Human Rights Council
Thirty-sixth session
Agenda 6
Universal Periodic Review


Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council hereby transmits the communication submitted by the Great Britain: Equality and Human Rights Commission, Northern Ireland (UK): Human Rights Commission, Scotland: Scottish Human Rights Commission**, reproduced below in accordance with rule 7(b) of the rules of procedures described in the annex to Council resolution 5/1, according to which participation of national human rights institutions is to be based on arrangements and practices agreed upon by the Commission on Human Rights, including resolution 2005/74 of 20 April 2005.

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** Reproduced in the annex as received, in the language of submission only.
Dear Mr. President,

I welcome the opportunity to make this statement on behalf of the Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Scottish Human Rights Commission, on the UK’s Universal Periodic Review Recommendations.

We would like to thank member states for their recommendations which addressed many of the major issues facing the UK.

As member states have recognised, there are some areas which have seen progress in the last few years. However, it is concerning that so many of the challenges outlined in our latest reports were also raised when we last spoke to you in 2012.

Historically, the UK has been a champion of human rights. But that reputation is now under threat, due to the negative tone of debate from some politicians and many parts of the media around the Human Rights Act, and the potential risk to people’s equality and human rights protections when the UK leaves the European Union.

The international human rights system provides greater protection for those rights, but the UK Government’s continued refusal to fully incorporate the UN treaties it has signed shows scant regard for its international commitments.

We are disappointed by the lack of leadership on human rights across the UK Government, and would like to see greater engagement with the UPR process from now on. Governments across the UK should publish clear and actionable plans for implementing your recommendations.

The three Commissions stand ready to support the implementation of recommendations and to hold the UK and devolved governments to account. We will report back to the Council with our independent and expert assessments of any progress made.

Thank you Mr. President.

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Annex


Statement on behalf of the Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Scottish Human Rights Commission, on the UK’s Universal Periodic Review Recommendations.

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