

Human Rights Council 52nd Session

Agenda Item 9 – General Debate (March 2023)

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

Representative delivering the statement: Brenda Nanyunja

Mr. President,

The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists is alarmed by the rise of hate crimes in recent years.

According to the recent FBI hate crime report in the United States, there was an increase of 31% in hate speech incidents reported in 2021 compared to 2020. This is the largest increase in the last three decades. The increase includes a 14% rise in anti-black hate crimes, 28% anti-Jewish hate crimes, 40% anti-gay hate crimes, and 167% anti-Asian hate crimes.

Similarly, England and Wales have seen a 26% rise in hate crimes, according to the United Kingdom Home Office, with over 150,000 hate crime incidents reported. Forty two percent of the incidents were anti-Muslim and 23% of them were anti-Jewish.

Mr. President, it is important to acknowledge the direct link between online hate speech and physical hate crimes to persons and property.

We call upon the Council and the international community to take more proactive measures against racism, xenophobia, and antisemitism through a joint effort by UN bodies and other international organizations, governments, parliaments, and civil society.

Helen Keller once said, “The highest result of education is tolerance.” Let us implement that and act to fight and prevent hate crimes from taking place.

Thank you, Mr. President.