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## **National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21\***

**Israel**

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\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

## **I. Introduction, methodology and consultation process**

1. Israel welcomes its review under the 4th cycle of the UPR, and stands ready to engage in an open dialogue with States, to learn from and contribute to the international community in order to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms. Israel is a democratic state, where the rule of law and the respect for human rights are fundamental. This commitment is reflected, among others, in Israel's serious and constructive engagement with international human rights mechanisms<sup>1</sup>, including the UPR.<sup>2</sup>
2. The State of Israel is honored to present this National Report, prepared by the MFA<sup>3</sup>, in collaboration with the MOJ<sup>4</sup> and all relevant Ministries<sup>5</sup>, in accordance with HRC<sup>6</sup> Resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, in HRC Decision 17/119, as well as the Guidance Note published by the OHCHR<sup>7</sup>. It also gives due attention to the recommendations received during the 3rd UPR.
3. The Government maintains an open and direct dialogue with civil society and academia, particularly around UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies and UPR reporting processes. As reported in the previous UPR<sup>8</sup>, since 2012, the MFA and MOJ, together with the Minerva Center for Human Rights at the HUJI<sup>9</sup>, have convened a joint forum of state authorities with representatives of civil society and academia, where draft reports to the Treaty Bodies are circulated to the relevant NGOs for their comments prior to their submission and follow-up discussions are held following the publication of the concluding observations. This unique platform enables direct and informal discussions on current human rights issues.<sup>10</sup> Prior to submitting this report, five roundtable sessions took place, addressing the following issues: safe use of the internet by children; the rights to dignity, identity and privacy of LGBTIQ+ children; addressing sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls, including economic violence; violence against women in the Arab community; the response of law enforcement authorities to violence against women.<sup>11</sup>

## **II. Human rights infrastructure**

### **A. International human rights framework**

#### **1. International instruments**

4. Israel recognizes the critical role of international mechanisms in the promotion and protection of human rights at the national level. In that context, Israel is party to seven of the nine UN human rights core treaties, and constantly works to ensure that its legislation, regulations, case law and policies give effect to the rights recognized within them.
5. In addition, on October 11, 2018, Israel ratified the 2014 Protocol to the ILO<sup>12</sup> Forced Labor Convention of 1930, as part of its continuous commitment to combat and eradicate all forms of modern slavery, including forced labor.<sup>13</sup>
6. Furthermore, in 2021, Israel joined the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings – making Israel the first country outside of Europe who is not a member of the CoE<sup>14</sup>, to do so. Israel's joining the convention solidifies its strong commitment to fighting this phenomenon, and adds important tools to that end.<sup>15, 16</sup>

#### **2. Engagement and cooperation with the United Nations, international human rights mechanisms and other multilateral agencies and bodies<sup>17</sup>**

7. Since its last UPR, Israel has appeared before the following Treaty Bodies: CESCR<sup>18</sup> (October 2019), CERD<sup>19</sup> (December 2019) and the Human Rights Committee (March 2022).
8. In addition, Israel submitted the following reports to the TBs: Response to the List of Issues of the CRPD<sup>20</sup> (May 2022); Follow-up to the oral presentation by the State of Israel before the CESCR<sup>21</sup> concerning the implementation of the ICESCR<sup>22</sup> (March 2022); the second Update of Israel's Core Document (January 2021); Follow-up to the oral presentation before the CEDAW<sup>23</sup> (January 2020); the sixth periodic report concerning the implementation of the CAT<sup>24</sup> (December 2020); the fifth periodic report concerning the

implementation of the ICCPR<sup>25</sup> (October 2019); the third periodic report concerning implementation of the CRC<sup>26</sup> and its Additional Protocols (October 2019).

9. Despite the notorious and ongoing discriminatory treatment to which Israel is subjected in multiple international human rights fora, it remains committed to engaging with international human rights mechanisms as part of its unwavering support for the promotion and protection of human rights, both domestically and globally. Therefore, this institutional bias must be addressed, not only in order to correct the continuing distortion of Israel's human rights record for political ends, but first and foremost to uphold the very credibility and authority of the international human rights system itself.

10. This institutional bias has been manifested, for example, in Israel being the only country in the world with a dedicated HRC agenda item; a disproportionate number of condemnatory resolutions and special sessions, about a third of all those issued by the Council; and the only country subjected to a permanent COI<sup>27</sup> with an effectively unlimited mandate.

11. As stated, the singling out of Israel in such a manner does not, and will not, prevent its continued engagement with the UPR and other non-politicized human rights mechanisms, nor its ongoing relations with a variety of other international human rights and humanitarian bodies. However, this does not diminish the fact that the unfair treatment of Israel by UN human rights mechanisms, writ large, remains a stain on their reputation and authority and Israel takes this opportunity to place on record the urgent need for its discriminatory treatment in these bodies to be brought to an end.

12. Since 2018, Israel has hosted several senior officials for such engagement, including, *inter alia*, the Special Representative of the UNSG<sup>28</sup> for Children and Armed Conflict, Virginia Gamba, in December 2022; the Assistant SG for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator at OCHA<sup>29</sup>, Ursula Mueller, in January 2020; Ms. Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the UNSG for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of the UNDRR<sup>30</sup>, in January 2023.<sup>31</sup>

13. Moreover, Israel engages in dialogue and consultations with Special Procedures and TBs. It has made submissions to discussions convened by TBs in the preparation of General Comments/Recommendations and routinely responds to questionnaires from mandate holders on topics such as rights of persons with disabilities, older persons, right to health, privacy, freedom of religion, violence and discrimination against women and girls, or based on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI), among others.<sup>32</sup>

### 3. Leadership in the international arena

14. Israel has been at the forefront of many issues relating to human rights at the multilateral level.

15. Firstly, it has promoted the rights of persons with disabilities, pushing for mainstreaming their inclusion and accessibility, as well as the rights and agency of children, the rights of older persons and the fight against ageism, advocating for women and girls' rights and the promotion of substantive gender equality, among others.<sup>33</sup>

16. Moreover, Israel is fully engaged in combating and preventing sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment through all UN organizations, agencies and programs.<sup>34</sup> It is a founding member and co-chair of the Group of Friends to Eliminate Sexual Harassment (GoFESH) in NY. Since March 2021, upon Israel's initiative, the group is also active in most Geneva-based organizations, having expanded its scope and been renamed to Group of Friends to Eliminate Sexual Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse. It works to raise awareness to the issue and push for reforms, by raising it as a matter of priority in all *fora*.<sup>35</sup>

17. In 2021, Israel chaired the core group of its first resolution at the World Health Organization (WHO) on "The highest attainable standard of health for persons with disabilities"<sup>36</sup>, which was guided by a human rights-based approach and promoted the adoption of the social model of disability regarding health. Additionally, this year, Israel has led a resolution on "Strengthening rehabilitations in health systems"<sup>37</sup>, guided by gender-age-disability-sensitive perspectives, and focusing on rehabilitation as a basic component of Universal Health Coverage.<sup>38</sup>

18. In September 2022, Israel hosted the WHO European Region's meeting, convening hundreds of experts and over 30 health ministers. In this context, and following the Geneva resolution, Israel led negotiations on a European Framework for Action for health of persons with disabilities.

19. In 2022, Israel presented its first ever resolution at the HRC, together with Germany, Greece and Argentina, on "Countering cyberbullying"<sup>39</sup>, which was adopted by consensus. This resolution calls for a panel on cyberbullying against children, and requests the OHCHR to prepare a report on cyberbullying against persons with disabilities - providing for the participation of children and persons with disabilities, respectively.<sup>40</sup>

20. Finally, two highly qualified Israelis were elected as members in the TBs - in 2020, Ms. Odelia Fitoussi, an activist and civil society leader, was elected to the CRPD, and in 2022, Prof. Daphna Hacker was elected to the CEDAW.

## **B. The protection and promotion of human rights at the national level**

### **1. Domestic framework and institutions for promotion and protection of human rights<sup>41</sup>**

21. Israel, following its longstanding commitment to ensuring the protection of human rights at the domestic level, has affirmed the validity of human rights in its internal law, through a plethora of legislation - first and foremost the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty and Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation, as well as through binding Supreme Court decisions covering all fields of human rights.<sup>42</sup>

22. Several national institutions are tasked with promoting human rights and monitoring the implementation and respect of the State's human rights obligations. In recent years, the State Comptroller and Ombudsman has addressed Israel's adherence to the various human rights treaties, and conducted auditing activities in these regards. For example, this office has published audits on the government's policies in the following areas: rights of children in the online arena; rights of Holocaust victims to compensation; non-exhaustion of social rights; operation of medical committees of the National Insurance Institute; prevention of domestic violence; technological applications for contact tracing during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the Ombudsman also receives and examines complaints concerning violation of human rights in the public service and monitors the rectification of the violations found, thus contributing to protecting the rights of individuals who file complaints, and also leading to changes that promote human rights on a broader scale.

23. Additional national institutions that work to promote and protect human rights within their scope are the Unit for the Coordination of the Fight Against Racism<sup>43</sup> ("UCFAR"), the Authority for the Advancement of the Status of Women ("AASW")<sup>44</sup>, the Commission for Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities ("CERPWD")<sup>45</sup>, NATU<sup>46</sup>, and the Commission for Equal Employment Opportunities ("CEEO")<sup>47</sup>.

