



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

UN Human Rights Council
HRC 29th Session – ITEM 9 – June 2015

General Debate

Thank you, Mr. President.

The State of Israel firmly supports worldwide efforts to prevent and combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. We strongly believe that the worldwide community must condemn racism of all kinds and manifestations.

Racism is one of the most menacing threats to humanity. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance lead to hatred, which in turn leads to political instability and to wars between nations, communities and ethnic groups.

Israel recognizes that the proliferation and rise of extremist political parties, movements and groups around the globe, and throughout Europe in particular, is a threat to democratic values and to respect for human rights and freedoms. As such, it is crucial to stop the diffusion of racist ideologies in every medium – speech, print, social media, internet, sporting events or others.

The State of Israel denounces and deplores attempts by fanatics to deny the occurrence of the Holocaust and by doing so, to forge history. Holocaust denial is anti-Semitism, or racism, at its worst. We ardently believe in the active preservation of Holocaust sites that served as Nazi death camps, concentration and forced labor camps and we back legislative and educational measures that aim to ensure that the atrocities that happened then are not forgotten or repeated.

If the lessons of the Holocaust are not learned and racism continues to rear its ugly head, millions of human beings will continue to suffer as victims of racism around the world. We need to fight against this phenomenon by speaking and acting unequivocally. Everyone must have the opportunity to live his/her life without fear of persecution or pre-judgment for reasons related to race, religious beliefs, gender, ethnic group or anything else.

Mr. President,

We, the Jewish people, have paid a heavy price as victims of hatred and anti-Semitism. Unfortunately, in recent years, and in particular in 2014, there has been a visible and measurable increase in anti-Semitic violence directed toward Jewish individuals, communities, institutions, schools and synagogues, in Europe and elsewhere. Many individuals can no longer freely identify in public as being Jewish or publicly voice their political opinion without fear of harm.

Therefore, as historical witnesses to the effects of racism, we, the Jewish nation, represented by the State of Israel, implore all countries to declare their categorical rejection of all kinds of racism, including anti-Semitism, and affirm the right for equality and freedom from any threats for minority groups.

We appeal to countries to monitor hate crimes and crimes motivated by racism and anti-Semitism, including hate speech, and to effectively enforce justice in cases of violations;

And last but not least, we call upon countries to promote dialogue that inculcates tolerance and understanding between different communities.

Thank you.