
**UN Human Rights Council
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**Quadrennial Panel discussion
Promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal**

Mr. Tom Levy
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Madam President,

I am Tom Levy and I am one of Israel's youth delegates to the UN. The Olympic message of fellowship, unity, culture, victory and equality is as important today as it ever has been. In a world beginning to recover from the COVID-19 Pandemic, and intent on building back better, sport and the Olympic ideal can be an important tool for the promotion of human rights, development, conciliation and dialogue. I believe that through sport we can achieve peace, holistic learning, increased cultural understanding and social development. Sport is an educational and communicative tool, which inspires excellence, respect and friendship.

In Israel, Olympic Day is used to promote sports educational values in order to enable physical activity and active learning. These activities contribute to the development and understanding of the Olympic concept while teaching younger persons the social values of cooperation, participation and fair play.

The Israel Olympic committee also run an Olympic Values Education Program, which uses the connection of sport and the core principles of Olympism. The program connects the benefits of sports and physical activity through the understanding of Olympism and its impact on individual health, enjoyment from making the effort and social networking. The program is not intended for the small percentage that reach the podium, rather the 99% of the population, to encourage them to participate in physical activity.

I am looking forward to cheering for our athletes in Tokyo, and good luck to every athlete competing this year.

I thank you.