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BRIEFING

United Kingdom Universal Periodic Review: Responses to Fourth Cycle Recommendations

The UPR Project at BCU

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a process under the auspice of the Human Rights Council (HRC) which all United Nations (UN) member states participate in every four-and-a-half years. The outcome is a **set of recommendations for the state under review to improve the promotion and protection of human rights**. These should be implemented by the state between cycles. In March 2022, the fourth UPR cycle began, and the United Kingdom was reviewed in November 2022. It received 331 recommendations from states.¹



2. In light of the UK’s review, the UPR Project at BCU, in conjunction with 4 King’s Bench Walk has pursued activities to enhance civil society organisations’ (CSOs) engagement with the UK’s UPR. This work has been made possible with funding from the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), one of three A-status National Human Rights Institutions responsible for promoting and protecting human rights in the UK.
3. Since November, the UPR Project has facilitated a pre-review briefing, a live-stream of the UK’s review from Geneva, an in-person CSO Conference, meetings with parliamentarians, and a roundtable for the legal profession. A series of resources, available on the UPR Project’s website, have been produced to enhance CSOs knowledge and understanding of the UPR and the significance of the UK’s fourth review. Below is a **timeline of the key events** that have occurred since the start of the fourth UPR cycle:

- > 31 March 2022 – CSOs Submit UPR ‘Stakeholder Reports’
- > 25 August 2022 – UK Government Submits ‘National Report’
- > 29-31 August 2022 – CSOs attend UPR ‘Pre-Sessions’
- > 17 October 2022 – UPR Project Secures EHRC bid for CSO Engagement
- > 8 November 2022 – UPR Project holds pre-review briefing
- > 10 November 2022 – UK’s UPR is live streamed by the UPR Project
- > 15 November 2022 – Joint Civil Society Statement on UPR Published
- > 7 December 2022 – Government contacts select CSOs for input on received recommendations

¹ The Working Group Report makes reference to 302 recommendations however this is because the Report groups similar recommendations together. 331 is the number of *individual* recommendations made by states and the figure adopted for the purpose of this briefing.

- > **17 February 2023** – The UPR Project CSO Conference
 - > **22 February 2023** – Symposium in House of Lords (facilitated by UNAUK) & Roundtable with Legal Profession
 - > **13 March 2023** – UK Government releases responses to recommendations
 - > **27 March 2023** – UK Government presents its responses at the Human Rights Council
4. On 13th March 2023, the **UK Government released its responses to the recommendations received at its review**. It then presented these responses to the Human Rights Council on 27th March 2023. This is a significant step because **it reveals the extent that the Government is receptive to improving the protection and promotion of human rights**, and any potential steps that it will now take.
5. The aim of this briefing is to provide an outline and analysis of these responses, and a discussion of their significance. Annexed to this briefing is a series of resources which CSOs may find useful in their respective work:
- a) Annex 1: A table of the recommendations received by the UK that have been themed in line with UPR Info's guidance. It also contains the UK Government's responses (supported, partially supported, noted) to each recommendation and its rationale (if given),
 - b) Annex 2: A statistical breakdown of the UK's responses by theme (e.g. how many recommendations concerning 'Rights of the Child' did the UK support), and
 - c) Annex 3: A series of charts which visualise the UK's responses by theme.

THE UK'S RESPONSES AND DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE REVIEW

6. Following each state's UPR, a **'working group report'** is drafted by the HRC which contains a summary of the review and a full list of recommendations. The UK's report was adopted by the HRC on the 16th of November 2022 and can be found here.
7. At this stage, states are **required to provide responses to each recommendation**. A recommendation can either be 'supported' or 'noted', and states are strongly encouraged to provide detailed reasons. At the adoption of its working group report, **the UK Permanent Mission in Geneva reserved the right to provide responses to the recommendations** at this stage so that it could **"engage with domestic stakeholders** including the UK's three National Human Rights Institutions and of course **civil society organisations.**" Certainly, this is an approach endorsed by the President of the HRC, who has requested all states hold 'extensive' consultations before preparing their responses to recommendations received in the fourth cycle. When it came to presenting these responses to the HRC, the UK Permanent Mission further claimed it had 'ensured National Human Rights Institutions and civil society

organisations had the opportunity to provide their thoughts to the UK Government as part of this process’.

