H.E. The Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission to the United Nations  
Geneva  


**Universal Periodic Review of the United Kingdom**

Dear Permanent Representative,

We are writing with regards to the adoption of the Report on the Universal Periodic Review of the United Kingdom at the Human Rights Council’s 21st Session on the 20th of September 2012.

As the three UK A status national human rights institutions (NHRIs) we are grateful for your Permanent Missions’ constructive engagement with the UK’s UPR. In this letter we outline our priorities for completion of the UKs second UPR and encourage you to consider raising these in the plenary session:

- The UK should develop an effective implementation plan for UPR recommendations. We welcomed a number of the recommendations made during the interactive dialogue on 24 May 2012 aimed to strengthen human rights protection in the UK. In order to pursue best practice in this second cycle of UPR, as recommended by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UK should develop an implementation plan. Such a plan should be developed with broad participation; should be outcome focused and indicate, in respect of each accepted recommendation the actor, action and outcome which will be required to achieve its implementation. The plan should also be monitored independently by UK NHRIs and civil society and enable reporting to the Council and examining States on achievements at the midpoint review and in the next cycle.

- The UK should retain the legal protection for human rights in the Human Rights Act 1998 and ensure that it builds upon the current provisions, and mechanisms for enforcement. The UK Government established a Commission to consider the creation of a UK Bill of Rights. As UK NHRIs we are concerned that the climate within which this process is taking place may undermine existing protections in the Human Rights Act 1998. We therefore call for the UK to retain the Human Rights Act 1998 and to pursue without further delay the development of a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland as committed to in the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement, and to give further effect to UN treaty obligations through incorporation and other measures.

- The UK must ensure that it respects, protects and fulfils human rights in its response to the economic crisis. We are concerned with the potential effect of the economic crisis and austerity measures adopted in response to it on the realisation of human rights, especially among already marginalised groups. We recommend
the UK government carefully monitors the impact of policy on disadvantaged
groups through equality and human rights impact assessments, as recommended
by the UK NHRIs and as currently being piloted in Scotland.

- We join a number of examining States in calling the UK to sign and ratify
international human rights treaties and protocols guaranteeing the right to
individual petition and those calling for review of the continued need for
reservations to human rights treaties.

We also welcome a range of specific recommendations including those related to
violence against women and children (including corporal punishment); combating
discrimination against members of ethnic or religious minorities; conditions of
detention (particularly for children, women and persons with disabilities) as well
corns over the length and safeguards for immigration detention. We welcome a
focus on the need to uphold human rights alongside security in the areas of
counter terrorism, migration policy and stop and search and the need for a
comprehensive inquiry into allegations of torture by British forces and agents.

UK NHRIs are committed to continued constructive engagement with the UPR
process providing independent authoritative evidence to the Council and ensuring
monitoring of implementation.

If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact our staff via
international@equalityhumanrights.com

Yours sincerely,

Mark Hammond
Chief Executive
EHRC

Michael O'Flaherty
Chief Commissioner
NIHRC

Alan Miller
Chair
SHRC