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**UN Human Rights Council**  
**36<sup>th</sup> Session, Item 9 – September 26, 2017**

**General Debate**

Delivered by Ambassador Aviva Raz Shechter,  
Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations

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Thank you, Mr. President.

In his oral update, the High Commissioner referred to antisemitism and racism. We join him in condemning these deplorable acts.

Unfortunately, over the past year we have seen Antisemitism raising its head again in many countries. A worrying growth in hate speech, Holocaust denial, physical assaults on Jews –including children–, desecration of memorials and synagogues, appearance of swastikas, and more.

Nonetheless, it is important to highlight that many of those despicable actions found reactions by governments and parliaments.

In this regard, we reiterate that education plays a key role in putting an end to this trend, and to racism and bigotry in general. Denial, misinformation and stereotypes only create a fertile environment for spreading hate. We therefore need a strong commitment by all Governments represented in this Chamber to urgently take educational measures to combat this phenomenon.

In this vein, we congratulate UK, Germany, Rumania, Austria and the European Parliament for their recent decisions of adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)'s working definition of Antisemitism. We call upon more States to follow this important step.

It is only through effective action, including proper legislation and enforcement of it, strong condemnation and education that we will be able to put an end to these acts and overall phenomena.

Thank you.