Country: Israel

Committee: CSW (The Commision on The Status of Women)

Agenda Item:

Israel, a Middle Eastern country on the Mediterranean Sea, is regarded by Jews, Christians and Muslims as the biblical Holy Land. Israel is a developed country and an OECD member, with a population of over 9 million people as of 2021. It has the world’s 28th – largest economy. Israel is a democratic republic with a parliamentary system of government headed by a prime minister and involving numerous political parties representing a wide range of political positions.

Gender inequality is the social phenomenon in which people are not treated equally on the basis of gender. The gender gap has narrowed to various degrees since the mid – 1960s. Where some 5% of first-year students in professional programs were female in 1965, by 1985 this number had jumped to 40% in law and medicine, and over 30% in dentistry and business school. Gender inequalities still exist as social problems and are still growing in places.

The EU Gender Equality Strategy delivers on the von der Leyen Commission’s commitment to achieving a Union of Equality. The Strategy presents policy objectives and actions to make significant progress by 2025 **towards a gender-equal Europe**. The goal is a Union where women and men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, are **free**to pursue their chosen path in life, have equal opportunities to **thrive,** and can equally participate in and **lead**our European society.

Even before the [state of Israel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_of_Israel) was created, there were female residents fighting for [women's rights](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_rights) in the [British Mandate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandatory_Palestine). An example of this is the women in the [New Yishuv](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Yishuv). The Israeli parliament, [The Knesset](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Knesset), has established “The Committee on the Status of Women,” to address women’s rights. The stated objectives of this committee are to prevent discrimination, combat [violence against women](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Violence_against_women), and promote equality in [politics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Israel), lifecycle events and [education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Israel).

Women’s status in Israel would greatly improve if the government established a separate civil agency or office in charge of personal status matters. Israel has progressive gender laws; however, they are neither enforced nor properly regulated. Enforcing these would greatly improve women’s rights.