organisation **just because it operates independently** of a state registry.

(b) Voluntary Organisations Act (Cap. 492) – Article 4(1):

“No person shall be obliged to register a voluntary organisation.”

This law protects the **legal right NOT to register**.

Telling others that non-registration implies illegality is a **false and misleading statement**.

(c) European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), Article 11:

Guarantees the right to freedom of association **without unjustified interference** by public authorities.

(d) EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, Article 12:

“Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association at all levels...”

(e) Criminal Code of Malta (Cap. 9):

- **Article 251A:**

Prohibits **harassment** and **unlawful pressure** including actions meant to isolate or damage another's lawful operation.

- **Article 252(1):**

“Whosoever, by threats, abuse of authority... unlawfully compels another person to abstain from exercising a lawful right” is **guilty of an offence**.

(f) Civil Code – Article 1029:

Makes any individual or authority liable for **acts of malice or negligence that cause unjust harm** (including economic and reputational damage).

(g) Defamation Act (Cap. 579):

Disseminating **false, misleading, or harmful claims** that imply illegitimacy or misconduct where none exists may amount to **civil defamation**, especially if done by public officials in bad faith.

36.3 Protection for Doninu (Malta) International

Doninu is **protected under both Maltese and EU law** as a **lawful, non-profit, non-registered organisation**. Its right to operate, collaborate, and advocate is **guaranteed and protected** by:

- **The Constitution of Malta (Articles 41–42)**
- **Cap. 492 (Article 4 – Non-obligation to register)**
- **The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union**
- **The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)**

36.4 Consequences of Unlawful Interference

Any authority—whether the CVO or another department—who tells others not to collaborate with Doninu based on non-registration is potentially:

- **Abusing their office** (subject to sanction or dismissal under the Public Administration Act);
- **Committing defamation or harassment;**
- **Violating constitutional and human rights** protections;

- **Obstructing a lawful organisation's operations**, which may give rise to public liability for damages or a **judicial review** in court.

36.5 Right of Response and Legal Action

Doninu (Malta) International reserves the right to:

- **Issue a formal rebuttal** and demand retractions from any public or private party repeating false claims;
- **Lodge a constitutional complaint** or seek **judicial review** in the Maltese courts;
- **File a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman or the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA);**
- **Request a public investigation** by Parliament or a supervisory board if a public official has abused authority.

No public body, including the CVO, may lawfully instruct others not to cooperate with Doninu (Malta) International **based on non-registration alone**. Such interference violates constitutional rights, international law, and basic principles of fairness, and is open to legal challenge.

37: Role of the Office of the Ombudsman in Protecting Doninu (Malta) International

37.1 Is Doninu (Malta) International Covered by the Ombudsman?

*All individuals, foundations, or entities operating legally in Malta — including **non-registered voluntary organisations** like Doninu (Malta) International — have the **right to seek redress** through the **Office of the Ombudsman** when they believe **public authorities** have acted **unjustly, unfairly, abusively, or in bad faith**.*

- **Legal Basis:**
 - **Ombudsman Act (Cap. 385, Article 13(1)):**

"Any person who claims to have been aggrieved by an action taken by or on behalf of a public authority may lodge a complaint with the Ombudsman."

There is **no legal requirement** for an organisation to be registered with the CVO or any other body to seek the Ombudsman's protection. The right to petition is **universal** and **guaranteed under Maltese law**.

37.2 Can Doninu Report Unlawful or Unfair Practices by Government Authorities?

*Doninu (Malta) International has the **right to report** any **wrongdoing, abuse of power, discrimination, maladministration, or unethical conduct** by any public authority—even if it is not the direct target, but sees harm being done **to itself or others**.*

- Examples of reportable conduct:
 - Misuse of position to pressure others not to cooperate with Doninu
 - Discriminatory treatment due to non-registration
 - Harassment by officials (calls, emails, statements)
 - Lack of fair hearing or proper communication
 - Collusion or abuse of power by local councils or the CVO
- **Legal Basis:**
 - **Ombudsman Act, Cap. 385 – Article 12 & 13**

The Ombudsman can investigate:

- Actions taken **without proper justification**;
- Actions that are **unfair, discriminatory, oppressive, or improperly discriminatory**;
- **Neglect, delay, or abuse** of power.
- **EU Charter of Fundamental Rights – Article 41: Right to Good Administration**

Every person has the right to be treated fairly by public authorities.

