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**Statement on behalf of the State of Israel**

**UPR WORKING GROUP-**

**38th Session**

**May 2021**

Review of **Belgium**

We commend Belgium for its progress regarding transgender persons since its last review, including the adoption of the new Transgender Persons Act, in line with our previous recommendation on this topic.

We also commend Belgium for launching the Interfederal Actions Plan to Combat Discrimination and Violence against LGBTQI Persons.

Israel remains concerned by the rising cases of Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism in Belgium, including despicable anti-Semitic exhibitions at the annual Aalst Carnival.

Israel recommends the following:

1. Step up measures at federal and regional level to curb the increasing incidents of Anti-Semitism including banning anti-Semitic depictions at the annual Aalst Carnival.
2. Effectively combat all manifestations of Islamophobia.
3. Ensure equality and non-discrimination based on sexual orientation by lifting restrictions imposed on homosexual men from donating blood and adopt the least exclusionary approach taking into account current scientific studies.

Thank you.