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Universal Periodic Review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Addendum

Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review

* The present document was not edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

1. The United Kingdom (UK) is deeply committed to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). We view it as a unique and crucial mechanism for sharing best practice on human rights around the world and promoting continual improvement of human rights on the ground.
2. In this spirit, the UK Government has carefully reviewed the 132 recommendations received during its UPR in consultation with the Devolved Administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. In addition, the UK Government has sought views from the UK's National Human Rights Institutions and other civil society organisations which have been reflected on during our deliberations. As a result we are pleased to be able to report that the UK has been able to accept 91 recommendations in full or in part.
3. This addendum is structured broadly in accordance with the themes in the UK's national report submitted in March 2012. In the interests of transparency the addendum is supplemented by an annex document which sets out the UK Government's position on all the recommendations (including where the recommendation doesn't enjoy the support of UK) in numerical order and includes input from the Devolved Administrations on those recommendations that fall within their devolved competence. This document can be found at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/GBSession13.aspx>.
4. Recommendations that enjoy the support of the United Kingdom in full are those where we support both the spirit or principle behind the recommendation and are able to implement it in practice. The UK is also happy to accept recommendations that we have already implemented or that relate to actions already underway, without implying in any way that we regard our current efforts as insufficient.
5. Recommendations that enjoy the support of the UK in part are those where we support the spirit and principle of the recommendation but are only able to implement it in part due to for example, legal or constitutional factors. It also includes recommendations where the UK supports the principle behind the recommendation and where we regard ourselves as compliant but do not support any suggestion that our current efforts are insufficient or fall short of good practice in a particular area.
6. Recommendations that do not enjoy the support of the United Kingdom are generally those where we are not able to commit to implementation at this stage, whether or not we agree with the principles behind the recommendation, or where we have recently reviewed our position on the issue in question; or where we reject the assertions being made.
7. In addition, the UK Government is aware that a number of issues raised by the UK's National Human Rights Institutions and NGOs in their UPR submissions were not reflected during the UK's interactive dialogue or in the Working Group recommendations, for example, the rights of older and disabled people and victims of crime and access to justice issues, including implementation of reforms to legal aid. It would not be appropriate to follow these issues up in the addendum but we do intend to follow these up separately as part of our commitment to ongoing engagement with civil society on the UPR recommendations and treaty body observations. Similarly, we took care to respond in writing to Member States that raised questions during the process which were not answered in full during the interactive dialogue or covered in the Working Group recommendations.
8. The UK is committed to updating the Working Group on progress through a mid-term report in 2014. As well as updating the Working Group on progress on the recommendation the UK accepted at its 2012 review it will also provide updates on its position against those recommendations the UK didn't accept. This is part of a commitment to NHRIs and NGOs to keep all recommendations under review and recognition that the main objective of the UPR - of continual improvement of human rights

on the ground - can only be met if countries continue to keep an open mind in relation to the recommendations between reviews.

International human rights mechanisms and domestic implementation of human rights

9. The following recommendations **enjoy** the support of the UK:
110.2, 110.5, 110.7, 110.10, 110.21, 110.22, 110.24, 110.29, 110.30, 110.32, 110.36, 110.37, 110.38, 110.39, 110.45, 110.46, 110.47, 110.48 and 110.124.
10. The following recommendations **enjoy** the support of the UK **in part**:
110.4 and 110.34
11. The following recommendations **do not enjoy** the support of the UK:
110.1, 110.3, 110.6, 110.8, 110.9, 110.11, 110.12, 110.13, 110.14, 110.15, 110.16, 110.17, 110.18, 110.19, 110.20, 110.23, 110.25, 110.26, 110.27, 110.28, 110.31 and 110.35

Rights and responsibilities

12. The following recommendations **enjoy** the support of the UK:
110.97, 110.98, 110.100 and 110.101.

Justice and Security

13. The following recommendations **enjoy** the support of the UK:
110.83, 110.84, 110.85, 110.86, 110.87, 110.88¹, 110.89, 110.119, 110.120, 110.121, 110.123, 110.125, 110.126 and 110.28.
14. The following recommendations **enjoy** the support of the UK **in part**:
110.56, 110.58, 110.67, 110.68, 110.82, 110.118.
15. The following recommendations **do not enjoy** the support of the UK:
110.33, 110.54, 110.55, 110.57, 110.81, 110.92, 110.122 and 110.127.

Protecting the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

16. The following recommendations **enjoy** the support of the UK:
110.72, 110.73, 110.74, 110.93, 110.107 and 110.109.
17. The following recommendations **enjoy** the support of the UK **in part**:
110.44, 110.75, 110.76, 110.108, 110.110, 110.111, 110.112, 110.113 and 110.114.
18. The following recommendations **do not enjoy** the support of the UK:
110.99 and 110.15.

Protecting the rights of individuals and vulnerable groups and promoting equality

19. The following recommendations **enjoy** the support of the UK:

¹ The UK interprets 'incorporating' as meaning policy of women prisoners being in line with the 'Bangkok Rules'.

110.40, 110.41, 110.42, 110.43, 110.49, 110.50, 110.51, 110.52, 110.53, 110.59, 110.60, 110.62, 110.63, 110.64, 110.65, 110.69, 110.70, 110.71, 110.90, 110.96, 110.103, 110.106, 110.116 and 110.117.

20. The following recommendations **enjoy** the support of the UK **in part**:

110.66² and 110.91.

21. The following recommendations **do not enjoy** the support of the UK:

110.61, 110.77, 110.78, 110.79, 110.80, 110.94, 110.95, 110.102.

International development

22. The following recommendations **enjoy** the support of the UK:

110.104, 110.105³, 110.129, 110.130 and 110.131.

Recommendations out of scope

23. 110.132. The United Kingdom believes that this recommendation falls outside the ambit of the Universal Periodic Review, which was developed to review States' fulfilment of their obligations under international human rights treaties, human rights standards and voluntary commitments on human rights.

² In offering partial support to this recommendation it should be noted that, the UK Government considers that the Equality Act 2010 provides sufficient, extensive protection from discrimination and therefore rejects any assertion that our current efforts are insufficient or fall short of good practice. However, as is done with all new legislation, the Government has committed to reviewing the Act in 2015 to ensure that it is operating as intended. Consideration of the effectiveness of policies in combating discrimination forms part of that review.

³ The UK understands that the German delegation ran out of time when delivering recommendation 110.105, but following consultation with the delegation to determine the true meaning of the recommendation, the UK has interpreted this as 'Fully recognise the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation'.