- **Constitution of Malta – Article 62B**

Establishes the Ombudsman as a **Parliamentary Officer** with constitutional authority to protect against **administrative injustice**.

37.3 If the Authority Did Not Directly Target Doninu — Can We Still Report?

*If Doninu becomes aware of **unfair or illegal treatment** by authorities — **even if directed at partners, local councils, or the public, but with the intention to damage or block Doninu's work** — the organisation may still submit a formal complaint.*

- Example: The CVO phones a local council and **tells them not to allow Doninu's work but** never contacts Doninu directly.
 - This is **indirect abuse**, and Doninu **can still file a complaint**.

What matters is not whether the abuse was direct, but whether Doninu **suffered harm or risked harm** from **unfair or bad-faith public action**.

37.4 How Doninu (Malta) International Is Protected

Doninu is protected under the following frameworks:

- **The Ombudsman Act (Cap. 385)**
- **The Constitution of Malta – Article 62B & Article 42 (freedom of association)**
- **Voluntary Organisations Act – Article 4(1) (no obligation to register)**
- **EU Charter of Fundamental Rights – Article 41 (Right to Good Administration)**
- **European Convention on Human Rights – Article 13 (Right to an Effective Remedy)**

Doninu (Malta) International has a full legal right to report any perceived injustice, abuse, or unfairness by authorities to the **Office of the Ombudsman**, regardless of registration status or whether it was directly targeted. Maltese and EU law **protect the right to hold public authorities accountable** and seek redress.

38: Duties and Limits of Relevant Authorities in Relation to Doninu (Malta) International

To ensure legal clarity, institutional transparency, and proper organisational independence, Doninu (Malta) International hereby outlines the roles, powers, and limitations of key public authorities in relation to its activities. This section shall form part of the Statute and serve as guidance for all internal decisions, external relations, and legal protections.

38.1 Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations (CVO)

Legal Basis: Voluntary Organisations Act (Cap. 492 of the Laws of Malta)

Duties and Limitations:

- The CVO is empowered to register and regulate voluntary organisations in Malta **only if** they collect public donations or seek government/foreign funding.
- The CVO may **only investigate** registered organisations for mismanagement or non-compliance.
- Doninu (Malta) International, as an unregistered and self-funded voluntary entity, **is not subject** to CVO oversight **unless** it falsely claims registration or breaches specific legal prohibitions.
- The CVO holds **no jurisdiction** over Doninu unless clear legal violations occur.

38.2 Ministry for Inclusion and Voluntary Organisations (MIV)

Role:

- Responsible for the creation and monitoring of national policies on inclusion and the voluntary sector.
- Oversees the CVO and MCVS.
- May respond to sector-wide or systemic issues but **does not have executive power** over unregistered individual organisations.
- The MIV has an advisory and policy-shaping role, not a direct regulatory function.

38.3 Social Care Standards Authority (SCSA)

Legal Basis: Social Care Standards Authority Act (Cap. 582)

Duties and Limitations:

- Regulates licensed care providers and institutions.

- Has **no authority** over informal or non-licensed community service providers.
- Doninu (Malta) International, as a voluntary initiative providing non-institutional support, falls **outside** the SCSA's regulatory scope.

38.4 Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD)

Legal Basis: Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act (Cap. 413)

Duties and Powers:

- Protects rights and ensures accessibility for persons with disabilities.
- May investigate discrimination complaints affecting disabled individuals.
- CRPD does not regulate charities organisations

38.5 Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS)

Duties and Scope:

- Promotes and supports voluntary work and sectoral development.
- Provides training, support, and funding access to registered VOs.
- The MCVS holds **no enforcement authority** and plays a **supportive, not regulatory** role.

This policy brief may be cited internally and externally in defence of Doninu (Malta) International's operational independence and lawful conduct.

39: Doninu (Malta) International – Support to Other NGOs or Foundations

Purpose:

This clause sets out the legal and operational framework by which Doninu (Malta) International may help other organisations—particularly those caring for persons with disabilities or other vulnerable populations—and outlines its rights to question authority and report institutional misconduct.

39.1 Right to Support Other Organisations

Doninu (Malta) International may offer non-financial support, advocacy, visibility, or collaborative assistance to other NGOs, foundations, or community services—**especially** where such organisations:

- Serve vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities;
- Are under undue pressure, discrimination, or intimidation from regulatory or public authorities;
- Require external support to ensure fair treatment and public awareness.

