
UN Human Rights Council
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Annual Full Day Discussion on the Rights of Women – Panel 1
Violence Against Women

Delivered by Mr. David Levy,
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Mr. President,

We welcome the initiative of convening a special panel to address the role men and boys can play in the prevention of violence against women and girls.

We believe that more ways should be found to involve men and boys in the fight against gender based violence, inter alia in the fields of education, prevention, and rehabilitation.

The Israeli educational system puts an emphasis on gender equality, in order to change stereotypical perceptions that still exist, which are an underlying factor of gender based violence. This includes changes to the curricula, teachers' seminars and special activities to raise awareness among the students.

Based on the understanding that domestic violence has a negative effect on the whole family, the relevant Israeli authorities have taken action to rehabilitate not only the victims of such violence, but also the aggressors responsible for it. The approach adopted seeks to end the cycle of violence, and prevent the problem from becoming a generational one, whereby individuals exposed to domestic violence in their childhood continue to be victims as adults, or even become aggressors themselves.

One key element is the early identification of families in distress, including an assessment of couple dynamics and the level of risk posed by would-be aggressors. Another important component includes individual and group treatment opportunities for men responsible for domestic violence, which are offered by trained personnel.

These include a self-help support group of men intended to help them get rehabilitated, but also an intensive program of 4 months in the "Beit Noam" specialized hostel, as well as housing solutions for violent men removed from their families through restraining orders and as a result of criminal proceedings.

Thank you, Mr. President.