“THE STATE UNDER REVIEW SHOULD CLEARLY COMMUNICATE TO THE COUNCIL, IN A WRITTEN FORMAT PRIOR TO THE COUNCIL PLENARY, ITS POSITIONS ON ALL RECEIVED RECOMMENDATIONS [...] FOLLOWING EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS HELD NATIONALLY, ALSO WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE REVIEW AND THE ADOPTION”

Federico Villegas, President of the Human Rights Council

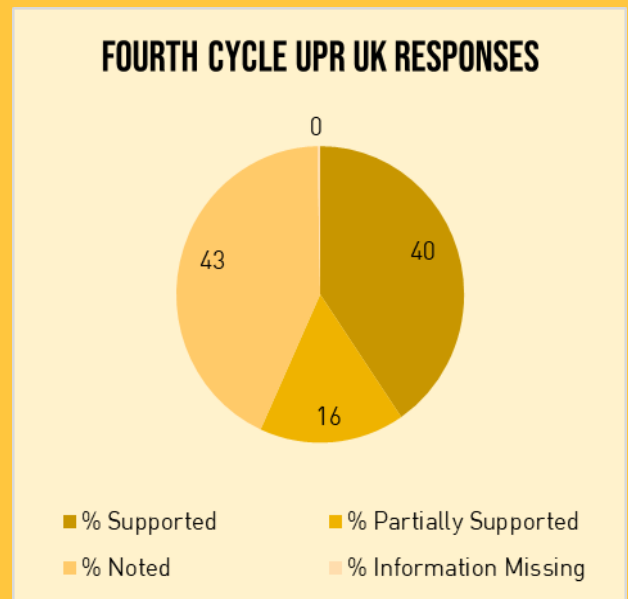
8. However, at the UPR Project’s CSO Conference in February, it became apparent that the UK Government **had not consulted broadly with civil society**. Instead, an e-mail was circulated to select organisations by the Ministry of Justice on the 7th of December 2022, requiring their input on all 331 recommendations by the 16th of December 2022. From our experience of working in the UPR **we do not consider this to be either a sufficient engagement with civil society, or adequate time** for a meaningful response to be given to the collated corpus of recommendations. It is also **far from the good practice demonstrated by the Ministry of Justice in the second cycle** where it maintained a close dialogue with civil society by issuing public calls for input on its website.
9. Since the UK’s review, it is also pertinent to note the increased scrutiny over certain policies that continue to have negative consequences curtailing the protection of human rights. This includes the **Migration and Economic Development Partnership with Rwanda (MEDP)** and the curtailing of rights to asylum through the proposed **Illegal Migration Bill 2023**. There continue to be repeated calls for the age of criminal responsibility to be raised from ten, and for the **adoption of the Optional Protocol on the Rights of the Child** which would allow the Committee to scrutinise the criminal sanctions issued under the Children and Young Persons Act 1963, s. 16 and the human rights of children in the prison estate, particularly those subject to life terms of imprisonment under the Sentencing Act 2020 ss. 285 and 259. **Institutional racism within the Metropolitan Police Service**, previously noted by the UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and at the UK’s UPR, **has been further highlighted** in the 2023 Report published following Baroness Casey’s review of the Service’s behaviour and internal culture. These problems will continue to be exacerbated by **the failure of the UK Government to engage meaningfully with civil society** as part of the UPR process.
10. The UK’s UPR responses were made available on its country page the week commencing 6th March 2023. **No announcements were made on the Ministry of Justice website or on social media** drawing civil society’s attention to this. **It is difficult to reasonably state how this can be viewed as a transparent dissemination of information** regarding the Government’s engagement with the UPR.

11. These responses were then presented to the HRC on the 24th of March 2023. Annex 1 to this briefing contains the UK's full list of recommendations, its responses to each, and its rationales (if any). In reviewing the Government's response, two observations are presented here. Firstly, the UK has demonstrated **limited willingness to initiate meaningful legal change** for the protection of human rights consistent with the UPR recommendations. The UK displays an **extremely low receptivity to the UPR recommendations**. It is difficult to see how this is consistent with the Government's statement, in its National Report, that the UPR is a 'constructive process for States to learn and to help each other.' Secondly, the **reasoning presented by the UK often lacks clarity** or it is **difficult to easily discern how the outcomes of the UPR will be achieved**.

LIMITED RECEPTIVITY TO CHANGE

12. According to UPR Info's database, for the last UPR cycle **states on average supported 75% of recommendations**. As noted in our previous factsheet on the UK's third UPR in 2017, the UK supported 41% of its recommendations, 34% lower than the global average. This was also the lowest rate among European Union states.

