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Israel

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My name is Ayelet Razin Bet Or, I am the Director of The Authority of the Advancement of the status of Women.

It is my honor to say that following the 25th anniversary of the authority, marked last month, the government established a new ministry, dedicated exclusively to the advancement of women.

The purpose of the ministry is to formulate and promote policies and activities that enhance women's status, strive for gender equality, eliminate discrimination against women, and primarily combat violence against women.

I was appointed to this position after serving for 5 years in the association of the rape crisis centers in Israel, which is an NGO in the leading front of eradicating sexual and gender-based violence in all forms.

In 2021 the Authority initiated an inter-ministerial team dedicated to drafting a National Action Plan pursuant to Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, to which Israel was one of the first countries to co-sponsor. The team's recommendations call for an action plan that focus on the following axes:

1. Protection of women against the various types of violence directed against them, in private and public spheres.
2. Representation and promotion of women from various population groups, with an emphasis on decision-making processes
3. Providing equal opportunities to women in all areas of life including: employment, economy, education, health and welfare.

4. Equal representation of women and adequate representation targeting Arab women, ultra-Orthodox women and women of Ethiopian descent.
5. Promoting gender mainstreaming among decision makers.

To respond to Germany's question, the Israeli government has invested considerable resources in combating violence against women, since there is an understanding that femicide is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to domestic violence.

In the past 5 years, the Knesset has passed **significant legislation** concerning the advancement of women, the fight against sexual and GBV and the promotion and protection of women's rights. the legislation, includes:

1. a law revoking guardianship rights from a parent who is indicted or convicted of a severe criminal offense against his child or partner;
2. a law regulating the preservation of rape kits to allow the filing of a complaint at a later stage;
3. a law determining the suspension of the professional license of a physician convicted of sexual offenses;
4. a law that grants victims of sexual offenses or of severe violent crimes the right to speedily claim "compensation" from the State;
5. a law that extends the statute of limitation of sexual offences;
6. And just lately, a law which broadens the protection of the mental treatment confidentiality in the legal process.

In addition, The Ministry of Welfare and Social Security launched a 24/7 national telephone hotline of social workers designed to provide information, counseling, guidance and initial care for victims of sexual and domestic violence.

In 2020, the Government funded a 5 year **national plan to fight domestic violence**, which enhanced the hotline and resulted in an immediate increase of 22% in the number of recipients of these services and also established the following services:

- 24/7 all year round **ALUMA centers**, a one stop treatment center, which provides primary treatment for victims of domestic violence, especially in areas where ultra-Orthodox and Arab communities are prevalent.
- **28 Domestic violence and sexual assault divisions** operated by experienced and specifically trained investigators and social workers.
- Furthermore, rehabilitation programs are available for convicted domestic violence offenders,
- witness protection programs for women at high risk
- and financial independence rehabilitation programs for traumatized women.
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Regarding women's participation in decision-making process, the Authority promotes implementation of training programs for women in order to encourage and promote **women's leadership** in the public sphere.

It further conducted a survey on **political gender violence** in social networks. Its results will be used to guide further actions to address this issue.

Following Government Resolution on the promotion of gender equality and gender mainstreaming in Government Ministries, the Authority has also launched a pilot program to examine Ministries activities and plans in terms of gender sensitivity.

In June 2022, the Advisory Committee to the National Security Council published a report on **gender mainstreaming** when formulating recommendations for national policy in various emergency situation. This led to the adoption of Government Resolution 1845 which will be incorporated into the Authority's program of work.

Finally, the government works to promote gender equality through various educational projects. Among them, a pilot for education to gender equality in kindergartens, in order to encourage children to fully fulfil their potential regardless of their gender and to disrupt stereotypical characteristics.

The establishment of the Ministry for the Advancement of Women, is another big step towards an era in which women of all groups and diversity populations will have their voices heard.