

## UN Human Rights Council 53rd Session, 28 June 2023

## Item 3: ID with SR on trafficking

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

Thank you, Mr Vice President.

Israel wishes to thank the Special Rapporteur for her important report and for the focus given to groups in vulnerable situations, including stateless, migrants and IDPs.

Israel continues to take an active and leading role in the global effort to combat human trafficking. We also continue to emphasize, in all actions and policies, the importance of vigilance and social inclusion to the increased vulnerability of persons belonging to specific groups such as women, children, foreign workers, LGBTQI persons, as well as persons with disabilities, asylum seekers and women and children from the Bedouin population.

Special focus is directed at preventing labor exploitation of Palestinian workers in Israel, and in particular the exploitative practice of illegal trade in work permits, that leads to violation of labor rights and exploitation.

Mr. Vice President,

Israel acknowledges that persons trapped in the cycle of prostitution require specific assistance. Therefore, Israel established a new program tailored for groups such as asylum seekers, Palestinian women and LGBTIQ+ persons, in prostitution, which focuses on providing mainly basic needs for survival. Another programme addressing the needs of trans persons was created, offering a flexible financial aid package for a wide range of needs including rent, clothing, vocational training and medical expenses.

Mr. Vice President,

Israel would like to ask the Special Rapporteur- what more can States do to motivate these groups of victims in vulnerable situations to seek help from the authorities without fear of negative implication due to their lack of formal status?

Thank you.