24. In this reporting period additional institutions were established, dedicated to the rights of children and youth, as detailed below at Section II(B(4)).

25. Furthermore, an inter-ministerial team, headed by the MOJ's Deputy Attorney-General (International Law), works to review and implement concluding observations of TBs, leading to significant legislative and policy changes.

### **2. Equality and non-discrimination<sup>48</sup>**

26. The values of equality and non-discrimination are cornerstones of Israel's policies and principles, and as such, have been promoted in every field through a plethora of measures.

#### *(a) General policies promoting equality*

27. Public policy in Israel is evidence-based. For this reason, the detailed data on Israel's society collected and analyzed by the Central Bureau of Statistics ("CBS") is a valuable tool for revealing the needs of persons belonging to different groups and localities, thus promoting the reduction of social gaps. The CBS has developed expertise in collecting disaggregated data by gender, age, religion, nationality, disability, as well as data on SOGI issues and domestic violence. Since 2019, the CBS has been developing a 'Diversity Index' - which

provides a simple, centralized database for policy-planning in regards to promoting equality and fixing gaps.

28. The CEEO operates to eliminate discrimination and implement the values of equality and diversity in the Israeli labor market.<sup>49</sup> It focuses on five population groups that suffer from employment inequality: Arabs, ultra-Orthodox Jews, persons of Ethiopian descent, women, and persons over the age of 45. Among its main activities: since 2022, editing a voluntary index of diversity in businesses, collecting data and conducting research in order to allow for comparison and identification of trends. Since 2017, the CEEO also grants a Badge of Diversity in Employment to businesses that employ women, with emphasis on women in vulnerable situations (such as Arab or ultra-Orthodox women, women with disabilities, single mothers, immigrant women or women above the age of 45).<sup>50</sup>

29. In October 2019, the Israel Police established a Unit for Gender Equality and Cultural Diversity, with the aim of coordinating all aspects of gender equality and cultural diversity within the Police.<sup>51</sup> This Unit, which relies on focal points in each district, is responsible for advising the Police Commissioner on these issues, collecting information and promoting awareness about them. It is also responsible for promoting the representation of all groups of Israel's populations within the Police in all ranks and positions, by identifying and removing barriers to diversity. In addition, the unit operates to prevent sexual harassment and discriminatory behavior by, *inter alia*, providing information and making it accessible to all, drafting and/or updating relevant procedures, setting persons in charge of handling sexual harassment complaints, and facilitating the filing of complaints.<sup>52</sup>

30. The Government has made efforts to provide equal health services to all without discrimination. In 2022, the Ministry of Health (MOH) reiterated<sup>53</sup> the principle of equality, provided training programs to eliminate discrimination in health institutions, and appointed a Commissioner for Prevention of Health Inequality.<sup>54</sup> The Government also prioritizes the appropriate allocation of resources through the "National Priority" budgetary mechanisms. During the COVID-19 pandemic, representatives of minority communities were embedded in the national emergency operations center to guide communication with these populations and ensure adequate access to medical care and vaccines.<sup>55, 56</sup>

31. In order to promote integration of the ultra-Orthodox population in higher education institutions, the Council for Higher Education ("CHE") offers specialized gender-separated study tracks<sup>57</sup>. On July 12, 2021, the High Court of Justice ("HCJ") addressed the gender separation in academic studies, and in a majority ruling, upheld<sup>58</sup> the CHE's authority to permit gender-separated study tracks, in order to improve the integration of this population. However, the Court clarified that the prohibition of gender separation in public spaces of *campi* must be enforced, and emphasized that policies that exclude female lecturers in male-only tracks is unlawful discrimination that must be halted immediately.<sup>59</sup>

(b) *Gender equality and advancement of women*

32. Israel has been committed to gender-based equality throughout its existence, reaching back to the enactment of the Equal Rights for Women Law, 5711-1951 just three years after the establishment of the State of Israel.

Gender parity and representation<sup>60</sup>

33. In recent years, Israel has made great strides in advancing equality in women's participation in the public sphere.<sup>61</sup> Recent governments consisted of considerable percentages of women, including, at one point, 50% of all ministerial roles. There has also been a significant increase in female representation in the judicial system. As of December 2021, out of 825 Judges in total, 439 (53.2%) were women. In the Supreme Court, 6 out of 14 justices are women, including the President of the Supreme Court, Justice Esther Hayut. Furthermore, three out of the last four Presidents of the Supreme Court were women, as well as the current Attorney-General and Military Advocate-General.

34. On January 10, 2019, the HCJ ordered<sup>62</sup> the 'Agudat Israel' political party<sup>63</sup> to remove from its by-laws the rule that only men could represent the party in election processes.

35. Government Resolution No. 454, from October 2020, noted that despite efforts to employ women in 50% of senior positions in the Civil Service, only 44% of senior positions were held by women. On that occasion, the Government adopted further procedures to achieve this initial goal. For example, the AASW created a database of highly qualified women, which assists the Civil Service in hiring relevant candidates. As of December 2022, there were 2,127 women in the database, and 45 ministries and governmental authorities had requested recommendations for candidates for 54 positions (out of those, 73% for senior positions), and 11 women had been hired as directors of governmental companies. Also pursuant to said resolution, the Government reviews the representation levels of women regularly. Following the measures described above, in 2021, the rate of women in senior positions in the Civil Service increased to 45%<sup>64</sup>. The rate of women has increased to 54% of intermediate senior positions, and 62% of all employees in the Civil Service.

36. Additionally, in September 2021, the CSC published a commissioner circular instructing all Government Ministries to designate senior positions for women in order to increase their rate. Since August 2020, Amendment 6 to *Male and Female Workers (Equal Pay) Law, 5756-1996* mandates any public or private body employing over 518 people, or other organizations detailed in the law, to issue two annual reports signaling the pay gap between men and women, and to notify the employees about the pay gaps in the group they belong to.

37. In November 2021, the AASW established an inter-ministerial team dedicated to drafting a National Action Plan pursuant to UNSC Resolution No. 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

38. The Government enhanced the enforcement of the prohibition of polygamy, and continues to provide legal aid to women and children in this context. A dedicated program addresses polygamy in the Bedouin community.<sup>65</sup>

#### Elimination of violence against women and girls<sup>66</sup>

39. The phenomenon of sexual and gender-based violence is an urgent challenge in modern society, which Israel is fully committed to tackle domestically and internationally through continuously developing policies that address all stages of the problem.<sup>67</sup> Among the measures adopted and executed during the reporting period are:

40. In March 2018, legislation was passed<sup>68</sup> authorizing the police to block a publicized telephone number, if there are reasonable grounds to believe that it is used for the commission of crime, including by the internet or other technological means. This further enables the blocking of telephone numbers publishing prostitution services, including that of minors.

41. On December 31, 2018, the Knesset legislated<sup>69</sup> the prohibition of consuming sexual services, following the so-called “Nordic Model”. According to the Law, the consumption of prostitution services is an administrative offense that includes also the presumption that presence in a location used for prostitution implies the purpose of consumption of such services. The Law also authorizes the State Attorney’s Office to criminally indict an offender, which subjects them to a fine of up to 75,300 NIS<sup>70</sup>. Alongside the legislation, the Government<sup>71</sup> charged the NATU with coordinating support services for women leaving the cycle of prostitution and tracking the Law’s progress.

42. In November 2020, the Government tasked<sup>72</sup> the Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs (MOLSA), with formulating a national plan against domestic violence, improving coordination in this effort and facilitating the identification and treatment of victims.

43. In December 2020, legislation was passed<sup>73</sup> stipulating that a parent who is indicted or convicted of a severe criminal offense will have guardianship rights over their children revoked, pursuant to the conditions set out in the Law.<sup>74, 75</sup>

44. On 14 March 2022, legislation was passed<sup>76</sup>, regulating the preservation of test samples of sexual offense victims, and establishing the duty to preserve samples for 50 years, thus enabling victims to make use of them when choosing to file a complaint at a later stage.

45. On 9 June 2022, legislation was passed<sup>77</sup>, providing for the suspension of the professional license of a doctor convicted of sexual offenses.

46. On 6 July, 2022, legislation was passed<sup>78</sup> granting victims of sexual offenses or of serious violent crimes the right to speedily claim “intermediate compensation” from the State, who would take the burden of seeking reimbursement from the perpetrators.

47. On July 7, 2022, legislation was passed<sup>79</sup>, extending the period of limitation for civil claims grounded on sexual offenses.

48. On July 10, 2022, legislation was passed<sup>80</sup>, broadening the confidentiality regime, in the context of judicial procedures, of information regarding psychological or social treatment undergone by victims of sexual offenses.

49. Centers for domestic violence victims, which offer protection and treatment, as well as legal assistance and relevant social services, were established in Acre, Haifa, Tel Aviv-Jaffa and Be'er-Sheva. The Police is evaluating the use of electronic monitoring of persons with restraining orders against them in the context of domestic violence, as a means to protect potential victims, following a pilot program conducted in 2018.

