

Human Rights Council 52nd Session (March 2023)

Agenda Item 4 – General Debate

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

Representative delivering the statement: Brenda Nanyunja

Thank you Mr. President,

The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists expresses its serious concern about the recent decision of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan to deny women access to higher education. This decision is particularly disturbing, as the regime already prohibits girls over the age of 12 from receiving secondary education.

Denying education to girls and women on the basis of their gender is an outrageous affront to their dignity and it is an intolerable infringement on their rights. It is a grave form of repression of women, meant to silence their voices and deny them any opportunity to develop their identity and improve their economic situation..

Mr. President, this is also a blunt violation of the right to education enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 10 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and articles 28 and 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Mr. President, we call upon the Council and Member States to ask the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, and the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls to take this matter into her hands and submit a report on the matter.

We must not stand by, knowing that women and girls are being deprived the fundemenatal right to education.

Thank you Mr. President.