13. The UK is again in a similar position for the fourth cycle – **40% of recommendations were supported**. Primarily, this demonstrates **the UK to be considerably less receptive** to its



UPR recommendations compared with its peers, and even less receptive than it has been in the past. Whilst the UK Government can be credited for appropriately engaging with the modalities of the UPR in Geneva for the Fourth Cycle through, for example, the timely filing of its reports, **the extremely low level of supported recommendations is a concern** for the protection of human rights in the UK.

14. Notably, **16% were 'partially supported'**. These recommendations, the Government claimed, could not be entirely supported because '(a) it does not agree with part of the recommendation, or (b) it does not agree with the specific wording or intention used by the State which made the recommendation, or (c) legal or constitutional obstacles prevent the UK government fully implementing (or committing to fully implement) the recommendation.' Resolution 5/1 of the HRC sets out the principles and modalities of UPR, explains that **recommendations can only be 'supported' or 'noted'**. Thus, the format of the UK's responses is not consistent with the modalities of the UPR. the format of the UK's responses is outside of the HRC referenced modalities. Providing a 'partially supported' recommendation problematizes a clear and effective implementation of 'supported' and 'noted' recommendations. The result is that **it makes it more difficult to hold the Government to account under the clear guidelines**. Instead of adopting a sui generis category of 'partial support,' it would be more helpful for the UPR if the government either 'support' or 'note' all

recommendations and then provide reasoning as to how the language used in a specific recommendation caused difficulties. Then post-review dialogues can occur to rectify the issues

“RECOMMENDATIONS THAT ENJOY THE SUPPORT OF THE STATE CONCERNED WILL BE IDENTIFIED AS SUCH. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS, TOGETHER WITH THE COMMENTS OF THE STATE CONCERNED THEREON, WILL BE NOTED”

HRC Resolution 5/1, para 32

15. Further observations can be made by breaking down the responses of the Government by human rights theme. Annex 1 themes each of the UK’s recommendations in line with the system adopted by UPR Info. Annex 2 sets out the statistics for the UK’s responses for each of these themes.

16. The five most prominent themes were **international instruments** (23% of recommendations), **rights of the child** (17%), **racial discrimination** (15%), **women’s rights** (12%), and **labour rights** (11%). These are broadly similar to the UK’s third cycle in 2017. Issues concerning certain legislation or policies were also prominent: 16 states recommended the **UK reconsider reform of the Human Rights Act 1998**; 16 recommended **signing and/or ratifying the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families**; 14 recommended **increasing the age of criminal responsibility**; and 12 recommended signing and/or ratifying the **Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance**.

17. For the five most prominent themes of recommendation outlined above, the UK’s rate of support was lower than the global and EU average in all cases (see table below).

| THEME | SUPPORTED (UK, FOURTH CYCLE) | SUPPORTED (GLOBAL AVG. FROM THIRD CYCLE) | SUPPORTED (EU AVG. FROM THIRD CYCLE) |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| International Instruments | 18% | 50% | 61% |
| Right of the Child | 20% | 84% | 76% |
| Racial Discrimination | 57% | 79% | 87% |
| Women's Rights | 69% | 86% | 88% |
| Labour Rights | 37% | 61% | 51% |

18. **Certain themes of recommendations received no support at all from the Government.** These were ‘Enforced Disappearances’, ‘Poverty’, ‘Human Rights and Terrorism’, ‘Business and Human Rights’, ‘Special Procedures’, ‘Civil Society’, ‘Freedom of Association and Peaceful Assembly’, ‘Indigenous Peoples’, ‘Right to Food’, ‘Rights for Older People’, and ‘Statelessness and the Right to Nationality’. It is important to note, however, that some of these themes were only represented by a small number of recommendations, in some cases just one. Thus, **there must be caution before assuming that the Government was totally unreceptive in all of these areas.**

19. Nevertheless, these statistics are a cause for concern. The UK has **repeatedly emphasised its commitment to the UPR process** in the fourth cycle – in its National Report, at its review, and again when presenting its responses to the HRC. Equally, **the UK is one of the most active recommending states at the UPR**, having participated in all states’ reviews since the first cycle. The mechanism also features heavily in the annual human rights reports of the Government’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. Clearly **the UPR is seen as a useful tool for pursuing human rights internationally** through foreign policy. Yet, compared with its peers, the UK appears considerably less receptive to the recommendations it has received. **Its commitment to promote human rights at home appears weak in comparison with its commitment to improve rights protection abroad.**