50. See paragraph 29 for information on the police unit tasked with addressing complaints of sexual harassment.

51. With regards to addressing economic violence by intimate partners against women, there is still no legal definition of this phenomena and therefore the extent of services that can be offered by public authorities in response, as well as remedies from the courts, remain limited. However, Israel recognizes this challenge and, accordingly, social workers in MOLSA centers for domestic violence victims are trained to recognize the phenomenon, even when there has not been physical violence. A number of projects seek to address it, for example, by empowering women and developing skills to achieve economic independence, and offering monetary benefits to help liquidate debts.

(c) *Eliminating racial discrimination*<sup>81</sup>

52. The State of Israel condemns all forms of racial discrimination and maintains a consistent policy prohibiting such discrimination, including through numerous legal provisions that enshrine values of human dignity and equality.<sup>82</sup> The judicial effort in this regard is guided by the Supreme Court, which plays a pivotal role in developing jurisprudence, strongly relying on the principle of equality and non-discrimination as a constitutional principle, embodied in *Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty*.<sup>83</sup>

53. In January 2019, new legislation<sup>84</sup> defined a racist motive or hostility toward a public as an aggravating circumstance in a murder offense. The explanatory notes of the legislation note that murder in these circumstances justifies the severest punishment - mandatory life imprisonment.

54. Due to the substantial increase of instances of hate speech on the internet and in social media platforms, further policy has been developed, combining enforcement efforts with raising public awareness and clarifying the "red lines" of legitimate public discourse. Promptness is also a priority, with indictments being filed within one month, parallel to the provision of information to the public on the steps taken.

55. In May 2020, following prosecution and trial, the perpetrator of the Duma arson attack<sup>85</sup> was convicted for his crimes and severely sentenced, including multiple counts of murder, attempted murder, and arson, all within the context of an act of terrorism.

56. The UCFAR was established in February 2017, and its roles include coordinating government activity on the matter, receipt and referral of complaints and more. Since then, it has appointed an advisory public council and over 70 supervisors for prevention of racial discrimination across government bodies, promoted the establishment of a civil society forum on the issue, and addressed hundreds of complaints yearly. It has also promoted policy changes for recognizing discriminatory practices and norms and eradicating them, in particular in the fields of labor, education, and law enforcement. Such reforms included establishing a dedicated police unit<sup>86</sup>, prosecuting government employees responsible for racist actions and statements, offering training programs for government employees, creating joint programs of governmental and municipal authorities, and more.<sup>87</sup> At this point, the UCFAR's responsibilities and authorities rest on administrative decisions.

57. Finally, Israel prioritizes promoting understanding, tolerance and coexistence between its various communities. Examples of projects aimed at promoting these values include training for teachers, including seminars on human rights and equality; programs for pupils including education against racism; the Arab-Jewish Orchestra; and programs to promote tolerance and coexistence in kindergartens and through art. The "Israeli Hope" program offers acknowledgement by the President of Israel to schools that have made significant contributions to education and integration in the country.

### 3. Rights of specific groups

#### (a) *Rights of the Arab and Bedouin minorities*<sup>88</sup>

58. The State of Israel is committed to counter the challenges faced by the Arab community, which comprises roughly 20% of its population and includes sub-groups such as Bedouins and Circassians, and different religious affiliations such as Muslim, Christian and Druze. The State has put forward various policies to reduce gaps among the different groups in the society. While challenges persist in all fields, especially with regards to economic and social rights, the last years have seen significant improvements.<sup>89</sup>

59. In the labor market, Arab men and women still encounter challenges and are faced with barriers and a lower employment rate than the general population. For example, in the first quarter of 2020, 39.5% of Arab women were employed, about half of the overall employment rate of women, and the average wage of Arab women currently stands at approximately 65% of the average wage of women. Efforts and the resources invested in order to raise the low participation rate are starting to materialize. Between 2012 and 2019, the rate of Arab employees in the high-tech industry increased by 190%. The rate of Arab students integrating in high-tech professions also increased by over 104%. The participation rate of women from the Bedouin population increased from 11% in 2000 to 37.3% in the first quarter of 2020, a significant growth of 240%.

60. In order to eliminate gaps in education, 50 centers of preparation for the Psychometric Entrance Test (PET) were opened in Arab localities, aiming to raise the rate of Arab students in higher education institutions. The PET is also evaluated for cultural fairness and sensitivity, with the Arabic version of the test being drafted by native Arabic speakers. Designated programs by the CHE aim to provide information, guidance and support to Arab students, while the "Irtka" program provides scholarships for first degree students from low socio-economic backgrounds. Other policies include merit scholarships for Arab graduate students, and promoting the admission of academic staff members from Arab society in institutions of higher education.<sup>90</sup>

61. Legislation provides for an obligation to ensure adequate the representation of Arabs, Druze and Circassians in the Civil Service<sup>91</sup>. Procedures in place guarantee hiring quotas, and have led to a steady increase in the rates of Arab, Druze and Circassian civil servants. As of December 2021, 13.9% of all public servants were from the Arab population, as opposed to 10.1% in 2016, and 6.17% in 2007. 45% of Arab civil servants are women, which also indicates a positive trend.

62. In recent years, major programs for development and empowerment of the Arab community have been adopted, especially the following Five-Year Plans for the years 2022-2026:

(a) Government Resolution No. 292<sup>92</sup> regarding a "Five-Year Plan for the Arab population" allocates 26.5 billion NIS<sup>93</sup> to the socio-economic development of the Arab communities, including Bedouin localities in the North and the South.

(b) Government Resolution No. 550<sup>94</sup> approved a plan entitled "Tkadum – Progress", to reduce gaps between the Arab community and the general population, and promote prosperity and full integration in society. It has a total budget of approximately 30 billion NIS<sup>95</sup>. Following comprehensive inter-ministerial work, it built on the previous 5-year plan<sup>96</sup> and broadened its scope to address new areas, such as additional health<sup>97</sup> and welfare issues, care for the elderly population and solitude relief, optic-fiber deployment and more. It also allocated 2.6 billion NIS to planning and zoning, providing for tens of thousands of housing units in Arab localities, urban renewal and more.



(c) Government Resolution No. 549<sup>98</sup> established a plan to address the serious problem of crime and violence among the Arab community, aiming to increase personal security and safety of all citizens and of Arab citizens and residents in particular, increase the trust of the Arab public in the law enforcement authorities, and dismantle criminal organizations. The Government allocated approximately 2.4 billion NIS<sup>99</sup> to the program, which combines “classic” law enforcement activities, such as improving policing and financial intelligence, together with measures such as expanding the use of Community Courts, empowering the Arab population to deal with regional violence and condemn violence and crime. Moreover, an inter-ministerial team was established, chaired by the MOJ, to oversee the execution of the plan and examine legislative amendments, as well as promoting the rights of victims of crimes.

63. On 5 January 2022, legislation was passed<sup>100</sup>, adjusting the formal requirements to connect a residence built without a permit to an electrical infrastructure, conditioned to the submission of a sustainable plan, or to an order by the Minister of Interior if certain conditions are verified. This amendment, adopted after years of criticism by representatives of the Arab population, addresses thousands of homes built in Arab localities without permits that would otherwise be unlawfully and irregularly connected to electricity, at times in a life-threatening manner.<sup>101</sup>

64. Special efforts have been dedicated to planning housing solutions for the Bedouin population in the Negev - thus opening the door to maximizing the provision of public services that would fulfill basic rights of the members of this group, including the rights to adequate housing, health, education, water and sanitation, among others. The work on planning housing solutions for this population is nearly completed. In this process, the Government has placed special emphasis on the participation of the Bedouin population, by engaging Bedouin representatives and community councils, working collaboratively to understand the needs of the community and find appropriate provisions for the Bedouin society. An example of new planning is the expansion of the village of Umm-Batin, with an estimated cost of 1 Billion NIS<sup>102</sup>. Plans for the expansion of other localities, including the city of Rahat, are underway. The Government is encouraging movement to regularized localities by providing financial benefits, including free or low-cost land plots and compensation for demolition of unauthorized structures. Over 60% of residents in unauthorized areas will be able to remain in their homes after they become regularized. The Government's policy is to provide residential options in recognized localities through regulation of existing unauthorized villages or by encouraging relocation with financial and land incentives.<sup>103</sup>

(b) *Rights of persons with disabilities*<sup>104</sup>

65. Israel is proud of its achievements regarding the protection and promotion of human rights for persons with disabilities and remains committed to promoting a disability rights agenda, domestically and internationally<sup>105</sup>. Israel devotes tremendous resources in order to ensure equal rights to persons with disabilities, to fulfill their potential and maintain their dignity and freedom.

66. On June 3, 2022, the Knesset passed the *Social Services for Persons with Disabilities Law, 5782-2022*, which includes in its aims reference to the principles of the CRPD. It was drafted by the MOLSA in consultation with academia, persons with disabilities and other CSOs. The basket of services and solutions to which persons with disabilities are entitled, which will be detailed by regulations to be promulgated, will be provided in order to promote persons with disabilities' independent and autonomous life and their integration into the community, as well as their own role in choosing the appropriate services. The law will enter into force in January 2024, and includes a specific budget for its implementation.

