



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

UN Human Rights Council
HRC 29th Session – ITEM 8 – June 2015

General Debate

Mr. President,

We support the joint statement presented by Colombia and we welcome the Report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on “Discrimination and violence against individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity”.

As said in the report, States have well-established obligations to respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of all persons, including LGBTI persons.

Unfortunately, the report shows the persistence of serious violations of these rights.

In this context, Israel deplores the horrifying condition of the LGBTI community in most of the countries in the Middle East which forbid same sex relationship by law. As a cause of that, gays are being persecuted, executed, flogged, or fined.

In Iran hanging homosexuals is a well-known tool used by the regime to try to convince the international community that there are no homosexuals in the country. Several of them are even being forced to have sex surgery or else they will be executed or murdered by their own family members .

In Saudi Arabia just last week the Ministry of Interior declared, and I quote: “There would be no rights granted to gay people in the Kingdom.” End of quote. In Saudi Arabia it's not just a matter of rights but a matter of life and death, as execution by stoning could be the solution.

Another respected member of this council, Qatar - applies death penalty to Muslim homosexuals. If you are not a Muslim, you will face up to 7 years of prison.

In Gaza, under Hamas rule, being a gay could be a huge challenge to one's ability to survive. The dire situation of the LGBTI community in the Palestinian Authority, led many Palestinian gays turn to Israel for a shelter.

Mr. President,

Human rights should be granted to any human being without questioning one's sexual orientation. Israel calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner and this Human Rights Council to continue raising this issue and to lead the change that is so much needed, so the LGBTI community members across the world will enjoy equal rights to others.

Thank you Mr. President.