

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

DENMARK

- The use of lengthy pre-trial detention in the UK has been the subject of concern of the Commissioner for Human Rights as well as a number of human rights organizations. What measures will the UK Government take to improve the application of pre-trial detention?
- Concerns have been expressed by the Commissioner for Human Rights and human rights organizations on the use of diplomatic assurances to permit the deportation of terrorism suspects. How does the UK Government intend to ensure that human rights are respected by recipient countries?
- In a recent report submitted by Save the Children, concern is expressed among others regarding the reservations made by the UK Government in relation to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the ratification of the Optional Protocols to the UNCRC, and the implementation of human rights obligations in relation to children in general. What measures will be taken by the UK Government in order to improving the human rights conditions in relation to children?

FINLAND

- We acknowledge that the Government of the United Kingdom has made commitments to protect children from violence, including by prohibiting the use of corporal punishment in schools¹.
- With regard to the United Nations study on violence against children², which states that "no violence against children is justifiable; all violence against children is preventable", we would appreciate to receive further information on legislative, administrative and other measures taken to implement the Study's overarching and setting-specific recommendations in the United Kingdom. In particular, we would greatly appreciate if the Government of the United Kingdom could share with us good practices to prevent and respond to violence against children.

ITALY

- Could the United Kingdom elaborate on its experience concerning human rights institutions established at the national and sub-national level and the existing relationship among them?

¹ The concluding observations adopted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/15/Add.188, paragraphs 3(i) and 35) and the summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) of resolution 5/1 of the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/WG.6/1/UK/3, paragraph 15).

² Report of the independent expert for the United Nations study on violence against children (A/61/299).

- With reference to children's rights, the Committee on the Rights of the Child welcomed the setting up of an independent Children's Commissioner in Wales and the plans for the establishment of an independent human rights institution for children in Northern Ireland and in Scotland. Could the United Kingdom illustrate other relevant initiatives undertaken in recent years to address the issues of violence against children, including corporal punishment?

NETHERLANDS

- Is the British government considering reform of the control orders regime as proposed by the parliamentary Joint Select Committee on Human Rights in her first annual report?
- In what way will the UK policy change in the light of the recent verdict of the European Court on Human Rights in the Saadi vs. Italy case (in which the UK intervened)?
- The UK are considering a new "Bill on Human Rights and Responsibilities". What is the added value of such an Act in the light of the ECHR and the present Human Rights Act?
- Various private and public organisations (e.g. Liberty and Equality and Human Rights Commission) are questioning (elements from) the Counter Terrorism Bill, in particular the proposed lengthening of the precharge period for terror suspects from 28 to 42 days. What is the response of the British government when such organisations question whether the proposal is in accordance with human rights legislation?

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

- The United Kingdom has made certain reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. Some of these reservations are considered to be incompatible with the object and purpose of the above mentioned international instruments. Does the United Kingdom intend to withdraw these reservations?
- There are numerous reports that detention of asylum-seekers, including children, in the United Kingdom can be unlimited. If so, such a situation clearly affects the basic rights of asylum-seekers. Whether the UK government considers to introduce any measures which would guarantee the exceptional character of detention for asylum-seekers and to establish a top limit of the length of detention?
- What is the justification of the fact that the British police is entitled to deny the right of access to a lawyer for up to 48 hours for arrested people?
- What measures of judicial control exist in the United Kingdom to guarantee the protection of the rights of those detained on suspicion of terrorism? Whether the UK is going to conduct independent investigation of the so called 'secret flights'?

cases where the UK authorities turned out to be involved and to make the results of the investigation public?

SWEDEN

- In its national report to the 2008 Universal Periodic Review, the United Kingdom has affirmed that the protection of human rights is an integral and indispensable part of the country's efforts to counter terrorism. At the same time, civil society organizations have questioned the provision of the Terrorism Act of 2006 extending the period that persons suspected of terrorist offences may be held without charge to 28 days, as well as the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 allowance for control orders against persons that may be involved in terrorist activity. Could the government of the United Kingdom elaborate on how these measures are applied in accordance with its human rights obligations?
- The United Kingdom has prohibited the use of corporal punishment in schools. In its 2002 concluding observations following the latest consideration of the United Kingdom, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended the United Kingdom to prohibit all corporal punishment of children, holding that the legality of such punishment in the context of the family contradicts the Convention on the Rights of Child. What measures is the government of the United Kingdom taking to ensure the freedom of children from physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation in accordance with the said Convention?
