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**UN Human Rights Council**  
**44<sup>th</sup> Session, 8 July 2020**

**Item 3**  
**ID IE on SOGI**

Adv. Rafael Reuben  
Assistant to the Legal Adviser, Permanent Mission of Israel in Geneva

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Thank you, Madam President.

Israel wishes to thank the Independent Expert for his very relevant report on the issue of “conversion therapy”. Israel has always been a strong supporter of this mandate, and would like to encourage the Expert to focus his activities on issues such as this one.

The practice of conversion therapy is widely condemned in Israel, and Israeli lawmakers are currently considering a bill designed to ban this practice. The proposed bill includes the removal of the license of a psychologist who uses conversion therapy, the imposition of a fine and even the possibility of jail for repeat offenses.

Madam President,

In this context we note with regret that the report contains a reference to an isolated statement by an Israeli official supposedly sanctioning conversion therapies. We would like to stress that this statement was immediately retracted, and the official was reprimanded by the Prime Minister who made clear that such ideas are unacceptable and incompatible with the government policy. Many other public figures equally rejected the statement.

We would have expected the Independent Expert, when mentioning a country by name, to research the matter more thoroughly and explain the full circumstances surrounding it.

Madam President,

Israel is strongly committed to insuring the protection and promotion of the rights of LGBTI people. Through the years we are proud to have undergone what has already been coined as “the Proud Revolution”. This constant improvement and strive for equality is also happening in the case of LGBTI youth, who today enjoy more acceptance in social and educational settings, and have access to supporting mechanisms on both the municipal and national levels.

I thank you, Madam President.