
**UN Human Rights Council
46th Session, March 2021**

Item 3

ID on the report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material

Madam President,

Israel wishes to thank the Special Rapporteur for focusing her report on the impacts of the COVID- 19 on the increased risk that children face every day of sale and sexual exploitation.

During last year children's online time increased significantly due to school closures for prolonged periods, and lockdowns. This meant more opportunities for those seeking to exploit children through online platforms.

Despite the difficulties and many challenges that the pandemic brought with it, Israel is determined to continue, strengthen and adapt its efforts to combat exploitation and abuse of children, particularly in vulnerable populations.

Madam President,

Back in 2018 Israel's government developed the Child Online Protection Bureau, a national program for the prevention of violence and crime against children and teenagers online. The program established a dedicated police unit for crimes against children on the internet, a national Center for Child Protection for inquires on bullying and cyber- crimes, an immediate free hotline and an awareness raising division.

This initiative has proven to be extremely useful during the pandemic and in total over 10,000 events were treated through this platform in the course of 2020.

Moreover, since 2017 Israel has increased its efforts to combat prostitution of children. These efforts includes the establishment of an inter-ministerial forum for coordination, training and distributions of explanatory materials to youth investigators, and intelligence officers.

States must put efforts to protect children at times like this, when the multiple challenges that we all face could lead to living children behind.

Thank you, Madam President.