



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

UN Human Rights Council
UPR WORKING GROUP 20th SESSION

Iraq

Thank you, Mr. President.

Israel has reviewed Iraq's report.

Reforms are necessary at constitutional level to bring its national legislation in line with its obligations under international law.

We strongly deplore that Iraqi law restricts freedom of expression which may receive punishments including life imprisonment. Israel **recommends** Iraq **(1)** to grant protection and **(2)** allow journalists, as well as the general public, to exercise their freedom of speech.

We **recommend** **(3)** the establishment of effective mechanisms to investigate, prosecute, and punish trafficking offenders;

We **recommend** **(4)** Iraq amends and adapts its law to give fair and equal treatment to all citizens, including women and those of religious and ethnic minorities.

Israel condemns the fact that Iraqi law promotes forced, early and temporary marriages of young girls, allowing the marriage of girls as young as 9. We **recommend** **(5)** Iraq abolishes and amends all laws that encourage and permit this practice.

Since Iraq's first UPR, at least 367 detainees have been executed. During the 23rd Human Rights Council session, Iraq stated it would look into abolishing the death penalty. We **recommend** **(7)** Iraq honors its pledge;

Thank you.