



21 June, 2019

Israel wishes to thank the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief for dedicating his next report to the very important and timely issue of antisemitism.

At the outset we would like to express our grave concern with the continuing rise in anti-Semitic incidents around the world. According to the Israeli Ministry of Diaspora Affairs anti-Semitism around the world reached record high in 2018, including the highest number of Jews that were killed in anti-Semitic events (13). These findings come to show the urgency in which this topic needs to be dealt with and we encourage the Special Rapporteur to include concrete recommendations in his upcoming report to combat this terrible phenomenon.

We are currently witnessing an alarming rise in antisemitism around the world. The Jewish people oppressed and persecuted throughout history, is again the target of prejudice, discrimination and violence.

As a Jewish state, the only one of its kind, Israel remains committed to the wellbeing and safety of Jewish communities around the world. The situation where Jews feel unsafe worldwide is unacceptable, and the root causes of antisemitism must be addressed.

Antisemitism has many forms, when in addition to the traditional forms of antisemitism based on religious bigotry and intolerance derived from extreme interpretations of Christianity and Islam, recent decades have seen the rise of a new form of antisemitism, based on the hatred of Israel and Zionism, associating all the evils of the world with the only Jewish state.

The Special Rapporteur should offer a typology of antisemitism, and propose recommendations to states as to how to combat them according to their specific characteristics.

In this regard we encourage the SR to use the materials published by the Israeli Ministry of Diaspora Affairs on the subject, which can be found in the following links:

<http://antisemitism.mda.gov.il/en/international-reports/>

<http://antisemitism.mda.gov.il/en/office-publications/professional-publications/>



Furthermore, Israel wishes to draw the attention of the Special Rapporteur to a number of recent publications prepared by organizations monitoring the issue of antisemitism around the world and in particular:

- The report by the Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry (www.kantorcenter.tau.ac.il)
- The report by the Coordination Forum for Countering (www.antisemitism.org.il)
- The report by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (www.fra.europa.eu)
- The report by the Anti-Defamation League (www.adl.org).

We wish to also highlight that special attention needs to be given to antisemitism online. It seems, according to these reports that the internet continues to be the main platform for hate speeches. In most states, the legislation has not yet adapted itself to the centrality of social media and therefore the ability to prevent and combat the abuse of this platform is inadequate.

It also appears that there is a growing awareness of the graveness of this phenomenon and some States seem to try and develop tools to prevent it including declarations, programs of education and amended legislation. These signs of progress must be encouraged and significantly enhanced in order to be able to address this issue.