
UN Human Rights Council
47th Session, July 2021, Item 3

**Panel 2: Gender-equal socioeconomic recovery
from the COVID-19 pandemic**

Adv. Merav Marks

Legal Adviser, Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations in Geneva

Mr. Vice President,

We welcome the convening of the present panel and thank the panelists for their interventions on such an important topic.

It is undeniable that Covid-19 pandemic has further exacerbated gender inequality. In a reality where the gender gap between women and men still exists in all areas of life, the crisis has disproportionately affected women. Violence against women is on the rise, on what is called now “a shadow pandemic”. Women face a heavier burden of care for children and other beneficiaries and have lost their jobs in a higher percentage than men. The achievements already made in promoting gender equality are at risk, and every country, in order to build back better, need to continue to work towards achieving gender equality.

Mr. Vice President,

During the Pandemic, we have noticed that the place of women is often absent in decision making forums. However, although necessary, the road to change does not lie solely in job appointments, but also through cultural and societal changes. We should not only increase the number of women in key positions but also embrace gender thinking in decision-making and strategic forums. Inclusion of gender thinking is a strategic tool when planning policies and allocating resources while recognizing all genders' different needs and perspectives.

Mr. Vice President,

In Israel, the government set up an inter-sectoral roundtable to address the needs of women during the Covid-19 crisis. Initially, its members collected and mapped disaggregated-gender data to assist and influence the decision-making at the senior levels. As a result, an additional women's shelter was established for women victims of violence and helped adjust national security measures for women, such as providing unemployment payments and pensions. The roundtable also created a strong tie between the government, NGOs and the private sector.

We still have a long way to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, but we are committed to do it without leaving any one behind.

I thank you.