Legal Basis:

- **Freedom of Association** – Article 42 of the Constitution of Malta;
- **Article 11** of the **European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)** (freedom of association and support for lawful causes);
- **Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU**, Article 12: Right to freedom of assembly and association.

39.2 Right to Question Public Authorities

Doninu (Malta) International has the legal right to directly:

- Seek clarifications;
- Request explanations;
- Raise ethical or legal concerns;

...with **any public authority** that affects:

- The wellbeing of the people or organisations Doninu supports;
- The fair implementation of Maltese or EU laws;
- Public transparency and democratic accountability.

Legal Basis:

- **Freedom of Expression** – Article 41 of the Constitution of Malta;
- **Directive (EU) 2019/1937** (Whistleblower Protection Directive);
- **Access to Public Information Act (Cap. 496)** – Right to information from public authorities.

39.3 Right to Report Misconduct to the Ombudsman

Doninu (Malta) International has the right to submit complaints or investigative findings to the **Office of the Ombudsman of Malta** if:

- An authority (including the CVO, SCSA, or any Ministry) acts unjustly, with bias, discrimination, or through abuse of administrative power;
- Another organisation is harmed through regulatory misuse, arbitrary pressure, or denial of fair treatment;
- Investigative journalism by Doninu has uncovered evidence of maladministration or rights violations.

Legal Basis:

- **Ombudsman Act (Cap. 385 of the Laws of Malta)** – especially Articles 13–15;
- **Article 41 of the Constitution of Malta** – Freedom to impart and receive information;
- **Directive (EU) 2019/1937** – Right to report wrongdoing in the public interest.

Statutory Integration:

This Policy Brief shall be entered into the Statute as **Article 39: Support to External Organisations and Right to Oversight**, with sub-articles:

- 39.1 – Authority to Assist Other Foundations;
- 39.2 – Legal Right to Question Authority;
- 39.3 – Right to Submit Complaints to Oversight Bodies.

40: Use of Public Property

Clause 40.1

Doninu (Malta) International, as a non-registered voluntary organisation, may request use of state or local property for charitable and humanitarian purposes, in accordance with the public interest.

Clause 40.2

No discrimination or exclusion may be applied solely based on registration status, if the organisation is compliant with civil law.

Clause 40.3

Local councils and government ministries are encouraged to support access to public spaces for non-commercial community use, including by unregistered voluntary organisations such as Doninu (Malta) International.

Policy Brief:

40.1 Legal Identity of Doninu (Malta) International

Doninu (Malta) International:

- Operates as an independent, unregistered voluntary organisation;
- Does not collect public or foreign donations, and therefore is not obliged to register under the Voluntary Organisations Act (Cap. 492);
- Functions within the scope of the freedom of association and public society participation under national and international law.

Legal Basis (Malta):

- Article 42 of the Constitution of Malta (freedom of assembly and association);
- Voluntary Organisations Act (Cap. 492, Article 3 & 4) – Registration is voluntary unless soliciting public or foreign funding.

40.2 Right to Request Government Property

Doninu (Malta) International has the right to formally request access to public property (rooms, garages, buildings) from:

- The Ministry for Lands and Government Property;
- The Lands Authority;

- Relevant departments or ministries,

...for:

- Operating a non-commercial charity hub;
- Offering non-monetary support (food, clothing, goods);
- Conducting community work and volunteer activity.

Legal Basis (Malta):

- Government Lands Act (Cap. 573) – Permits the allocation of state land for social and non-profit uses;
- Public Administration Act (Cap. 595) – Requires decisions based on transparency and public interest.

40.3 International Protection of Charitable Activity

Even as a non-registered entity, Doninu is protected by:

- Article 12 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights – Freedom of association and assembly;
- European Convention on Human Rights (Article 11) – Right to associate freely for charitable purposes;
- European Pillar of Social Rights – Support for civil society in promoting social inclusion.

40.4 Local Council Cooperation

Doninu (Malta) International may request from local councils:

- Temporary or long-term access to community buildings;
- Partnership agreements for non-profit use of underused municipal spaces.

Legal Basis:

- Local Government Act (Cap. 363) – Councils can support social and community work;
- National Voluntary Sector Policy – Encourages collaboration with all voluntary groups, not only registered ones.

