
UN Human Rights Council
46th Session, March 2021

Item 3

**ID on the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on
Violence against children**

Madam President,

The COVID 19 pandemic has many negative effects on children, some of which will take years to fully grasped if at all. These challenges are not only healthy related. They are physical, psychological, educational and economic. Children may face social isolation, lack of human interaction and social activities. They may face an increase in domestic violence, online violence and many more.

Israel wishes to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary General not only for highlighting the importance of listening to the voices of children, but also for including good practices from around the world to try and combat some of these challenges.

Madam President,

The Coordination Unit for the prevention of Juvenile crime in the Israeli Ministry of Justice started an initiative aiming to increase social interaction between children and their communities during COVID. The initiative includes a dedicated website for sharing social initiative by youth, such as: loaning pets to families in isolation, collecting and distributing food baskets for low income families, children sharing their feelings on the COVID 19 through song writing, raising money to provide a computer to every child – a project which so far was able to distribute 1600 computers and more than 150,000 USD for purchasing more.

There is no doubt that it is crucial to let children have a seat at the table, not only because they have wonderful initiatives and innovative ideas, not only to give them a sense of responsibility and worth and allow them the very needed interaction and intellectual challenge, but most importantly because they deserve to be a part of the solution to the challenges they face.

Thank you, Madam President.