LACK OF DETAILED OR COHERENT RATIONALES

20. Whilst statistics of the UK’s responses provide important insights, we should not rely wholly on quantitative measures. It is also important to **observe the UK’s rationales.**

21. In previous cycles, **the UK has always provided reasons** for its responses in detailed annexes to its working group reports. For all three cycles, these annexes gave reasons for **all recommendations** (see the UK’s annexes for cycles one, two, and three). They referred to existing laws and policies adopted by the UK, as well as any plans to change these following the UPR. For cycles two and three, these documents also provided detail on the **specific positions of the devolved governments.**

22. For this cycle, however, **responses to 158 recommendations were not accompanied with any reasoning.** Where reasoning is provided, it is **vague and gives little indication to states or civil society what the Government is doing or plans to do in the future.** In response to recommendations to sign or ratify outstanding treaties, for instance, the Government provides that **sufficient measures are already in place, thus the benefits of signing or ratification are unclear.** First, it is **not explained what specific measures are in place or, if they are, to what extent they are effective.** Second, if the UK was already giving effect to the rights in these treaties, **then there would presumably be little cost to the state** for ratification. As noted in the UPR Project’s previous stakeholder report on the UK and the Migrant Workers Convention,

[b]ecoming party to the Convention would **send a strong message to the UK’s peers** that it takes the protection of migrant workers’ rights seriously. There are also benefits for the wider international human rights movement. **The UK would, for instance, be strengthening the ‘claims of the universality of human rights’ and contributing to the ‘development of a common language of human rights, allowing for broad international consensus and collaboration’.** Ratification would, therefore, be consistent with the principles of universality and cooperation. These are both fundamental in the UPR process which the UK has signalled its repeated commitment.

23. Furthermore, on only some occasions is **the UK Government's position accompanied with that of the devolved governments**. This raises doubts over the level of dialogue between the UK and devolved governments or at least the lack of receptivity to the devolved governments' views.
24. In some cases, **the UK's rationales do not reflect the established interpretations of international human rights law**. For example, in response to Costa Rica's recommendation to '[i]ncorporate the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment in its legal system', the Government claimed that '[a] human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment has not been agreed in any legally binding international human rights treaty'. However, this is prima facie inconsistent with Article 12(1) of the International Covenant on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights which requires states, including the UK as a party to the Convention, to 'recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health'. This includes '[t]he improvement of all aspects of environmental and industrial hygiene'. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights have also provided, in General Comment 14 para. 12, **that various environmental rights to flow from article 12**. In fact, the UK voted in favour of a UN Resolution in 2022 which recognised, at paragraph 1, 'the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right'.

REACTION OF CIVIL SOCIETY, STATES AND PARLIAMENTARIANS

25. **After states present their responses** to recommendations at the HRC, other states, civil society institutions, and the state's National Human Rights Institution(s) **are offered an opportunity to pass comment**. At the adoption of UK's last UPR responses in 2017, **13 delegations commented**, both positively and negatively, on the responses of the UK. **Ten civil society organisations** and the **UK's three National Human Rights Institutions** also gave statements. Two parliamentarians subsequently drew on the UK's poor support rate in debates in 2017 on Brexit and human rights, and in 2019 on the mental health of children and young adults.

26. For this cycle, **26 delegations, 23 CSOs, and the UK's three National Human Rights Institutions produced statements**.² Only some of these were presented in-person at the HRC

² **The states were:** Burkina Faso, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Egypt, Gambia, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Libya, Maldives, Namibia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Nations Population Fund, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Algeria and Botswana. **For civil society:** International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Action Canada for Population and Development, Human Rights Watch, British Humanist Association, International Lesbian and Gay Association, Edmund Rice International Limited, Federation for Women and Family Planning, Alliance Defending Freedom, World Jewish Congress, Anti-Slavery International, International Bar Association, Partners For Transparency, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, Asociacion HazteOir.org, Center for Global Nonkilling, Conscience and Peace Tax International (CPTI), CIVICUS, International Human Rights Association of American Minorities, Amnesty International, Meezaan Center for Human Rights, International-Lawyers.Org, International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Citoyens en action pour la démocratie et le développement. The UK's NHRIs, the Equality and Human Rights Commission, Scottish Human Rights Commission, and Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission gave a joint statement. Those statements given in-person can be watched back on UN Web TV.

due to time constraints. Those statements not delivered in-person **will be released in written form along with the HRC's report of its 52nd session**. This will be published on the UK's UPR page under the 'Outcome of the Review' heading in due course.