67. On July 2, 2018, Amendment No. 11 to the *Special Education Law 5758-1998* entered into force, as part of a large-scale reform of the system of placement of children with disabilities in educational institutions.<sup>106</sup> According to the amended Law, the pupil's parents, after receiving all the relevant information, decide whether to enroll their child in a general educational institution, or in a special education institution. The local placement committee has discretion to decide otherwise, in case the parents' decision carries substantial risk of harming the child's or others' wellbeing. Absent a preference of the parents, the default

choice is given to placing the child in the general educational system. Furthermore, the Law as amended stipulates services to which the pupil with disabilities is entitled, to be provided based on *their* cognitive, emotional, linguistic and social abilities.

68. According to this Amendment, for various reasons, the services provided for pupils in special education and for pupils mainstreamed in the general education system are different (such as a longer school year, a longer school day and more treatments provided at the school itself in the special education system).<sup>107</sup>

69. Amendment No. 18 to the *Legal Capacity and Guardianship Law*<sup>108</sup> adopted a modern approach to decision-making by persons with disabilities, allowing them to make their own decisions to the best of their abilities and provides alternatives that aim to replace and limit the use of guardianship: supported decision-making and enduring power of attorney<sup>109</sup>. Israel has taken many steps to implement the law and realize its principles, including the appointment of approximately 700 supporters of decision-making<sup>110</sup> and the allocation of funds for integrating and disseminating information<sup>111</sup> among the general public and relevant professionals, in order to promote the alternatives to guardianship. The MOJ, together with the MOH, have conducted training of hundreds of relevant MOH social workers and medical professionals. Additionally, guidelines for social workers involved in legal procedures require them to first examine the possibility of appointing a supporter of decision-making, even in cases where a guardian's appointment was requested.

70. Further to what was previously reported<sup>112</sup>, additional accessibility regulations<sup>113</sup> have been promulgated mandating a variety of places and services to provide accessibility adjustments, after being drafted in consultation with representatives of persons with disabilities as mandated by the legislation. In 2018, regulations were adopted<sup>114</sup> regarding the adjustments that educational institutions shall provide, at the request of pupils with disabilities or their parents, in order to accommodate their needs, including in outdoor activities to the extent possible.<sup>115</sup> In 2021, regulations were adopted<sup>116</sup> to ensure that services, such as employment and housing, are accessible to persons with disabilities in times of emergency. In 2022, two more sets of regulations were adopted: the first<sup>117</sup> concerning the evacuation of persons with disabilities during emergencies that so require, and their accommodation in disability-adapted dwelling places, and the second<sup>118</sup> addresses the evacuation of populations, provision of medications, accessibility of information and translation services during times of emergency.

71. As of February 2023, the government has continued work on draft accessibility regulations, in order to promote the rights of persons with disabilities in the following areas: creation of a database of persons with disabilities to ensure accessibility of emergency services; accessibility of post-secondary and religious educational institutions; accessibility of private health services; and accessibility of public ways.

72. As reported in Israel's last UPR<sup>119</sup>, the CERPWD is charged<sup>120</sup> with enforcing compliance with these accessibility obligations through administrative-criminal means (accessibility orders) and via civil lawsuits. It also conducts training of officials, awareness raising campaigns, and other means, including advancing legislation to further the rights of persons with disabilities.

73. In June 2022, new legislation<sup>120</sup> substantially broadened the powers of prosecution and enforcement of the CERPWD by affording it two important powers: Firstly, it allows the Commission to file lawsuits against governmental authorities as proxy of a person who was discriminated against in the provision of a public service based on their disability, in violation of accessibility obligations. Additionally, the amendment established an administrative enforcement track of the accessibility and appropriate representation provisions under the Law, allowing the imposition of financial sanctions, including on public authorities. This authority will take effect one year following the date of publication of the Law, subject to the completion of necessary regulations and procedures.

74. The CERPWD has conducted several activities directed to minority groups within Israel, with the intention of promoting the rights of persons with disabilities exposed to intersecting forms of discrimination.<sup>121</sup>

(a) In the Arab community, several awareness raising activities on the rights of persons with disabilities were conducted: dozens of lectures, conferences and roundtables; courses for activists from the Arab minority; training for Muslim clergy members, participation in academic research, translation or subtitling of all media materials to Arabic, and even the production of a play in Arabic on the inclusion of children with disabilities that is to be performed 75 times throughout the country. Specific meetings and conferences also target the Bedouin community.

(b) Similar activities have been realized within the ultra-Orthodox Jewish communities, including culture-sensitive lectures and materials, training for professionals, and campaigns in radio stations directed to this public. The Commission has also engaged leading rabbis.

75. The Ministry of Culture and Sport conducts various activities designed to remove barriers facing persons with disabilities and encourage their participation in mainstream sports activities, and provides grants to promote activities designed for them, with an approximate annual budget of 23,750,000 NIS<sup>122</sup>. Furthermore, the Ministry for the Development of the Negev and the Galilee is building 20 accessible parks in the periphery, at the cost of 12 Million NIS<sup>123</sup>.

(c) *Rights of LGBTIQ+ persons*<sup>124</sup>

76. Israel steadfastly protects the rights of its citizens to live freely regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity, actively promotes the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons, and protects them from violence and discrimination.<sup>125</sup>

77. In 2019, the first openly LGBTIQ+ minister in Israel was appointed, followed by three openly gay ministers in the 35th Government (2020-21), and one in the 36th Government. Since January 2023, the Knesset has its first openly LGBTIQ+ Speaker.<sup>126</sup>

78. In February 2022, the MOH published Director General Circular No. 3/2022, prohibiting medical professionals from carrying out the harmful practices known as “conversion therapies”<sup>127</sup>. Citing the lack of evidence regarding the efficiency of such “treatments”, and moreover, the substantial evidence of harm caused by them, the circular bans medical professionals from offering, advertising or conducting these “therapies”, and subjects those who practice them to sanctions, including the loss of professional licenses and disciplinary procedures.<sup>128</sup>

79. Since before this reporting period, clinics dedicated to the health of the LGBTIQ+ community already existed in Tel Aviv-Jaffa<sup>129</sup>, but the last few years saw a decentralization of this service, so that every major city in Israel has a clinic for LGBTIQ+ health. Moreover, in September 2021, Ichilov Hospital was the first hospital in Israel to appoint a managing physician dedicated to LGBTIQ+ health, and was followed by Shiba hospital, which also appointed a dedicated staff member and opened a dedicated clinic to the community.<sup>130</sup>

80. In the field of welfare, the MOLSA allocated social workers dedicated to LGBTIQ+ persons in local social services’ divisions in over 100 local authorities, established Hebrew and Arabic hotlines which provide social aid to the LGBTIQ+ community, participated in an initiative providing labor training to LGBTIQ+ at-risk youth, and provided “emergency” accommodation for a 4-month period to LGBTIQ+ individuals in the “Pink Roof” emergency shelter. LGBTIQ+ persons affected by drug abuse are offered 18 month stays at a rehabilitation and treatment hostel. The Ministry also created a “Family clinic” that offers legal aid and couple counseling to LGBTIQ+ families. Other services focus on the unique needs of LGBTIQ+ persons belonging to specific groups (Arabs, ultra-Orthodox, religious, and transgenders), such as providing culture-sensitive and tailored group-guidance to these persons, managing support groups for religious LGBTIQ+ parents, and providing dedicated emergency housing and hostel services for Arab LGBTIQ+ individuals.

81. In October 2020, an inter-ministerial team was appointed by the MOJ and the MOLSA to examine the issues faced by the transgender community in relation to public services, and to offer solutions. The recommendations presented included increasing representation of the transgender community in the Civil Service, improving accessibility of governmental forms through gender-neutral language, and providing professional training for civil servants to

raise awareness of the challenges they face. Following these recommendations, the MOLSA created a program for counseling, directing, and accompanying transgender persons, and provided dedicated shelters for transgender persons involved in sex-work, besides additional services offered to the LGBTIQ+ community (see below, paragraphs 82 and 103).

82. Furthermore, in September 2022, the MOLSA published internal guidelines for social workers on how to properly address the needs of the transgender community. The guidelines provide instructions on the use of the correct pronouns while providing service to transgenders in person and in the Ministry's forms, allowing a person to use bathrooms and showers according to their gender identity, to receive a private room in out-of-home facilities, and more.

83. The MOH has issued a designated Directive to all hospitals and medical facilities in Israel concerning the treatment of intersex persons, including children, where consent and self-identification are cardinal principles.<sup>131, 132</sup>

84. Israel's judicial system, on all levels, has played a critical role in protecting the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons, with rulings that are often translated into broader policies. Among them:

(a) On December 12, 2018 the HCJ ruled<sup>133</sup> that adoptive same-sex couples had the right to be registered on the birth certificate of their adoptive children in "closed adoptions" (which disconnect the ties between the minor and his biological parents). The Court ruled that it is in the best interest of the child to have a solid family unit, and that the legitimacy of same-sex relationships cannot infringe upon the right of the child to be registered under their parents' names, including on their birth certificate.<sup>134</sup>

(b) On August 19, 2020, the Be'er-Sheva District Court sustained<sup>135</sup> a decision of a lower court against a printing business which refused to print pamphlets for the LGBTIQ+ Student Association, thus enforcing the legal provision forbidding discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

(c) In July 2021, the HCJ ruled that a legal provision<sup>136</sup> restricting surrogacy arrangements to heterosexual couples or single women was discriminatory against same-sex couples and single men, and therefore invalidated it. Following that, in December 2021, the MOH published a Director General Circular updating the procedure in place, requiring all surrogacy agreements to be conducted in a manner that does not allow for discrimination against same-sex couples or single men, pursuant to the Court's ruling.<sup>137</sup>

(d) In July 2021, the Tel Aviv-Jaffa Magistrate Court ruled<sup>138</sup> that addressing a transgender woman with male pronouns despite her requests to be addressed with female pronouns constitutes a criminal offense under the *Prohibition of Slander Law 5726-1965*, and awarded her financial compensation.

