



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BULGARIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

11 East 84th Street, New York, NY 10028, Tel: (212) 737 4790, Fax: (212) 472 9865, e-mail: bulgaria@un.int

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Dear Mr. Stern,

The Permanent Mission of Bulgaria is proud to join the co-sponsors of the high-level online event on mainstreaming the combating of antisemitism within the UN system, organized by the World Jewish Congress and the Mission of Federal Republic of Germany to the UN, during the 75th UNGA.

This timely event will take place during turbulent times when we witness a growing number of rhetorical and psychical manifestations of antisemitism and all forms of racism and discrimination that undermine fundamental democratic principles. Regrettably, the current COVID-19 crisis has added additional difficulties to combating antisemitism.

We are proud of the fact that Bulgaria has been showing by its actions that the fight against antisemitism goes beyond words, speeches and declarations. It is so because we are aware of the existing threats that need to be addressed swiftly and effectively. However, much remains to be done and strengthening the efforts of UN in this direction is an important step ahead.

As a current member of the Human Rights Council (2019 – 2021) Bulgaria could advocate for a stronger focus on the issue of combating Antisemitism within the work of the council, as it did in 2018 when our country co-sponsored the joint statement condemning the growing threat of antisemitism. Furthermore, Bulgaria expresses its willingness to further support initiatives within the UNHCR aimed at fighting antisemitism.

We are also ready to support turning the international community's attention towards concrete cases of antisemitism during the examinations of countries within the Universal Periodic Review. This could serve as a basis for broader and constructive debate over the issue while at the same time sending a clear

message far and wide that antisemitism is completely unacceptable and that hate and intolerance could not be part of our future.

Bulgaria regularly provides information on various questionnaires by Special Rapporteurs, such as the questionnaire on antisemitism by the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or belief in 2019. Our country expresses its firm commitment to continue to further contribute in this regard.

Last but not least, greater emphasis on the role of the education is needed as educating the future generations and addressing the atrocities of the past violence could make sure that the reoccurrence of violence and hatred will never happen again. The Guidelines for policymakers on Addressing antisemitism through education developed by UNESCO and ODIHR and supported by Bulgaria proved to be particularly useful. Our country stands ready to further support financially such projects.

Allow me in conclusion, to re-state my support for the upcoming event and to express my confidence in its success.

**Georgi Panayotov, Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the UN**