27. Some states' delegations and CSOs **spoke highly of the UK's engagement with the fourth UPR cycle**. Burkina Faso commended the UK's approach to **tackling female genital mutilation and racial discrimination**, and Kazakhstan was **grateful for the supporting of its recommendations**. As for CSOs, the World Jewish Congress spoke positively on the Government's role **tackling antisemitism** and plans to establish a **holocaust learning and memorial centre**, and Anti-Slavery International welcomed the government's express commitments to **tackling human trafficking and modern slavery**.
28. Other states and organisations observed with concern the UK's **low rate of support** for its recommendations, and the **ongoing human rights issues** in the UK, including those noted above that had arisen since its review. Human Rights Watch was 'dismayed' at **the more than one third of recommendations noted by the UK**, whilst the International Lesbian and Gay Association, and the Federation for Women and Family Planning drew attention to the **lack of support for recommendations on LGBTQI+ rights**. Ongoing developments concerning migrants rights, namely the Illegal Migration Bill 2023 and the MEDP discussed above, were criticised by states (China, Egypt) and CSOs (Human Rights Watch, ADF UK, Anti-Slavery International). Further analysis of states' and CSOs' views will be possible **once the report of the HRC's 52nd session has been published** along with the written statements of those states and organisations who were not able to present their views in person.
29. It is hoped that parliamentarians, following the UPR Project's symposium in the House of Lords, **will actively engage with the UK's recommendations and responses**. This seems probable given the commitment of the Joint Committee on Human Rights (at 16:14:15) to scrutinise the process later in 2023. As noted below, **there are other ways that parliamentarians, individually and as part of committees, can facilitate the implementation of UPR recommendations**. The UPR Project **actively encourages parliamentary engagement** in line with the Draft Principles on Parliaments and Human Rights.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

30. The UK now enters the implementation stage. It now falls to the state to **implement those recommendations that it has supported** and, where possible, even those that it has not. As a cooperative mechanism, **there are no legal consequences** for failing to implement recommendations. Instead, subsequent cycles of the UPR should focus on the implementation in preceding cycles. Thus, **the UK has approximately three years to demonstrate progress before its next review in 2026/7**. As it has done in previous cycles, the UK has committed to providing a mid-term report in 2025 which will provide an update on this progress.

“THE OUTCOME OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW, AS A COOPERATIVE MECHANISM, SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED PRIMARILY BY THE STATE CONCERNED AND, AS APPROPRIATE, BY OTHER RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS”

HRC Resolution 5/1, para 33

31. Nevertheless, it is wrong to assume that, without enforcement, nothing happens following the UPR. Existing research **strongly suggests that the UPR is effective** because of the role that peer review and international pressures play. Equally, evidence from other states reveals the UPR to be a catalyst for civil society mobilisation. National human rights action plans are also regularly adopted by states following their reviews, as well as ministerial working groups and processes known as ‘National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up’. Civil society organisations called on the UK to establish such a mechanism after its review in November 2022. However, there has been no indication that the Government will act on this.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

32. Anyone looking to get involved with the UPR at this stage should **familiarise themselves with the UK’s recommendations and responses** in Annex 1. Below is specific information for civil society, parliamentarians, and the legal profession.

CIVIL SOCIETY

33. The proven role that civil society can play in driving implementation means that, even despite the UK’s limited receptivity to certain recommendations, the UPR can facilitate the protection and promotion of human rights. There are several ways that civil society can work to this end:

- a) **Consult our resources and those provided by UPR Info** for civil society engagement.
- b) **Work together to pressure central Government** (particularly the Ministry of Justice which is responsible for UPR coordination): This might be done through letters, campaigns, meetings with Government officials, or through the media. Refer to the fact that, at all stages of the fourth UPR cycle, the UK has committed to working with civil society.
- c) **Contact recommending states**: Contact the Permanent Missions of the states that made recommendations to the UK and encourage them to follow these up through diplomatic channels.
- d) **Lobby parliamentarians**: Previous UPR cycles have seen a lack of parliamentary engagement in the UK. Yet, they are recognised as central to the UPR’s success. Contact parliamentarians and the Joint Committee on Human Rights who have an interest in certain recommendation themes and ask them to refer to these in parliamentary debates to maintain the UPR’s presence on the political agenda.