(e) In September 2021, the Tel Aviv-Jaffa Regional Labor Court ruled<sup>139</sup> that an employee was entitled to sick leave payment after gender reassignment surgery. Furthermore, it noted that the reference by the defendants to the plaintiff's gender reassignment surgery as a "cosmetic surgery", constituted an infringement of the plaintiff's dignity.

85. For information on the approach of the education system toward SOGI issues, see below at paragraphs 98-99.

86. In 2021, the Initiative for the Promotion of the LGBTIQ+ Community in Local Authorities was established - offering material support in municipal expenses by the Ministry for Social Equality ("MSE"), for the purpose of facilitating programs for the local LGBTIQ+ communities. The initiative currently supports 73 local authorities (comprising the majority of the country's population, 59%), with 31 more in stages of joining. Among the programs financed: holiday dinners for LGBTIQ+ persons with challenging family backing (or none), therapy and social support groups, meetings with the local community and awareness raising, training for local government servants themselves, as well as activities dedicated to transgender persons.

87. The MSE also promoted programs for religious LGBTIQ+ persons, including group meetings aimed at raising awareness and acceptance, as well as a dedicated program for anonymous support to religious LGBTIQ+ women.

#### 4. Children's rights<sup>140</sup>

##### (a) *New mechanisms*

88. Israel remains determined to protect children's rights and their welfare, and has acted vigorously to promote their rights. Besides being party to numerous treaties<sup>141</sup> and possessing robust policies and legislation on children's rights, during the current reporting period the State has created new protection frameworks to support and safeguard them.

89. In June 2022, the Government decided<sup>142</sup> to establish two new institutions on the rights of children and youth: 1) a Committee of Director-Generals of government ministries<sup>143</sup>, constituting a permanent forum for coordination of policy; and 2) the appointment of a new Government Coordinator for the rights of Children and Youth at the MOJ ("GCRCY"). These organs shall provide a coordinated, comprehensive and inclusive policy in the affairs of children, and promote a whole-of-government approach in the field, which also corresponds to a multidisciplinary and diverse understanding of children's needs, including educational, health, social, physical and emotional needs. They also recognize the importance of children's participation in the formulation of decisions and policies concerning them.

90. Prior to the appointment of the GCRCY, in 2018 an Inter-Ministerial Coordinator (IMC) was appointed in the MOJ for preventing children from coming into conflict with the law<sup>144</sup>, by conducting professional consultations, training sessions, liaising with CSOs, and coordinating the activity of the Government bodies dealing with this issue. The IMC focuses on prevention and on promoting the continuity of treatment. Recently, the IMC established a youth forum where children can voice their views to the relevant public officials.

##### (b) *Child participation*

91. Recognizing the importance of children's agency and their participation in decision-making in accordance with the CRC, appropriate frameworks exist throughout Israel: not only in schools (915 elementary and secondary schools have active school councils) but also in local authorities, where children are included in municipal decision making in about 20 municipal parliaments. Instructed by MOE counselors, children participate in the city council and subsequently engage with municipalities and Knesset members on issues that may interest them. Furthermore, since 2020 the MOJ and the Youth and Pupils Council, together with the MOE and MFA have been conducting annual round tables on various issues such as: privacy, the rights of LGBTIQ+ children, on-line protection, climate change etc. in order to enhance the children's agency.

##### (c) *Protection of children online and offline*

92. In December 2018, new legislation was adopted<sup>145</sup> ordering the installation of cameras to protect the safety of toddlers placed in daycare, while preserving, to the extent possible, the dignity and privacy of all persons in these facilities.

93. The online sphere has manifested itself as a complex environment for children, bringing many opportunities for socializing and exercising rights such as education and culture, but at the same time, presenting many risks for children and exposing them to bullying, sexual abuse, and other forms of violence.

94. The Child Online Protection Bureau (Hotline 105) is a national program for the prevention of violence and crime against children and teenagers online<sup>146</sup>. It began operating in February 2018<sup>147</sup>, by providing a hotline that deals with any offense and abuse against children in the online realm, including sexual abuse, prostitution and cyberbullying. The calls are received by specially trained police officers, who rely on an inter-ministerial desk with experts on online child abuse from the MOE, the MOLSA, the MOH, the MPS and the MOJ, who are able to intervene swiftly and ensure that every call receives an appropriate and comprehensive response. In 2021 alone, the hotline handled more than 11,000 events, and during the reporting period - over 20,000, including a considerable increase during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thirty percent of incidents are sexual harassment.<sup>148</sup>

95. While the Israel Police, MOE, MOJ and other authorities have each adopted policies and mechanisms to prevent and counter sexual violence against children, the Government of

Israel has not yet adopted a national action plan on sexual violence against children, which could constitute a whole-of-government framework for efforts to combat the problem.

96. For programs by the MOE promoting dialogue and human rights, see above at paragraph 57.

97. For the new policies on inclusion and promotion of the rights of children with disabilities, see above at paragraphs 67-70.

(d) *LGBTIQ+ children*<sup>149</sup>

98. In October 2022, the MOE published draft guidelines on gender diversity in the education system, providing tools for teachers to provide an appropriate, sensitive and respectful response to LGBTIQ+ pupils.<sup>150</sup> This document specifies training for teachers and school staff, strategies on approaching gendered language and clothing, specific programs for minority groups, education on sexual violence and safety, and more.

99. The above mentioned Draft Guidelines have not yet been adopted in the form of a DG Circular, and are still under consideration.

100. Similarly to the welfare programs directed to LGBTIQ+ persons<sup>151</sup>, the MOLSA and MOH manage several programs specifically focused on LGBTIQ+ children at different levels of risk. For example, social workers have been allocated to respond to LGBTIQ+ adolescents at risk under a yearly budget of 1,400,000 NIS<sup>152</sup>. Mental health and psychosocial support are offered to LGBTIQ+ adolescents in partnership with an NGO through a 24/7 response line, and other programs offer tailored solutions for transgenders and Arab or ultra-Orthodox LGBTIQ+ children.

(e) *Children in detention*<sup>153</sup>

101. Israel is committed to fulfilling all of the rights and needs of all children held in Israel Prison Service (IPS) facilities, including their security, physical and mental health, and nutritional needs, according to their developmental stage.

102. The IPS ensures children under its authority are integrated into educational frameworks inside the prison, take external tests and complete ten or twelve school years (depending on the period of their imprisonment). Underage prisoners may also take part in therapeutic programs based on a holistic approach to develop anger management, interpersonal communication and healthy sexuality.

103. Prison staff involved with youth imprisonment undergo continuous training<sup>154</sup>, focusing on the unique needs of minors. The IPS staff training deals with certain principles of the CRC and their implementation in IPS facilities, including protection of children from discrimination; the best interest of the child; and children's right to be informed and heard in decisions concerning them.

104. The IPS also strives to engage the support and involvement of the underage prisoners' families in their rehabilitation process, pursuant to the child's best interest.

**5. Rights of older persons**<sup>155</sup>

105. A greater focus must be put, domestically and internationally, on the rights of older persons, who are often neglected by states' policies in spite of their specific vulnerabilities and needs, and their exposure to ageism and exclusion. Israel has strived to address the challenges they face, through policies developed under several ministries and authorities.

106. The MSE has defined this issue as a high priority, and dedicated several programs to it. It has trained dedicated advisers in local authorities, who have tools to respond to the needs of older persons on a local level, such as addressing solitude and creating leisure opportunities. One of the flagships of the Ministry is a call center in seven languages that provides information and assistance to older persons, removing barriers to the fulfillment of their rights and guiding them to obtain benefits and services they need, such as pensions, requesting nursing services or finding employment. The MSE also manages programs that support older persons with focus on searching for employment, preparing for retirement, and attending for healthcare needs.

107. The MOLSA has a dedicated “Senior citizens” unit to address their welfare needs. Several activity centers, such as social clubs and day centers, seek to address their needs for sociability and community, and offer occupation. Another program works on identifying cases of abuse and neglect, offering appropriate treatment and response, and also works on prevention and awareness raising.

108. Additionally, the MOLSA has dedicated programs for Holocaust survivors, including social events, free meals, material aid and more.

109. Furthermore, the State Ombudsman has directed a spotlight to the challenges faced by older persons, and has published several audit reports on the public services offered to them. He has also promoted awareness and accessibility through projects and outreach programs, as well as volunteering programs. In February 2023, the Ombudsman will publish a special report on the subject of challenges and goals in the provision of service for older persons - on the basis of broad base data collection over the last 3 years.

## 6. Religious freedoms<sup>156</sup>

110. The right to freedom of religion or belief is a fundamental facet of Israeli society, and comprises both the freedom of religion and the freedom to practice one's religion, worship and access one's holy places. The *Protection of Holy Places Law 5727-1967* safeguards all holy places from desecration and subjects violators to significant prison sentences.

