
UN Human Rights Council
48th Session, 17 September 2021

**Item 3: ID with SR on contemporary forms of slavery,
including its causes and consequences**

Adv. Merav MARKS

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Thank you Madam President,

Israel wishes to thank the special rapporteur for the important report.

One of the biggest challenges States face when it comes to victims of modern slavery in all its forms, is the ability to identify them, as also indicated in the report. The difficulties arise mostly from the fact that these people are foreigners in the State where they are being abused, they fear the authorities, they don't know who to turn to and sometimes they don't even recognize themselves as being victims.

Madam President,

The challenge of identifying the victims in particular and the displaced population in general, has depend in the face of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

This population will often not come to receive medical care, out of fear of the authorities, unfamiliarity with the rules and lack of money or health insurance.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Israel has taken several measures, similar to many states around the world, in order to mitigate some of these challenges.

For example, the Ministry of Health has instructed hospitals and other medical facilities in Israel to allow the testing of migrants, regardless of their legal status, without payment or proof of medical insurance.

Furthermore, the Population and Immigration Authority in Israel announced that it will not initiate any action to put migrants that come to get tested into custody, except in extraordinary circumstances.

Israel has been dedicating tremendous efforts in recent years, to give guidance and courses to judges and other enforcement law personnel, all over the world, on the identification of modern slavery victims. The need for these tools has been highlighted by the pandemic and Israel will continue its effort on this issue.

Thank you.