



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

**UN Human Rights Council
HRC 32nd Session – Item 8 –June 2016**

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI)

Thank you, Mr. President.

At the outset, we would like to express our condolences to the victims of the attack that took place on the 12th of June in the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, as well as their families. Our hearts go to all those who have been killed or injured.

This violent act was directed at innocent people, just because of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

As Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu said after the shooting:

“This week's shooting wasn't merely an attack on the LGBT community. It was an attack on all of us, on our common values of freedom and diversity and choice”.

In 1993, the Vienna Declaration and Plan of Action recognized and affirmed that “all human rights derive from the dignity and worth inherent in the human person.” Last year, the Agenda 2030, establishing the Sustainable Development Goals, was adopted and reaffirmed within its goals and targets the fight against inequality and towards inclusiveness.

Mr. President,

As a member of the United Nations LGBT Core Group, Israel is at the forefront of the struggle to end violence and discrimination against individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity.

Here at the Human Rights Council, Israel has strongly engaged in the debates, and has raised its voice to condemn acts of violence against LGBTI people. We are supportive of

the initiative under discussion during this session and of the creation of the mandate of an Independent Expert.

We call once again the international community as a whole, to take concrete action to eradicate discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Let me conclude by quoting once again the words of Prime Minister Netanyahu:

“Tell them you stand together, we stand together as one. And that you will always remember the victims. Tell them they will never be alone (...) I have no doubt that those who seek to spread hate and fear will be defeated.

We need to stand united, resolute in the belief that all people regardless of their sexual orientation, regardless of their race, regardless of their ethnicity, all people deserve respect, deserve dignity”.

Thank you.