41: Use of State School Halls by Doninu (Malta) International

41.1 Use of Educational Premises for Community Activities Doninu (Malta)

International, although not registered with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations (CVO), may request to use state school halls and educational premises for non-commercial, humanitarian, or community-related activities, provided that:

- The activity is in line with the school's code of conduct and safeguarding policies;
- The activity does not conflict with normal school operations;
- The school or education authority grants formal permission.

41.2 Legal Basis (Malta) *Education Act* (Cap. 327 of the Laws of Malta)

- Article 4 & Article 9: The Minister for Education may allow public education facilities to be used for community purposes in line with the national educational and social goals.

Public Administration Act (Cap. 595)

- Public property or resources, including those managed by educational institutions, must be administered transparently and in the public interest.

Local Government Act (Cap. 363)

- Local councils may coordinate with schools in their locality for educational and community use.

National Voluntary Sector Policy (2019)

- Encourages cooperation between public institutions and all voluntary organisations (whether registered or not) in furthering social good.

41.3 International Legal Protections *EU Charter of Fundamental Rights – Article 12*

- Protects the right to freedom of association, allowing organisations to pursue public benefit activities.

European Convention on Human Rights – Article 11

- Protects the right of peaceful assembly and association, regardless of registration status.

41.4 Statutory Clause: Use of State Educational Facilities

Clause 41.1

Doninu (Malta) International may formally request to use state school halls and other educational spaces for charitable, educational, or awareness-raising events, subject to the consent of the relevant authorities and compliance with safeguarding and usage guidelines.

Clause 41.2

The non-registered status of Doninu (Malta) International shall not, on its own, constitute legal grounds for refusal of access, unless such access is specifically prohibited by law or school policy.

Clause 41.3

All activities must be non-commercial and aligned with the Organisation's stated mission of non-monetary aid, dignity, and community support.

42: Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with Registered Entities

42.1 Right to Enter into MOU Doninu (Malta) International, as a lawful unregistered voluntary organisation, retains the right to enter into formal collaboration agreements (MOU) with other entities, including those registered under Maltese law such as:

- NGOs and Foundations registered with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations (CVO);
- Federations of Voluntary Organisations;
- Church organisations and religious associations;
- Private institutions and public bodies provided the collaboration is lawful and non-commercial.

Such Mou's may cover cooperation in:

- Community outreach and advocacy;
- Distribution of non-monetary aid;
- Awareness campaigns;
- Shared use of venues or equipment;
- Journalistic and social investigations;
- Charitable events and humanitarian initiatives.

42.2 Legal Basis (Malta)

Voluntary Organisations Act (Cap. 492)

- Article 4(1): A voluntary organisation is considered a "voluntary legal person" if it operates legally and in pursuit of lawful purposes.
- Nothing in the Act prohibits registered organisations from working with unregistered entities if those entities are not operating illegally or falsely claiming registration.
- MOU are private contractual instruments, not governed by the CVO unless the registered party seeks funding or enters fiduciary obligations.

Civil Code of Malta (Cap. 16) – Contracts

- Articles 985–1007: Legally recognises mutual agreements between parties capable of giving consent for a lawful cause and object.
- MOU are recognised as lawful bilateral agreements if they are not contrary to public order or law.

Freedom of Association – Constitution of Malta, Article 42

- Protects the right of individuals and legal or informal associations to form alliances and cooperate freely with others.

Public Administration Act (Cap. 595)

- Promotes principles of fairness, participation, and accountability in dealings between public institutions and civil society actors.

42.3 International Protections

EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (Article 12)

- Guarantees the freedom of association and peaceful cooperation across borders and sectors.

European Convention on Human Rights (Article 11)

- Reinforces the right of lawful organisations to work together without discrimination.

UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders (1998) – Article 5

- Recognises the right of individuals and organisations to communicate and cooperate with NGOs, government bodies, and others to promote social and humanitarian goals.

Statutory Clause: Article 42 – MOU and Cross-Organisational Cooperation

Clause 42.1

Doninu (Malta) International may enter Memorandums of Understanding with any registered or non-registered legal person or organisation, provided the agreement serves charitable, social, humanitarian, or advocacy purposes and is not contrary to law.

Clause 42.2

The Organisation's unregistered status shall not be a legal barrier to such agreements. MOU's shall remain lawful under the Civil Code, the Constitution of Malta, and relevant European and international conventions.

