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**UN Human Rights Council**  
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**General Debate**

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Thank you, Madam Vice-President.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”. This idea was reinforced with the Vienna Declaration and, more recently, with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda.

Unfortunately, some entities in this Chamber seem to apply a selective approach to the international framework. While they cry for the respect of certain rights, they not only ignore, but blatantly violate others.

Madam Vice-President,

Earlier this month, we learned that the Palestinian Authority banned members of the LGBTQ community from carrying out any activities in the West Bank.

The reason? According to the spokesperson for the PA Police, such activities were – and I quote - “harmful to the higher values and ideals of Palestinian society.”

So we wonder, what are those higher values? Oppression and discrimination?

Madam Vice-President,

This is just another example of the persecution that LGBTI people suffer in the Palestinian Territories, where no legal protection from discrimination exists; where in Gaza same-sex relationship are outlawed.

While this is happening, Israel has welcomed Palestinian LGBTI asylum-seekers fleeing from persecution. The Tel Aviv Pride Parade is one of the biggest in the world, bringing together 250.000 people to celebrate, express themselves and even petition to the authorities for changes.

Madam Vice-President,

Although the ban was later lifted following international public criticism, only one conclusion can be reached: when the Palestinian Authority has no other to blame for its actions, the real nature of its “ideals” are revealed. It shows its true colors, and those are not the one of the rainbow.

I thank you Madam Vice-President.