
UN Human Rights Council
48th Session

Item 9 – ID with SR on racism

Delivered by Adv. Merav Marks

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

Madam President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for her last report on combating the glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other racist and intolerant practices, pursuant to GA Resolution 75/169. Israel supports this initiative, and has contributed to the present report.

The United Nations were established three years after the end of World War Two and the Holocaust, under the commitment to never again allow these horrible atrocities to repeat themselves, and eliminate the ideologies that gave birth to them.

However, recent years have seen a reawakening of extremism and neo-Nazism, with Jews being once again labelled by odious propaganda, online and offline, as the ones to blame for wars, economic crises, forest fires and, of course, the COVID pandemic.

Israel applauds states that have adopted strategies to confront racism and anti-Semitism, especially by endorsing the anti-Semitism definition of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. We call on all states to do so, and develop effective, inclusive and comprehensive frameworks, as highlighted by the Special Rapporteur.

Madam President,

Legislation and law enforcement mechanisms are essential, but can only work when complemented by educational programs that embrace tolerance and diversity, and promote the memory of past atrocities and their victims.

I thank you.