
UN Human Rights Council
45th Session, September 2020

Item 3 – Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence

Madam President,

Israel would like to thank the Special Rapporteur for his report. The state of Israel was born under the trauma of the Holocaust, and the processes of memorialization it developed have become a reference in the world, comprising virtually all the elements mentioned in the report.

Placing the Holocaust as a central discipline of the school curriculum has been central in constructing and transmitting its memory, while providing students with accessible and relevant lessons for today - such as understanding the dangers of dehumanization, stigmatization and exclusion.

The Israeli experience shows that memory is a dynamic process, and each generation looks back on the past from a different perspective. Our memory of the Holocaust has evolved to include new angles, such as the role of women and different forms of resistance and heroism.

In that light, we would suggest that the Special Rapporteur dedicate his future work to understand the evolution of memory, and how the passage of time affects the perception of past atrocities and the commitment not to repeat them.

Madam President,

We call on states to subscribe the Rapporteur's call against the denial and distortion of the memory of atrocities and violation, which are equal to repeating the aggression to victims, and open the door to renewed incitement and violence.

Thank you, Madam President.