111. Access to holy places and freedom of worship for members of all faiths is strictly guarded, with rare exceptions relating to the maintenance of public order or morals. Moreover, Israel places the utmost importance on facilitating worship by Muslims in their respective holy sites, including in Jerusalem. Within the Christian community, there are no holy sites at which freedom of access and worship is restricted by the State. The physical control over some parts of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and other Christian sites has been the center of centuries-old disputes between different Christian denominations, and give rise to a certain limitation on freedom of access to members of rival denominations; the State's consistent policy has been to refrain from intervening in such disputes.

112. Applicable Accessibility Regulations<sup>157</sup> require that places of worship and holy places be made accessible for persons with disabilities, thus fulfilling their right to freedom of religion. During 2020-2021 the CERPWD, in collaboration with religious Jewish NGOs, launched an awareness raising campaign about accessibility in synagogues and how to create an inclusive Jewish religious community. Similarly, in recent years the Commissioner held meetings with Muslim, Druze and Christian religious leaders with the aim of raising awareness on accessibility and inclusion in religious life.

113. In the world of work, Israel fully guarantees the right of employees to observe the holidays and days of weekly rest prescribed by their religion. While the national day of rest is Saturday (the Sabbath), non-Jews have the right to observe their own days of rest either on Friday, Saturday or Sunday. Employers are forbidden from refusing to hire an employee who, upon being hired, informs of their weekly day of rest for reasons of religious observance; nor may employers require an employee to work on the day of rest as a condition of employment. These restrictions apply with a few exceptions based on the requirements of public security, State security, public health or the provision of certain essential services.

## 7. Migration and the elimination of trafficking in persons

### (a) *Eliminating trafficking in persons (TIP)*<sup>158</sup>

114. Israel participates actively in the global efforts to eliminate trafficking in persons, one of the greatest human rights challenges in the context of migration.<sup>159</sup> Building on Israel's robust practice on the issue<sup>160</sup>, new activities include:

115. In September 2022, the Government adopted a new multi-year program (2022-2026) to combat TIP. The new program tasked NATU with the responsibility for the recognition mechanism of trafficking victims, creating a new unique inter-office model for this subject. Additionally, the program provides for a new protection model for victims, dedicated teams,

and long-term research on the program's effects, and also introduced new guidelines for proactive determination and prevention of TIP following the war in the Ukraine.

116. NATU also provides lectures and training programs for government authorities, academia, and civil society organizations on the subject of TIP. Among these awareness raising activities, we can highlight a seminar in June 2021 on Technical Assistance and Information Exchange based on EU guidelines, and a seminar on TIP in Israel in December 2021.<sup>161</sup>

117. As detailed in Israel's previous report<sup>162</sup>, a dedicated fund manages forfeited assets used in TIP and slavery and related penalties. The fund's committee manages budgets reaching 2,244,662 NIS<sup>163</sup>, while nearly half of this sum was allocated in 2021 alone. These resources were redirected to the protection of victims of trafficking (directly or through civil society organizations), such as professional training programs, mental health, dental treatments, and other medical services.<sup>164</sup>

118. Bilateral labor agreements signed by Israel provide additional safeguards against TIP<sup>165</sup>, ensuring greater transparency and protecting the rights of migrant workers. In order to prevent abuses, they receive booklets in their own language with information on their rights and contact details of the relevant authorities, and can access and file complaints at response centers operated by the government.

(b) *The policy on asylum requests and protection of asylum-seekers*<sup>166</sup>

119. The Population and Immigration Authority (PIBA) is responsible for examining asylum applications, in accordance with Israeli law and subject to the State's obligations under international law<sup>167</sup>. Extensive guidelines that are constantly updated are aimed at protecting the rights of asylum-seekers. Their latest update, from 21 March 2022, was drafted in consultation with the UNHCR<sup>168</sup> and civil society, and contains provisions specifically protecting children, persons with psychosocial disabilities, victims of torture, as well as guidelines on gender sensitivity.<sup>169</sup>

120. PIBA's personnel receive frequent training on issues that may arise in the course of their work, including training in cooperation with the UNHCR, the NATU and relevant Government Ministries. Recently, they had training in treating asylum-seekers suffering from PTSD.

121. Even if the temporary-stay permits held by asylum-seekers are not categorized as work permits, the State has a policy of not enforcing the prohibition of employing asylum-seekers, allowing them to work and be protected under local labor law.<sup>170</sup> They are also entitled to legal aid, and all children are integrated into the educational system.

122. With regards to healthcare, everyone is entitled to urgent medical care in medical emergencies. Additionally, asylum seekers and migrants are offered: preventive medicine for pregnant women; babies and infants including routine vaccinations and growth and developmental follow-up at family health centers; and more.<sup>171</sup> Designated clinics in Tel Aviv-Jaffa (where most asylum seekers reside) offer primary health care including routine check-ups, lab services and scans, as well as mental health and psychosocial support.

123. Following Russia's attack on Ukraine, guidelines and procedures were updated to ensure the proper treatment of Ukrainian citizens, and facilitate their employment, regardless of their possession of work visas or filing asylum requests.

## **8. Human rights in the context of promoting a sustainable development and facing climate change**

124. Israel is committed to cooperating to promote sustainable development and to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>172</sup>, and recognizes that climate change imposes a major challenge with far-reaching human rights impact.

125. In order to face this global challenge, Israel has set ambitious targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions<sup>173</sup>. The Government has also taken action on adaptation, establishing the CCAA<sup>174</sup>, which promises support and guidance to national and local



authorities on the impacts of climate change, especially on the most vulnerable areas and populations.

126. A new revised and comprehensive version of the draft comprehensive Israeli Climate Bill is currently under review of the Knesset<sup>175</sup>, and if legislated would formalize the targets mentioned above and help prepare for the climate crisis, among others, by establishing a Ministerial Committee on Climate Affairs headed by the Prime Minister, and an independent interdisciplinary committee of academic experts to advise decision makers.

127. In the Government's adaptation efforts, special attention is given to the peripheral and minority populations. Several programs and resources were allocated, including a subsidy for solar thermal water heaters, a project to renovate public housing buildings, and the allocation of NIS 550 million from the 2021-26 whole-of-government Arab Society Plan<sup>176</sup> to improve waste management and promote adaptation measures and resilience in these communities.

128. The MoEP<sup>177</sup> is also working with local authorities, the MOE and civil society organizations to promote environmental education in the formal and informal education systems, from pre-school until 12th grade. Furthermore, the MoEP is providing funding for environmental NGOs, in order to enable them to carry out various activities such as fighting the climate crisis, promoting recycling, reducing pollution, preserving biological diversity and promoting environmental innovation.<sup>178</sup>

## 9. Human rights in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

129. The COVID-19 pandemic has posed serious danger to the rights to life and to health, and also severely impacted all human rights. When facing the pandemic, the Government of Israel has been guided by a human rights-based approach.

130. The Government, led by the MOH, has made efforts to ensure that all persons would have access to the necessary medical treatments and vaccines, and to protect the most vulnerable.<sup>179</sup> In April 2020, the MOH adopted the "Fathers and Mothers' Shield" program, coordinating the protection of older persons and persons with disabilities residing in full-care facilities, through special epidemiological measures. The dedicated pandemic legislation from July 2020 also included special provisions<sup>180</sup> ensuring that the rights and needs of older persons, children and persons with disabilities would be taken into consideration<sup>181, 182</sup>.

131. The Prime Minister's Office hosted a series of inter-ministerial roundtable discussions on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the rights of members of vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, women, children and youth, which included the participation of representatives of relevant Government Ministries, as well as of civil society. Among the topics discussed were: accessibility and information sharing, active and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making, the effects of social restrictions on facilities and services dedicated to persons with disabilities, mental health, employment, education, domestic violence, sexual crimes against women, children and youth at-risk and more. The roundtable's findings and recommendations were published, and the Government took them into consideration when developing policy on the pandemic.<sup>183</sup>

132. For example, health measures often gave way to the needs of persons with disabilities. Several exemptions to travel restrictions allowed for persons with disabilities to receive visits from family members or guardians, receive medical treatment or caregiving services. All Government ministries have made efforts to ensure all COVID-19-related information and services are fully accessible to persons with disabilities, in Hebrew and Arabic.<sup>184</sup>

133. With respect to accessibility during times of emergency, see above at paragraph 70.

134. Specific policies ensured that migrants and asylum-seekers would not be left behind. In March 2020, the MOH instructed hospital administrators and other authorities to offer to them all COVID-19 tests, treatments and hotlines. All MOH information regarding COVID-19 and restriction measures were translated into the relevant languages, published online and circulated to reach these communities, and permits set to expire were extended automatically for workers and asylum-seekers. When vaccines were finally available, migrants were given full access to them, including through a specialized center in Tel Aviv-Jaffa. As of June 2021, the level of vaccination among migrants was comparable to the general Israeli population.<sup>185</sup>

135. In the social realm, the Government took steps to ensure that social security grants and benefits to older persons and persons with disabilities would not be negatively impacted by constantly changing relief policies. For example, in April 2020, workers over the age of 67 who were dismissed during the pandemic were offered a special social security grant.

136. The distress and loneliness in which older persons found themselves were a constant concern, and were addressed by several governmental initiatives. For example, the MSE established a national database of older persons, and together with the MOLSA, worked to ensure the provision of food and medicine, coordinated volunteer visits and more<sup>186</sup>.