- e) **Encourage consultation:** The UK Government has typically held engagement/consultation events before drafting mid-term reports. Ensure that these happen, and that you have an opportunity to contribute.
- f) **Push for a coordinated response:** The UK Government has not previously adopted an action plan or process for coordinating implementation across departments. These are known to contribute to the sustainability and transparency of progress for implementation.

“WHILE IT MAY BE TRUE THAT GOVERNMENTS ARE NOT WILLING TO ENGAGE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ON HUMAN RIGHTS THAT THEY ARE ACTIVELY UNDERMINING, THE UPR HAS, LIKE NO OTHER UN HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISM, CALLED UPON STATES TO ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY”

UPR Info, ‘The Butterfly Effect’

PARLIAMENT

34. Parliamentarians are also recognised for playing a central role in the UPR. They can help hold governments to account for implementation progress and facilitate the assent of legislation for those recommendations that require it. **Members of Parliament can utilise the UPR within their work through:**
- a. **Consulting our resources and those provided by UPR Info** for parliamentary engagement.
 - b. **Raising questions and contributing to debates in Parliament** with reference to the UK Government’s plans to implement recommendations.
 - c. **Participating in consultations:** In previous cycles, the UK has held engagement events across the UK. Parliamentarians should be invited to these events and be actively consulted on the UPR.
 - d. **Scrutinising implementation progress between now and the UK’s next review (2026/27):** You can check on UK and Welsh Government progress through the information provided by the Equality and Human Rights Commission’s ‘Human Rights Tracker’.
 - e. **Calling for the UK’s reports to the UPR to be put before Parliament and the Senedd:** Unlike in other countries, the UK’s reports to the UN are not routinely brought to the attention of parliamentarians.
 - f. **Working closely with civil society organisations (CSOs):** CSOs should continue to build capacity and further their knowledge of the UPR modalities and inter-review activities

and identify plans for monitoring progress. Working in coalitions can be productive for affecting change.

“RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION THAT PARLIAMENT CAN MAKE IN CONNECTION WITH THE WORK OF INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS, INCLUDING THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW”

UN Human Rights Council, Draft Principles on Parliaments and Human Rights, Preamble

THE LEGAL PROFESSION

35. HRC Resolution 5/1 identifies the central role that ‘relevant stakeholders’ play in the UPR process, not least in the implementation of recommendations. The term ‘stakeholders’ is usually used to collectively refer to various entities and individuals including, *inter alia*, civil society organisations, national human rights institutions and parliamentarians. But the work of the UPR Project at BCU has also revealed **the significant role played by both lawyers and the judiciary.**
36. For the fourth UPR cycle, **the Law Society of England and Wales submitted a Stakeholder Report** recommending halting the reforms of the Human Rights Act 1998 which would undermine international human rights standards and restrict access to justice. It also referred to the aforementioned concerns over the UK’s regressive migration and refugee policies and called on the UK Government to observe the UN Refugee Convention and Protocol. **The UPR Project at BCU submitted a Joint Report** with the barristers’ chambers **4 King’s Bench Walk** (Jyoti Wood was the joint-author from 4KBW), which focused upon refugees and migration, detention and children in the prison estate, and racism. In his oral arguments in the Court of Appeal, Mr Chris Henley KC, Head of Mountford Chambers, referred to the BCU/4KBW Report.
37. **The UPR has also been cited in court judgments**, including the European Court of Human Rights decision in K. I. v. Russia (2017) application no. 58182/14 (7 November 2017), in the High Court in Nemeth and Ors v. Hungarian Judicial Authorities [2022] EWHC 1024 (Admin), and in the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal in AF (Terrorist Suspect) v. Secretary of State for the Home Department (2009) UKAIT 00023.³ This reveals the UPR to be authoritative evidence for both domestic and international standards on human rights. Hence, we can see that the UPR (through the National Report, Working Group Report, Stakeholder Reports, and the data on member state recommendations) is becoming a source for recognising the rule of law through:

³ According to the case law database Westlaw, the term ‘Universal Periodic Review’ has been cited in five other domestic cases: R. (on the application of AAA (Syria)) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2022] EWHC 3230 (Admin); Mohammed v Secretary of State for Defence [2017] UKSC 2; K (FGM) Gambia CG, Re [2013] UKUT 62 (IAC); HM (Article 15(c): Iraq), Re [2012] UKUT 409 (IAC); Lodhi v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2010] EWHC 567 (Admin).

- a) legal advice,
- b) information presented in court; and,
- c) authoritative sources for judicial decisions.

