
UN Human Rights Council
36th Session, Item 3 – September 25, 2017

Panel Discussion on Impact of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence in the context of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance on the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls

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Thank you, Mr. President,

We would like to thank the distinguished panelists for their important contribution.

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women has identified intersectionality as a basic concept for understanding the scope of the general obligations of State parties contained in article 2 of the CEDAW. The concept of intersectionality captures the consequences of two or more combined systems of discrimination, and addresses the manner in which they contribute to create layers of inequality.

Like other states, Israel is implementing many initiatives to address discrimination and violence against specific groups of women and girls by building the capacity of the judiciary, law enforcement agencies and health-care providers in the use of gender and culturally sensitive approaches.

For example, the Legal Aid Administration (LAA) which is part of the Ministry of Justice took recently several steps in this regard. Among them we can find: establishing a Legal Aid Branch for women in Rahat (the largest Bedouin city in the Negev) in June 2016; enhancing the accessibility of legal aid for women who are victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation, as well as providing legal assistance to women who are victims of domestic violence, among others.

Another example can be found in the extensive efforts invested in the Arab education system, by the Ministry of Education, in order to assist the pupils in assimilating into the labor market. Alongside the theoretical studies, there is the Unit for Gender Equality, which conducts programs, aimed for pupils from 6-12 grade, challenging cultural perceptions and social constructs with respect to gender roles, to remove cultural and social barriers and enable self and professional fulfillment for all. It is operated in the Druze, Arab and Bedouin Community.

In 2016, the Authority for the Advancement of the Status of Women (AAW) has become an important unit in the Ministry of Social Equality and it conducts its activities in close cooperation with women's organizations, including organizations promoting the rights of women from minority populations.

Such steps will definitely help us all to address existing gaps and leave no one behind.

I thank you Mr. President.