137. Social distancing regulations disrupted the educational system, severely impacting children, and children with disabilities in particular, in their enjoyment of the right to education. While the special education system maintained in-person learning for most of the pandemic<sup>187</sup>, regular schools were closed or shifted to remote learning, affecting children with disabilities who were mainstreamed and suffered from special difficulties. In response to this issue, personal teaching aides were sent to these pupils' homes even during lockdown times in order to assist them, and as of March 2021, 2,811 computers were provided to 355 special education institutions.<sup>188</sup>

### C. New and emerging issues and challenges

138. Throughout this report, Israel has attempted to present a few of its many achievements in the promotion and protection of human rights. However, many challenges still remain, and gaps remain to be addressed, as can be seen at paragraphs 51, 56, 71, 73, 95, 99 and 139.

139. In the context of the Israeli Government's work on the rights of children in the online environment<sup>189</sup>, one important issue we identified is children's right to privacy. The Government has been conducting discussions on the matter and preliminary work has been done on draft legislation, but further areas need to be addressed, including the circumstances where it is appropriate for children to decide autonomously, or with the support of parents and guardians, as well as children publishing private information. This field also requires cooperation with the international community - since the domain of the internet has, by nature, transboundary implications.

#### Notes

- <sup>1</sup> See paragraphs 7-20.
- <sup>2</sup> See: recommendation 118.31 from the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Israel, 2018, UN Doc A/HRC/38/15 (henceforth: 3rd UPR).
- <sup>3</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- <sup>4</sup> Ministry of Justice.
- <sup>5</sup> This report is based on information supplied by around twenty governmental ministries, authorities or bodies, obtained through specific consultations for the UPR.
- <sup>6</sup> United Nations Human Rights Council.
- <sup>7</sup> “4th Cycle UPR National Report - Guidance Note”
- <sup>8</sup> Last National Report (A/HRC/WG.6/29/ISR/1), para. 3.
- <sup>9</sup> The Hebrew University in Jerusalem.
- <sup>10</sup> One of the aims of this project is to allow grassroots organizations, which may lack the resources to submit alternative reports, to participate in the UN HR reporting processes.
- <sup>11</sup> See: recommendations 118.91, 118.92, 118.93, 118.94, 118.95, 118.95, 118.96, 118.97, 118.98, 118.99 and 118.100, Israel's 3rd UPR.
- <sup>12</sup> International Labor Organization.
- <sup>13</sup> Entered into force for Israel on 11.12.2019.
- <sup>14</sup> Council of Europe.
- <sup>15</sup> Implementing targets 5.2 and 8.7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (UNGA Resolution A/RES/70/1).
- <sup>16</sup> See: recommendations 118.103, 118.104, 3rd UPR.
- <sup>17</sup> See: recommendation 118.35, 3rd UPR.
- <sup>18</sup> Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- <sup>19</sup> Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

- 20 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- 21 Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- 22 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- 23 Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.
- 24 International Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
- 25 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- 26 Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- 27 “The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel”, established by HRC Resolution A/HRC/RES/S-30/1.
- 28 United Nations Secretary-General.
- 29 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.
- 30 United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- 31 See: recommendations 118.118 and 118.119, 3rd UPR.
- 32 See: recommendation 118.15, 3rd UPR.
- 33 See: recommendations 118.105, 118.106, 118.107, 118.108, 118.109, 118.110, 118.111, 118.118, 118.119 and 118.126, 3rd UPR.
- 34 Implementing target 5.2, 2030 Agenda.
- 35 See: recommendations 118.106, 118.113, 118.114, 118.116, 3rd UPR.
- 36 Resolution WHA74.8, adopted by the World Health Assembly on 31.05.2021.
- 37 Resolution EB152/CONF./1, adopted by the WHO Executive Board on 30.01.2023.
- 38 Implementing target 3.4, 2030 Agenda.  
Also, see: recommendation 118.49, 3rd UPR.
- 39 HRC Resolution A/HRC/RES/51/10, adopted on 11.10.2022.
- 40 See: recommendations 118.118, 118.119 and 118.126, 3rd UPR.
- 41 See: recommendations 118.33 and 118.34, 3rd UPR.
- 42 See: recommendations 118.32, 118.47, 118.48, 118.49, 118.50, 118.51 and 118.200 from 3rd UPR.
- 43 For more information on the Unit's activities, see paragraph 56.
- 44 For more information on the Authority's activities, see paragraphs 35, 37.
- 45 For more information on the Commission's activities, see paragraphs 72-74.
- 46 For more information on the Unit's activities, see paragraphs 114-118.
- 47 For more information on the Commission's activities, see paragraph 28.
- 48 See: recommendations 118.47, 118.48, 118.49, 118.50, 118.51, 118.127, 118.128, 118.129, 118.130, 118.131, 118.133, 118.134 and 118.200, 3rd UPR.
- 49 Implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5, 9 and 10, 2030 Agenda.
- 50 See: recommendation 118.126, 3rd UPR.
- 51 Implementing targets 5.1, 5.c, and 10.4, 2030 Agenda.
- 52 For paragraphs 27-28 see: recommendations 118.102, 3rd UPR.
- 53 Through a MOH DG Circular.
- 54 Implementing target 3.8, 2030 Agenda.
- 55 See more on the policies towards migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic, at paragraph 134 below.  
See also: recommendations 118.49, 3rd UPR.
- 56 Implementing targets 3.8 and 3.d, 2030 Agenda.
- 57 According to the Knesset Research and Information Center, out of 13,390 ultra-Orthodox who studied in academic institutions in the 2019-2020 academic year, only 5,573 studied in the separate tracks.  
Within these tracks, 75% of the ultra-Orthodox students were women and 25% were men. In all fields of study, ultra-Orthodox women were the majority.
- 58 H.C.J. 8010/16 *Malka Na'ama Barzon et al. v. The State of Israel et al.* (12.7.21).
- 59 See: recommendations 118.48, 118.49, 3rd UPR.
- 60 See: recommendations 118.48, 118.52, 118.105, 118.106, 118.107, 118.108, 118.109, 118.110 and 118.111, 3rd UPR.
- 61 Implementing targets 5.5 and 5.c, 2030 Agenda.
- 62 H.C.J. 1823/15 *Tamar Ben-Porat v. The Party Registrar* (10.01.2019).
- 63 This is a Jewish ultra-Orthodox party.
- 64 An increase from the 40% noted in Israel's last National Report (paragraph 16).
- 65 See: recommendation 118.102, 3rd UPR.
- 66 See: recommendations 118.106, 118.107, 118.113, 118.114 and 118.116, 3rd UPR.
- 67 Implementing target 5.2, 2030 Agenda.
- 68 Blocking of Telephone Numbers for the Prevention of Offenses Law, 5768-2018.
- 69 Prohibition of Consumption of Prostitution Services Law (Temporary Provision and Legislation Amendment), 5779-2019.
- 70 Approximately 20,350 USD.

- 71 Government Resolution No. 4462 (13.01.2019).
- 72 Government Resolution No. 513.
- 73 Legal Capacity and Guardianship Law (Amendment No. 19) (Revoking the Guardianship of a Parent due to a Severe Criminal Offense) 5780-2020.
- 74 For information on the context of this legislation, see Annex A, paragraph 1.
- 75 See: recommendations 118.118 and 118.119, 3rd UPR.
- 76 Rights of Crime Victims Law (Amendment No. 15), 5782-2022.
- 77 Amendment to the Physicians Ordinance [New Version] (No. 13), 5782-2022.
- 78 Center of Collection of Fines, Taxes and Expenses Law (Amendment No. 25), 5782-2022.
- 79 Statute of Limitation Law (Amendment No. 7), 5782-2022.
- 80 Evidence Confidentiality Law (Mental treatment in criminal procedures regarding sexual offenses or serious domestic violence offenses) (Amendments), 5782-2022.
- 81 See: recommendations 118.32, 118.47, 118.48, 118.49, 118.50, 118.51, 118.55, 118.59, 118.62, 118.127, 118.128, 118.129, 118.130 and 118.131, 3rd UPR.
- 82 Implementing target 10.3, 2030 Agenda.
- 83 See: recommendation 118.200, 3rd UPR.
- 84 Amendment No. 137 to the Penal Law 5737-1977.
- 85 For more details on this attack by Jewish extremists against a Palestinian family, and the punishment imposed on the perpetrators, see Annex A, paragraph 2.
- 86 See paragraph 29.
- 87 See: recommendation 118.91, 118.92, 118.93, 118.94, 118.95, 118.95, 118.96, 118.97, 118.98, 118.99, 118.100 and 118.200, 3rd UPR.
- 88 See: recommendations 118.47, 118.48, 118.50, 118.51, 118.52, 118.58, 118.127, 118.128, 118.129, 118.130, 118.132, 118.133 and 118.134, 3rd UPR.
- 89 Implementing SDGs 8 and 10, 2030 Agenda.
- 90 See: recommendations 118.48, 118.49 and 118.58, 3rd UPR.
- 91 *Civil Service (Appointments) Law 5719-1959*, Section 15A.
- 92 Adopted on 8.08.2021.
- 93 Approximately 8.3 billion USD.
- 94 Adopted on 24.10.2021.
- 95 Approximately 9.5 billion USD.
- 96 Under Government Resolution No. 922 (30.12.2015).
- 97 For details on the health program for the Negev's Bedouin population, see Annex A, paragraph 3.
- 98 Adopted on 24.10.2021.
- 99 Approximately 762 Million USD.
- 100 Amendment No. 136 to the Planning and Construction Law 5725-1965.
- 101 See: recommendations 118.49 and 118.132, 3rd UPR.
- 102 Approximately 300 million USD.
- 103 See: recommendations 118.49 and 118.132, 3rd UPR.
- 104 See: recommendations 118.47, 118.48, 118.49, 118.50, 118.51 and 118.126, 3rd UPR.
- 105 Regarding the activities in the multilateral arena, see paragraphs 15-18 and 20.
- 106 Implementing target 4.5, 2030 Agenda.
- 107 For paragraphs 66-68, see: recommendations 118.48, 118.49, 118.118 and 118.119, 3rd UPR.
- 108 Enacted in March 2016 and entered into force in April 2018.
- 109 More details on this legislation may be found in Israel's Initial Report to the CRPD (CPRD/C/ISR/1), paras. 90-96.
- 110 From 2016 until October 2021.
- 111 For details on the information and awareness raising activities of the Commission, see Annex A, paragraph 4.
- 112 See last National Report, paras. 48-51, 54.
- 113 Adopted under the Equal Rights for Persons with Disabilities Law 5758-1998 (the "Equal Rights Law") and the Planning and Building Law 5725-1965.
- 114 Equal Rights Regulations (Individual Access Adjustments for Parent and Child) 5778-2018.
- 115 Implementing target 4.5, 2030 Agenda.
- 116 Equal Rights Regulations (Accessibility during times of emergency of services or institutions for persons with disabilities), 5781-2021.
- 117 Equal Rights Regulations (Accessibility during population evacuation events and accommodation in emergency situations), 5782-2022.
- 118 Health services for persons with disabilities in times of emergency, 5782-2022.
- 119 See last National Report, p. 51.
- 120 Amendment No. 23 to the "Equal Rights Law".
- 121 See: recommendations 118.51, 118.52, 118.58, 118.127, 118.128, 118.129, 118.130, 118.132,