38. The **BCU's Centre for Human Rights** has expertise in filing amicus curiae briefs in human rights cases around the world, and we will be creating an amicus service offering briefs which focus on the UPR, for lawyers in both domestic and international courts. These can be country specific and/or a review of global trends on human rights themes.

THE ROLE OF THE UPR PROJECT AT BCU

39. As noted above, the UPR Project at BCU has provided capacity building for UK stakeholders to engage with the UPR since October 2022 through a series of EHRC-funded activities. **You can find out more** about these activities [on our website and download our series of factsheets](#) for engaging with the UPR.

40. Please browse the **Annexes to this briefing** which contain the full list of recommendations and responses of the UK ([Annex 1](#)), a statistical analysis of themes ([Annex 2](#)), and a visualisation of these statistics in charts ([Annex 3](#)) that organisations are free to use.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE UK GOVERNMENT

41. Recognising the developments herein, the UPR Project at BCU recommends the **UK Government**:

- a) Implement the voluntary commitments entered into through the support of received recommendations in the UPR.
- b) To this end, **establish a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up** which should identify appropriate aims, objectives, and indicators for the effective implementation of UPR recommendations. This should include the participation of all UK governments and have input from each of the National Human Rights Institutions.
- c) Allow **meaningful participation and contributions** from **civil society organisations, parliamentarians, the devolved administrations**, and those who have a **lived experience** as victims of human rights violations when engaging with the UPR and other UN mechanisms.
- d) **Present its responses to Parliament** to ensure that its approach to the UPR can be effectively scrutinised.
- e) **Publish a timetable** providing all stakeholders with time to prepare appropriately so as to be able to make reasoned contributions to future UPR submissions. **Engagement**

events should be held throughout the present and future UPR cycles so that an informed, evidenced-based approach is adopted.

- f) **Improve its engagement with other UN mechanisms**, including the UN treaty bodies, the Special Procedures, and achieve the standards identified within each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The Government should also **enhance its cooperation with international organisations** which have standing to operate as observers, such as the Permanent Delegation of the Council of Europe, and the Permanent Delegation of the European Union.
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ANNEX 1: UK RECOMMENDATIONS, RESPONSES, AND RATIONALE (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE)

Data taken from the UK's fourth cycle working group report, its annex, and the addendum, [available on the UK's UPR Country Page](#).

