



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

**UN Human Rights Council
HRC 29th Session – Side Event – 15 June 2015**

Abuse and Violence against Older Women

I would like to thank the distinguished speakers for their most interesting remarks and to thank the organizers and co-sponsors for holding this important event marking the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

Israel is proud to support this event which focuses on an issue that is relevant to all of us, and as we have just learned, truly requires our collective attention.

Israel is very well aware of the complex phenomenon of abusing and neglecting older people, and allocates significant efforts to research and study it. We believe that the key to address this challenge most effectively is to have a strong linkage between research and policy .

In 2004, Israel was among the first countries that initiated a national survey which gave for the first time, a research based factual status of the situation. Specifically, the issue of older women's abuse got a special attention in various breakthrough studies conducted at the Haifa University and other academic institutes. These studies involved in-depth interviews with victims of domestic violence and exposed the scope of this phenomenon.

Following these studies, relevant ministries have issued specific guidelines on the ways and methods for treatment and intervention by the health and social services, in cases in which abuse of older people and specifically women, are reported or identified.

The State of Israel continues to act in both the academic research level and the policy making level to prevent and reduce violence and neglect toward older women .

Thank you.