



Mission permanente d'Israël  
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies  
et des Organisations Internationales à Genève

משלחת ישראל  
ליד משרד האומות המאוחדות  
והארגונים הבינלאומיים בג'נבה

Check Against Delivery

Panel on discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and  
gender identity (res 17/19)

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Permanent Mission of Israel

to the UN, Geneva

Thank you,

Madame President,

Israel sponsored resolution 17/19 and welcome the convening of this panel on discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity. We thank the panelists for their valuable input and dedication and thank as well the High Commissioner for Human Rights for her commitment and the exceptional report presented today.

The HC report raises concerns of the nature and expanse of violence and discrimination against LGBT's worldwide, ranging from denying their basic legal rights, to the most disturbing violence, including rape, torture and murder. We fully agree with and support the recommendations contained in the report and request they be anchored in a resolution to be adopted by this council.

All UN member states have the obligations and the duty to prevent such violence and discrimination and to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, *de jure* and *de facto*. We call upon countries that retain laws that criminalize homosexuality to repeal such laws and to enforce the rule of law in cases of violence based on sexual orientation.

Madame President,

The prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is an important part of the Israeli legislation and may be found in several laws, such as *Patient's Rights Law*, *Equal Employment Opportunities Law* and *Prohibition of Discrimination in Products, Services and in Entry to Public Places Law*.

In recent years, there were numerous court judgments and decisions promoting the rights of homosexuals and same-sex couples in Israel and guaranteeing their enjoyment of full rights like any other citizen of the

state. Among those decisions, I would briefly mention the milestone ones of recognizing and registering a same-sex wedding certificates and acknowledgement of the same-sex spouses as common-law couple including issuing children adoption orders. In addition, on 2009, two Knesset Members (Israel's Parliament) initiated a political action group to support the struggle in the homophobia phenomena and to promote further appropriate legislation in this manner.

Furthermore, Educational and public awareness campaigns are carried out by civil society organizations in various educational and public spheres, from Kindergarten to University, to integrate basic concepts of gender identity and sexual orientation, so we would have a proper understanding of the reality of our world.

Madame President,

In conclusion, we wish to express our commitment and willingness to engage in all efforts aiming to combating all manifestations of discrimination and violence against LGBT's. A healthy and progressive society is a tolerant society free of discrimination, violence and "defamation" based on religious, racial, social, gender and sexual differences.

Thank you.