
UN Human Rights Council
47th Session, June 2020

Item 3 – ID – SR on Violence Against Women

Delivered by Mrs. Adi Farjon Israel
Deputy Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations in Geneva

We thank the Special Rapporteur for her report and the illustrative explanation on how rape is considered in International Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law and Criminal Law.

We share the view that rape is a violation of a range of human rights and that every woman and man have the full right to control their body and to decide with whom, how and when to have sexual intercourse.

"לא זה לא" - "No is No" –This is a phrase being taught in early stages of adolescence in Israel, and it goes alongside the phrase "My body is in my possession" that we teach children in preschools. The question of consent is critical for education no less than it is critical to the legal system.

Reforms and changes to the current law in Israel are still pending; however, the wheels of justice never stop. In 2010, an Israeli court convicted a former president of rape and sexual harassment and imposed a seven-year jail sentence. The will of Israel to protect the victims, punish the criminals and eliminate a pervasive, sexist subculture that objectifies women remains strong.

Every voice makes a difference. The impact of hundreds of thousands of voices around the world unlocked through #MeToo, has reached Israel and continues to drive a vast cultural shift there as well.

Thank you, Madam President.