
UN Human Rights Council
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General Debate

Delivered by Ambassador Aviva Raz Shechter,
Permanent Representative of Israel to the UN in Geneva

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Vienna Declaration affirmed that “all human rights derive from the dignity and worth inherent in the human person.” This has been reaffirmed with the Agenda 2030, setting the goal of “leaving no one behind.”

Nonetheless, LGBTI people still find their rights limited and suffer constant discrimination in many parts of the world. Last year, this Council made a big step towards equality by establishing the mandate of the Independent Expert on SOGI.

Mr. President, Israel has been constantly working to end discrimination against individuals based on SOGI.

Israel has strengthened its legislation as to add SOGI as a forbidden ground for discrimination, to extend visa-related rights to same-sex marriages, and to change identity cards, among others. Also, it continues to prosecute those responsible for crimes committed based on SOGI.

Moreover, in the context of the national consultations in preparation for its upcoming UPR, Israel held a roundtable between the government and civil society focused specifically on the topic of the rights of LGBTI people.

Mr. President,

LGBTI people around the world continue to suffer persecution and institutional violence, often sanctioned by law. This cannot continue. States should take responsibility for ending violence, and the work of the Independent Expert can certainly help them achieve this objective.

Thank you.