

Roberta Buhagiar

B.A. (Melit.), M.A. (Melit.), LL.D. (Melit.)

Career History

Refugee Commissioner | Office of the Refugee Commissioner, Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security

October 2019 – to date

Migration Advisor | Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security
Valletta, Malta

December 2018 – September 2019

Migration Coordinator | Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security
Valletta, Malta

December 2017 – November 2018

Senior Protection Associate | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Duty station: Valletta, Malta

December 2011 – November 2017

Associate Protection Officer | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Duty station: Paris, France

March 2016 – August 2016

Lawyer | Jesuit Refugee Service Malta

March 2008 – November 2011

Second Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of Malta | Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malta

September 2007 – December 2007

Assistant Residential Coordinator & Care Worker | Suret il-Bniedem Foundation, Malta

August 2006 – September 2007

Academic Qualifications

*Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies | Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC),
University of Malta*

November 2007

Doctor of Laws (LL.D.) | Faculty of Laws, University of Malta

November 2006

Diploma of Notary Public | Faculty of Laws, University of Malta

November 2004

Bachelor of Arts in Legal and Humanistic Studies | Faculty of Laws, University of Malta

November 2003

Other Courses & Certification

European Legal Network on Asylum (ELENA) Advanced Course: Credibility Assessment in Asylum
Claims | *ELENA/ECRE*

5 - 7 March 2014

Certificate of Attendance – Exclusion | *European Asylum & Support Office (EASO)*
(EASO certified trainer on Exclusion in asylum claims)

7 October 2013 - 8 November 2013

Protection Learning Programme (PLP) Europe & HQ | *UNHCR Global Learning Centre*

6 July 2012 – 15 April 2013

EU Asylum Law and Policy | *UNHCR Global Learning Centre*

28 January 2013 – 30 January 2013

Admission to the Bar and warrant to perform the duties of advocate in the courts of justice of Malta

September 2008

Certificate – International Summer School in Forced Migration | *Refugee Studies Centre, Department
of International Development (QEH), University of Oxford*

June – July 2008

Projects

- 2014 – 2017: Malta Focal Point for UNHCR’s Global Strategy on Detention – A Global Strategy to support governments to end the detention of asylum-seekers and refugees.
- 2013 - 2014: Conducted a pilot study for UNHCR Malta, aimed at understanding the protection environment for LGBTI beneficiaries of protection in Malta.
- 2009 – 2010: Coordinated and managed the ANDES (Advocacy Network on Destitution) project for JRS Malta, which included the publication of a report and the “Suspended Lives” campaign. The campaign focused on raising awareness on the hardships faced by asylum-seekers and forced migrants in Malta.

Publications

- Coordinated and drafted *UNHCR’s Observations on Malta’s Revised Legislative and Policy Framework for the Reception of Asylum Seekers*, 25 February 2016, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/56e963824.html>
- Contributed to the drafting of *My Diversity – Age, Gender and Diversity Perspectives in the Maltese Refugee Context*, June 2015, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/mt/3220-my-diversity.html>
- Coordinated and drafted *UNHCR’s Position on the Detention of Asylum Seekers in Malta*, 18 September 2013, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/52498c424.html>
- Coordinated and drafted *A Report on a Pilot Study on Destitution Amongst the Migrant Community in Malta*, March 2010, Jesuit Refugee Service Malta, available at: http://jrsmalta.jesuit.org/mt/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2011/08/1-ANDES_Malta_Pilot_Study.pdf