

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO BAHAMAS (FIRST BATCH)

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND

- What steps are the Government of the Bahamas taking to strengthen women's rights and gender equality in citizenship matters in its constitution, to prevent discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity?
- What steps are the Government of the Bahamas taking to increase prosecution and conviction of perpetrators and efforts to identify victims, especially among vulnerable groups, of sex and labour trafficking?
- What steps are the Government of the Bahamas taking to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty?
- Will the Government of the Bahamas endorse the UK's Call to Action to End Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking?

BELGIUM

- As a strong proponent of the abolition of the death penalty, Belgium welcomes the fact that no execution has taken place in the Bahamas since 2000 and that no new death sentences have been recorded since 2010. Does the Government consider replacing the existing *de facto* moratorium on the death penalty by an *official* moratorium as a first step? We eventually hope that the Government of Bahamas will join the group of more than 85 countries that have ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.
- The Constitution of the Bahamas contains provisions stipulating that men and women do not transmit citizenship to a child born abroad or to a foreign spouse under the same conditions. We acknowledge that the Bahamian population rejected, during a referendum last year, four constitutional amendment bills seeking to achieve the equal treatment of women and men in the acquisition of citizenship by their children and their spouses. Has the Government of the Bahamas since the rejection continued the dialogue on constitutional reform to ensure gender equality in transmitting Bahamian citizenship?
- Findings from the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking indicate that there is a growing demand for migrant domestic workers in the Bahamas, which seemed to have led to precarious working conditions for undocumented workers. Has the Government of the Bahamas initiated steps to amend the Employment Act in order to provide protection for domestic workers in accordance with international legal standards, as suggested by the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking?
- After her visit to the Bahamas, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women stated that there are still gaps in the domestic legal framework to protect women. What steps is the Government of the Bahamas taking to outlaw marital rape as well as to make sure that

the age for receiving contraceptive and other health services without parental consent (18) is in line with the age of sexual consent (16)?

GERMANY

- Violence against women continues to be a serious problem. The Bahamas launched in 2015 a Strategic Plan to address Gender-Based Violence. Which concrete initiatives will the Bahamas take to reduce gender-based violence?
- The Bahamas have carried out the last execution in 2000 and established a de facto moratorium on the death penalty. Germany encourages the Bahamas to take further steps towards a final abolition of the death penalty. What measures have the Bahamas taken to promote opportunities for open debates on the death penalty?
- In the second UPR-cycle the Bahamas noted that they were generally supportive of the concept of national human rights institutions. What measures have been taken to establish a national human rights institution and what are the impediments to be overcome?