

Human Rights Council 46th Session (March 2021)

Agenda Item 4 – General Debate

NGO: IJL - The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists

Representative delivering the statement: Ido Rosenzweig

Mr. President,

The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists wishes to convey its concern about the situation of the Ukrainian refugees and internally displaced persons.

In recent weeks, more than 3 million Ukrainians have fled their country. According to the UNHCR, 90 percent of them are women and children. These refugees are very vulnerable and must be protected from the risks of human trafficking as well as sexual abuse and exploitation.

On our side event in July 2019 and our policy paper of May 2020, we addressed the problem of sexual exploitation and abuse in the aid sector, and its multilayer complexities. The situation is far from satisfactory and there are many threats that cannot be overlooked.

Mr. President, it is up to the international community to make sure that those who are fleeing from their homes will not be taken advantage of in their time of weakness. States must take proactive measures to protect the refugees under their jurisdiction and ensure that they will not become victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as victims of human trafficking.

Thank you, Mr. President