- 118.133 and 118.134, 3rd UPR.
- 122 Approximately 7,454,787 USD.
- 123 Approximately 3,766,629 USD.
- 124 See: recommendations 118.47, 118.48, 118.49, 118.50, 118.51, 118.64 and 118.65, 3rd UPR.
- 125 Implementing SDG 10, 2030 Agenda.
- 126 See: recommendation 118.48, 3rd UPR.
- 127 Defined in the MOH DG Circular as “any treatment or counselling, provided in any way, whose goal is to change, so to speak, a person’s gender identity or sexual orientation, including conversational, medicinal, behavioral or educational treatment, whether if supplied by a medical or health professional, or by someone purporting to be a professional.”
- 128 See: recommendations 118.49, 118.118 and 118.119, 3rd UPR.
- 129 Since 2009 in the Clalit Health Maintenance Organization (HMO), and 2017 within the Maccabi HMO.
- 130 For paragraphs 77-78, see: recommendations 118.49, 3rd UPR.
- 131 For more information on the guidelines provided, see Annex A, paragraph 5.
- 132 See: recommendations 118.49, 118.118 and 118.119 from 3rd UPR.
- 133 H.C.J 7344/17 Anonymous v. The Minister of Interior (12.12.2018).
- 134 See: recommendations 118.118 and 118.119, 3rd UPR.
- 135 C.A. 52336-06-20 *Yossi Cohen v. Association for Protection of Individual Rights* (08.19.2021).
- 136 H.C.J. 781/15, *Itai Arad-Pinkas et al. v. The Committee for Approval of Agreements for Carrying of Embryos et. al.*(11.7.21); The ruling referred to the *Agreements for Carrying of Embryos (Approval of the Agreement and Status of the Infant) Law 5756-1996*.
- 137 See: recommendation 118.49, 3rd UPR.
- 138 C.I.C. (TA) 48936-04-19 *Isabel Rash v. Shufersal Ltd.* (07.07.21).
- 139 Labor Dispute (TA) 33911-12-18 *Lior Abigail Zakilo Flint V. Hemed Kindergarten Ltd.* (09.08.2021).
- 140 See: recommendations 118.47, 118.48, 118.49, 118.50, 118.52, 118.118 and 118.119, 3rd UPR.
- 141 Including the CRC, the OP-CRC on children in armed conflict, and the OP-CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.
- 142 Pursuant to Government Resolution No. 1652.
- 143 Headed by the MOJ, includes the DGs of the ministries of Education (MOE), MOLSA, MOH, Public Security (MPS), Finance (MOF) and Immigration and Absorption (MoII).
- 144 Pursuant to Government Resolution No. 1840 (11.08.16).
- 145 Installation of Cameras for the Protection of Toddlers in Daycare Centers Law (5779-2018).
- 146 For more details on the program's impact, see Annex A, paragraph 6.
- 147 Pursuant to Government Resolutions No. 1006 (17.01.2016) and No. 1972 (27.09.2016).
- 148 Implementing target 16.2, 2030 Agenda.
- 149 See: recommendations 118.64 and 118.65, 3rd UPR.
- 150 Implementing target 4.5, 2030 Agenda.
- 151 See also paragraph 80.
- 152 Approximately 398,825 USD.
- 153 See: recommendations 118.123, 118.124, 118.195, 118.199 and 118.200, 3rd UPR.
- 154 Pursuant to the Youth (Trial, Punishment and Modes of Treatment) Law (5731-1971).
- 155 See: recommendations 118.47, 118.48, 118.49 and 118.50, 3rd UPR.
- 156 See: recommendations 118.88, 118.90 and 118.131, 3rd UPR.
- 157 The Equal Rights for Persons with Disabilities (Accessibility Adjustments for a Public Place which is an Existing Building) Regulations 5772-2011 also apply to places of worship and holy places.
- 158 See: recommendations 118.103 and 118.104, 3rd UPR.
- 159 Implementing targets 5.2 and 8.7, 2030 Agenda.
- 160 See last National Report, paras, 85-92.
- 161 See: recommendation 118.91, 118.92, 118.93, 118.94, 118.95, 118.95, 118.96, 118.97, 118.98, 118.99 and 118.100, 3rd UPR.
- 162 See last National Report, para. 92.
- 163 Approximately 656,689 USD.
- 164 See: recommendation 118.91, 118.92, 118.93, 118.94, 118.95, 118.95, 118.96, 118.97, 118.98, 118.99 and 118.100, 3rd UPR.
- 165 See last National Report, para. 88.
- 166 See: recommendations 118.51, 118.139, 3rd UPR.
- 167 Most notably, the 1951 Geneva Convention and the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees.
- 168 United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees.
- 169 See: recommendations 118.91, 118.92, 118.93, 118.94, 118.95, 118.95, 118.96, 118.97, 118.98, 118.99, 118.100, 118.126 118.135 and 118.138, 3rd UPR.
- 170 Implementing target 8.8, 2030 Agenda.

- <sup>171</sup> Implementing target 3.8, 2030 Agenda.
- <sup>172</sup> In 2019, Government Resolution No. 4631 ordered to integrate the SDGs into strategic governmental programs.
- <sup>173</sup> For more details on Israel's targets for tackling climate change, see Annex A, paragraph 7.
- <sup>174</sup> Climate Change Adaptation Administration, established in 2018 under the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MoEP).
- <sup>175</sup> The draft was presented to the current Knesset on 2.02.2023.
- <sup>176</sup> See paragraph 62(b).
- <sup>177</sup> Ministry of Environmental Protection.
- <sup>178</sup> See: recommendation 118.91, 118.92, 118.93, 118.94, 118.95, 118.95, 118.96, 118.97, 118.98, 118.99, 118.100, 118.118 and 118.119, 3rd UPR.
- <sup>179</sup> Implementing targets 3.8 and 3.d, 2030 Agenda.
- <sup>180</sup> Special Authorities to Combat the New Coronavirus (Temporary Provision) Law (Special Authorities Law), 5780-2020, Section 4(b).
- <sup>181</sup> Taking into account and building upon protection provisions from the *Equal Rights Law*. See paragraphs 70-73.
- <sup>182</sup> See: recommendations 118.49 118.118, 118.119 and 118.126, 3rd UPR.
- <sup>183</sup> See: recommendations 118.49, 118.91, 118.92, 118.93, 118.94, 118.95, 118.95, 118.96, 118.97, 118.98, 118.99, 118.100, 118.106, 118.107, 118.108, 118.109, 118.110 and 118.126, 3rd UPR.
- <sup>184</sup> See: recommendations 118.101 and 118.126, 3rd UPR.
- <sup>185</sup> See: recommendations 118.49, 118.51 and 118.139, 3rd UPR.
- <sup>186</sup> For details on the support program for older persons during the COVID-19 pandemic, see Annex A, paragraph 8.
- <sup>187</sup> It was closed only for a few weeks during the first lockdown, in March-April 2020.
- <sup>188</sup> See: recommendations 118.101, 118.118 and 118.119, 3rd UPR.
- <sup>189</sup> See paragraphs 19, 93-94.
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