



Human Rights Council 48th Session

Agenda Item 4 – General Debate (September 2021)

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

Representative delivering the statement: Ido Rosenzweig

Thank you Madam President,

The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists expresses its concern about recent publications regarding the decision of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan to deny secondary education to girls over the age of 12.

Madam President, freedom of religion, of any religion, enshrined in article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, is a very important human right that cannot be derogated from even in times of public emergency.

However, much like any other right, freedom of religion is not absolute and it must be balanced with other rights, including the right to education for children, under articles 28 and 29 of the Convention of the Rights of the Child.

Preventing education from any child is wrong. Preventing education for girls based on their sex constitutes prohibited discrimination.

Madam President, we call upon the Council and the Member States to ask the Special Rapporteur on the right to education to take this matter into her hands and submit a report on the matter.

Education is a fundamental key to ensure a better life for these girls. We must not stand still knowing that they are being denied.

Thank you Madam President.