



WHO Executive Board 2023  
Statement by the State of Israel

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**Item #15 - Ending violence against children**

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Israel recognizes the importance of the role the health system in locating at-risk minors, and treating and preventing cases of child abuse and neglect.

Health professionals are legally obligated to report to the authorities suspected risk of harm to minors, and are guided by procedures designed to identify minors at risk and respond accordingly.

Israel agrees with the WHO's emphasis on developing guidance about preventing violence against children. The Ministry of Health has provided a tutorial on the Ministry website, a training kit, and dedicated sessions for healthcare professionals. The Ministry is also launching a trauma sensitivity training project in order to increase staff sensitivity to patients with a history of childhood trauma. These guidelines will be incorporated into a computerized detection tool, rolled out next year.

Child protection centers ensure investigation into suspected abuse is conducted safely in the presence of multidisciplinary teams that include doctors. Sexual abuse treatment centers are similarly staffed by pediatricians trained in the subject. The Ministry also develops frameworks for providing tailored psychological support to victims of childhood trauma.

Through its Mother and Child Clinics, the Ministry counsels mothers who are interviewed about postpartum depression and detecting domestic violence, ensuring direct interaction on a community level.

Looking ahead, the Israel MOH's Director-General's office recently appointed an inter-ministerial committee which includes representatives from academia and civil-society organizations. Among its initial recommendations are: advancing guidelines for medical staff; informing patients and family members about rights; unifying procedures; and implementing central reporting about employees with disciplinary offenses and criminal records.