
UN Human Rights Council
51st Regular Session, 15 September 2022

**Item 3 – ID with Special Rapporteur on Contemporary forms of
slavery, including its causes and consequences**

Ms. Merav Marks, Adv.
Legal Adviser, Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations in Geneva

Mr. President,

Israel wishes to thank the Special Rapporteur for the important and comprehensive report.

Israel agrees that workers in the home-based long-term care sector face specific difficulties due to the nature of their work. Even with regulations and trainings, the supervision of employment conditions is very challenging due to the substantial power of the employer as the provider of both the workers' salary and their housing. This nature of exploitation is usually characterized by forced labor and sometimes even amounts to holding under conditions of slavery.

Mr. President,

In order to try to prevent such practices, Israel is forming bilateral agreements for recruitments of employees in the domestic workers field. These agreements regulate the procedure of recruitment in a transparent, formal and comprehensive way. Workers recruited under these agreements, receive a digital booklet in their language, as well as contact information of a call center in their language for complaints and further information.

Mr. President,

As rightly pointed out in the report, many victims do not complain to the authorities due to the risk of being arrested, detained and/or deported.

In Israel, victims of trafficking or slavery are eligible for at least a year of rehabilitation in dedicated shelters. In the shelters, they receive health care and psychosocial treatment, legal representation free of charge, and a special visa allowing them to work if they meet certain criteria. Victims can also submit an application to the dedicated forfeiture fund for trafficking and slavery victims. None of the services is contingent upon cooperation with law enforcement agencies.

Israel will continue its good cooperation with States to put an end to this disturbing phenomenon.

Thank you, Mr. President.