
UN Human Rights Council
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**Clustered ID with the IE on sexual orientation and gender identity
and the SR on Independence of Judges and lawyers**

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Thank you, Mr. President.

Israel welcomes both experts, and thanks them for their interesting reports .

At the outset, we would like to express our strong support for the mandate of the Independent Expert, and congratulate him for his work. This mandate is certainly one of the most necessary among the Special Procedures of this Council. This mandate does not seek to create new rights or obligations; on the contrary, it aims at ensuring that everyone can access the same rights and live a life free from violence. Therefore, we call upon the members of this Council to renew the mandate. The discrimination and violence that LGBTI persons suffer is undeniable, thus, we commend the recent developments made on decriminalization and hope to see more progress soon.

In his report, Mr. Madrigal-Borloz highlights the importance of having appropriate information, in order to design public policies, identifies principles, and provides useful recommendations. In this regard, we would like to ask him, what can we do from Geneva, in order to promote better data collection procedures, both respectful of individuals and their rights, and useful for the design of proper public policies?

Mr. President,

We take note of the report of the Special Rapporteur, and we agree that freedom of expression is key to preserve the independence of Judges, which is a fundamental principle in any democracy and is one of the most important guarantees for persevering, promoting and protecting human rights such as the right to dignity, the right to freedom of expression and the prevention of human trafficking .

I thank you.