



## Thanks for not participating in the WCAR

(Zurich, September 24<sup>th</sup> 2021) The European Alliance for Israel (EAI) thanks all countries that did not participate in the UN World Conference against Racism (WCAR) 2021, also known as 'Durban IV'.

Despite its name and ostensibly positive remit, the conference has been, since its earliest staging, primarily an instrument to foment, institutionalise and legitimise hatred against Israel.

In 1975 the UN General Assembly, by majority vote, defined Zionism (without which Israel could never have come to existence again) as a form of racism. In 1978, the first WCAR put the state of Israel on a par with apartheid in South Africa. This position was subsequently reaffirmed in the second conference, in 1983.

The first Durban Conference, held in South Africa in 2001, was preceded by an NGO forum where appalling verbal and violent antisemitic assaults took place. The final document of the forum mentioned antisemitism only once, in a single marginal place.

The 2009 follow-up conference provided a platform for then Iranian President Ahmadinejad to demonise Israel and to deny the country's right to exist. Notwithstanding, Ahmadinejad was also scheduled as a keynote speaker at the 2011 WACR.

A sidelong glance at debates on similar topics in other UN bodies shows an unbroken continuation of this pattern of using human rights as a hook to denounce Israel and Israel alone. Any participation in such events therefore supports this sinister trend and lends it a veneer of legitimacy. In the spirit of international understanding, peace and dialogue between cultures, this must not be allowed to continue.

Our heartfelt thanks therefore go to the following states whose example shall inspire others:

Albania	Denmark	Israel	Romania
Australia	Dominican Republic	Italy	Serbia
Austria	Estonia	Lithuania	Slovakia
Bulgaria	France	Macedonia	Slovenia
Canada	Georgia	Moldova	Spain
Colombia	Germany	Montenegro	Sweden
Croatia	Greece	Netherlands	Ukraine
Cyprus	Honduras	New Zealand	United Kingdom
Czech Republic	Hungary	Poland	Uruguay
			USA

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