

Statement by
H.E. Eviatar Manor
Permanent Representative of Israel
To the United Nations, Geneva

Before the
Committee on Rights of the Child

Implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the
Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography

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Mr. Chairperson, Distinguished Committee Members, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am honored to be here today to present the State of Israel's Initial Report concerning the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. On behalf of the Israeli delegation, I warmly welcome this opportunity to discuss Israel's efforts to fulfill its obligations under the Protocol, and to share some of our achievements, experiences, and challenges.

Israel acknowledges the Protocol's important goals and is fully committed to its implementation.

There are several Governmental Authorities in Israel which are responsible for the required activities under the Protocol : The National Anti-Trafficking Unit – Coordinating efforts to prevent sale of children, The Police Cyber Division and The State Attorney's Office – leading the struggle against child pornography, The Ministry of Public Security, Society and Crime Prevention Division – Metzila, together with other Ministries like the Police Youth Department, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services, and the Ministry of Education, leading the efforts against Child Prostitution.

Israel's Initial Report along with the Replies to the list of issues, provides comprehensive information on the measures Israel has taken to implement its provisions. This Report is the product of extensive internal consultations and efforts of all relevant Government Ministries and agencies. In addition, Non-

Governmental Organizations were also invited to submit comments prior to its compilation.

While much remains to be done in order to eradicate the worldwide phenomena of trafficking in children, child prostitution and child pornography, Israel considers its efforts to be successful.

For the last three years, Israel did not encounter any cases of sale of children and no cases of child sex tourism. Cases regarding exploitation of children, child prostitution and child pornography, are handled with great consideration for the best interest of the child, out of respect for human dignity, the right to personal autonomy over the minor's body and the right to privacy.

In recent years key Government Ministries developed several plans of action concerning the prevention of child prostitution and sale of children and they will be presented by our professional delegation from Israel .

I am pleased to present our delegation of experts from all relevant Ministries in Israel. They have the ability to provide substantive responses to the Committee's List of Issues, to be considered along with Israel's report.

The members of our delegation are:

- Ms. Hila Tene-Gilad, Director – Human Rights and Relations with International Organizations, Ministry of Justice .
- Dr. Merav Shmueli- Acting Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, Ministry of Justice.

- Ms. Zipora Nachshon Glick- Director of services for adult and young adult at risk, Ministry of social services.
- Mr. Itzhak Almog, Commander- Head of The National juvenile delinquency Department, investigation and intelligence Division, Israel Police.
- Mr. Omer Caspi, Deputy Head of Mission, Permanent Mission of Israel to the UN.
- Ms. Orit Kremer, Legal Advisor to the Permanent Mission of Israel to the UN.

Mr. Chairperson, distinguished Committee Members,

We are here today with the firm belief that this dialogue with the honorable committee is an important tool for Israel to re-appraise, develop and improve mechanisms for the better implementation of Children's rights.

With your permission Mr. Chairperson, I will now give the floor to my distinguished colleague, Ms. Hila Tene-Gilad from the Ministry of Justice.

Thank you.