Clause 42.3

Registered NGOs, Federations, or Church organisations may not be legally restricted from cooperating with Doninu (Malta) International solely based on its voluntary, unregistered status.

43: Definition of Vulnerable Persons and Families

43.1 Definition

For the purposes of these Statutes, *vulnerable persons* shall refer to individuals, children, or families who, due to personal, social, legal, economic, physical, psychological, or geopolitical circumstances, are at increased risk of harm, discrimination, exclusion, exploitation, abuse, neglect, or marginalisation.

43.2 Categories of Vulnerability

The following persons and groups are considered vulnerable:

- **Children and Minors:**
 - Any person under the age of 18.
 - Includes children who are:
 - Experiencing **poverty or homelessness**;
 - Exposed to **violence, abuse, or neglect**;
 - Living in **war-affected zones or displaced due to armed conflict**;
 - Lacking access to **education, healthcare, or protection**.
 - This is in accordance with the **Minor Protection (Alternative Care) Act (Cap. 567)** and the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**.
- **Vulnerable Families:**
 - Families experiencing **social hardship**, such as low income, housing instability, domestic violence, caregiving breakdowns, or multi-dimensional poverty.
 - Includes **refugee or migrant families** and **families with disabled dependents**.
- **Persons with Disabilities:**
 - Individuals with physical, sensory, intellectual, developmental, or mental impairments.
 - Protected under the **Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act (Cap. 413)** and the **UN CRPD**.
- **Elderly Persons:**
 - Especially those affected by **social isolation, financial insecurity, institutional neglect, or chronic illness**.
- **Migrants, Refugees, and Stateless Persons:**
 - Persons without permanent legal status or nationality;

- Individuals fleeing **conflict, persecution, or natural disasters**.
- **Victims of Abuse or Exploitation:**
 - Including survivors of **domestic violence, sexual abuse, human trafficking, or labour exploitation**.
- **Homeless and Economically Deprived Individuals:**
 - Persons or families without regular income, basic services, or secure shelter.
- **Persons with Mental Health Conditions or Addictions:**
 - Individuals suffering from **psychosocial disabilities**, trauma, or **substance dependency**, who may face neglect or institutional abuse.

43.3 Legal Protections

This definition and its protections are derived from:

- **Constitution of Malta** – Articles 32–45 (Fundamental Rights);
- **Minor Protection (Alternative Care) Act (Cap. 567)**;
- **Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act (Cap. 413)**;
- **Social Care Standards Authority Act (Cap. 582)**;
- **Criminal Code of Malta (Cap. 9)** – Protection against abuse and trafficking;
- **EU Charter of Fundamental Rights** – Articles 1, 21, 24, 25;
- **European Social Charter**;
- **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**;
- **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**;
- **UNHCR Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Children**.

43.4 Organisational Application

All actions, outreach, programmes, and alliances of Doninu (Malta) International shall prioritise support to the above-defined categories, especially:

- Children suffering from **war, poverty, or social exclusion**;
- Families in **severe hardship**;
- Persons exposed to abuse or institutional neglect.

These activities shall always be conducted in a non-commercial, rights-based, and non-discriminatory manner.

Final Declaration & Oath of Adherence

Doninu (Malta) International

Founder's Commitment and Legal Endorsement

I, the undersigned, in my role as the Founder and Coordinator of **Doninu (Malta) International**, hereby solemnly declare and affirm that:

- I have read, reviewed, and adopted these **Master Statutes** in full, including all clauses, policies, rules, and legal frameworks as outlined from Clause 1 to Clause 42.
- I understand the responsibilities and obligations associated with the governance, values, and mission of Doninu (Malta) International as a non-commercial, non-registered voluntary organisation.
- I commit, to the best of my ability, integrity, and conscience, to uphold and implement these statutes in the day-to-day functioning of the Organisation.
- I will protect the independence, dignity, and lawful operation of the Organisation in accordance with the principles of social justice, solidarity, equality, and lawful cooperation with all individuals and public or private bodies.
- I will act in good faith and in line with both national and international legal standards relevant to voluntary and humanitarian work.

This declaration is signed voluntarily and in full awareness of my moral and ethical duties as Founder and Coordinator.

Signed on this day of January 2025 in the Republic of Malta.

Name of Founder: Chev. Jean Pierre Calleja

Signature:

