
UN Human Rights Council
53rd Session, 3 July 2023

**Panel: Role of digital, media and information literacy in the
promotion and enjoyment of the right to freedom of opinion and
expression**

Ms. Merav Marks, Adv.
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Thank you, Mr President.

The right to freedom of opinion and expression includes the freedom to seek, receive and impart information, as maintained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

However, the digital world, including media and new technologies; has brought many challenges to the exercise of human rights and these rights in particular. The spread of disinformation has severely impacted the ability to enjoy human rights. Not only by inciting hatred toward certain groups of society but also infringing on the information that is imparted by individuals, thus hampering their freedom of expression, among others.

Mr. President,

Israel believes that education is key in promoting and respecting all human rights. Education for all can be the bridge between different communities and individuals, can assist with closing the digital divide and could promote gender equality.

Therefore, Israel has developed an educational program aimed at integrating Digital Literacy in the school curricular, from the first grade.

The idea behind the program is to give children the wide range of technological abilities needed to be able to use the media in an effective manner. However, due to the challenges and risks that such knowledge can bring with it, the program includes, in the higher grades, knowledge about- the right to privacy, bullying online, ethical administration of information, protection of intellectual property, knowledge on help lines to assist in case of harm or threat, ability to identify cases of risk and vulnerability online, etc.

We want to ensure that our children are prepared and safe when entering the digital world.

Israel also has in place regulation to provide accessible digital services for persons with disabilities. In this regard, we would like to ask the panelists- what are good practices around the world for States to provide the knowledge of digital orientation for persons with disabilities?