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|---------|---------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Consider ways forward for the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families | Algeria | International Instruments | Migrants | Labour Rights | | | Noted | The UK Government has no plans to ratify the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. The rights of migrant workers are already protected in UK legislation, including under the Human Rights Act 1998. The Human Rights Act 1998 protects people from torture, or inhuman and degrading treatment and it also protects all people from slavery and forced labour and the right to a fair trial. |
| Continue combating violence against women and girls in particular the domestic violence | Algeria | Women's Rights | Discrimination | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Continue to refine its policies to counter hate crimes in communities, particularly those motivated by race and religion | Algeria | Racial Discrimination | Freedom of religion and belief | | | | Supported | N/A |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Adopt urgent measures to prevent violence, discrimination and hate speech that violate the rights and dignified treatment of trans people, and amend any regulatory framework that pathologizes and/or stigmatizes them; and in the same vein, prohibit conversion therapies (Argentina #3); | Argentina | Gender-based violence | Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina #1); | Argentina | International Instruments | Enforced Disappearances | | | | Noted | The UK Government considers that the current domestic framework already prevents arbitrary arrests, prohibits torture and degrading treatment, and holds the Security and Intelligence Agencies to account. The UK is therefore unclear about the benefits of ratifying |
| Amend the immigration regulations to expressly provide for the family reunification of all unaccompanied asylum-seeking boys and girls (Argentina #2); | Argentina | Asylum-seekers - refugees | Right of the Child | | | | Partially Supported | N/A |
| Take effective measures to address low prosecution and conviction rates in domestic abuse cases, ensuring that all cases of gender-based violence are investigated, and providing compulsory training for judicial and law enforcement officials (Argentina #4); | Argentina | Human rights education and training | Justice | Gender-based violence | | | Supported | N/A |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------|---------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Continue its efforts towards developing comprehensive legislative policy framework for inclusive education for children with disabilities (Armenia #2); | Armenia | Right of the Child | Right to Education | Disability Rights | | | Partially Supported | The UK is fully committed to protecting and promoting children's rights, and strongly believes in the principles laid out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child that the UK ratified in 1991; that every child has the right to an education. |
| Continue its efforts on the international level for the promotion and effective implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (Armenia #1); | Armenia | Women's Rights | | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Continue work to reform the Gender Recognition Act based on international human rights standards, including recognition of trans and non-binary individuals (Australia #2); | Australia | Sexual Orientation and Gender | | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Ensure that the current level of human rights protection provided by the Human Rights Act 1998 is maintained and improved if legislation is replaced or reformed (Australia #1); | Australia | General | | | | | Supported | The UK Government does not accept the premise that the Bill of Rights weakens human rights protections. |
| Continue efforts to identify and eliminate barriers to access to health and services for persons with disabilities (Australia #3); | Australia | Right to Health | Disability Rights | | | | Supported | N/A |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|---------|---------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Take effective legislative and policy measures with the aim of eliminating and preventing the rising incidents of racist, xenophobic, anti-Semitic, anti-Muslim and anti-disabled crimes (Azerbaijan #1); | Azerbaijan | Racial Discrimination | Disability Rights | Freedom of religion and belief | | | Supported | N/A |
| Strengthen the implementation of programmes and policies for providing effective access to health care for women belonging to marginalized groups (Azerbaijan #2); | Azerbaijan | Right to Health | Women's Rights | Minority Rights | | | Supported | N/A |
| Implement measures to address the situation of persons with disabilities, in particular, their right to an adequate standard of living and access to health services, as well as their employment (Azerbaijan #3); | Azerbaijan | Disability Rights | Right to Health | Labour Rights | | | Supported | N/A |
| Accelerate efforts to achieve the objective of net zero carbon emissions by 2050, including by ensuring the mobilization of adequate resources for this purpose (Bahamas #3); | Bahamas | Environment and Human Rights | | | | | Partially Supported | The UK Government supports the premise of this recommendation. The UK is confident that sufficient measures, including legislation, are already in place to adequately address this |
| Take concrete steps to reduce rates of racially motivated hate crimes and discrimination faced by Afro-descendent and other ethnic minorities, including in Scotland and Northern Ireland, while ensuring that perpetrators do not enjoy impunity (Bahamas #2); | Bahamas | Racial Discrimination | | | | | Partially Supported | The UK Government supports the premise of this recommendation. The UK is confident that sufficient measures, including legislation, are already in place to adequately address this |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------|---------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ensure that any reform of the 1998 Human Rights Act does not reduce the scope of protection or remedies currently enjoyed (Bahamas #1); | Bahamas | General | | | | | Supported | The UK Government does not accept the premise that the Bill of Rights weakens the legal effects of the Human Rights Act |
| Continue developing effective remedies to protect vulnerable groups and minorities from hate speech (Bahrain #2); | Bahrain | Minority Rights | | | | | Supported | The right to freedom of expression is a fundamental value of our democracy. It is protected by Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which is given effect by the Human Rights Act 1998 |
| Strengthen measures taken to ensure equal access to healthcare (Bahrain #3); | Bahrain | Right to Health | Discrimination | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Continue efforts towards ensuring the protection of women rights (Bahrain #1); | Bahrain | Women's Rights | | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Bangladesh #1); | Bangladesh | International Instruments | Migrants | Labour Rights | | | Noted | The UK Government has no plans to ratify the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. The rights of migrant workers are already protected in UK legislation, including under the Human Rights Act 1998. The Human Rights Act 1998 protects people from torture, or inhuman and degrading treatment and it also protects all people from slavery and forced labour and the right to a fair trial. |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------|---------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Strengthen efforts, including legislative mechanisms, to root out racism, racial discrimination, Islamophobia and hate crimes (Bangladesh #2); | Bangladesh | Racial Discrimination | Freedom of religion and belief | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Continue to develop and implement public policies and measures to safeguard the human rights of persons living in poverty (Barbados #2); | Barbados | Poverty | | | | | Noted | The UK Government is committed to a sustainable, long-term approach to tackling poverty, including child poverty, and supporting people on lower incomes. The UK has allocated significant funds to support the welfare system, and to provide cost of living support, and will continue to do so |
| Further promote efforts to protect persons from gender-based violence (Barbados #3); | Barbados | Gender-based violence | | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Enhance efforts to address disparities among groups, as experienced on the basis of race, in criminal justice, employment, mental health and education (Barbados #1); | Barbados | Racial Discrimination | Labour Rights | Right to Education | | | Supported | N/A |
| Stop the arbitrary detention of Julian Assange by taking into account the views of human rights mechanisms, and ensure proper compensation to him, and guarantee him non-extradition to the authorities of the United States of America (Belarus #4); | Belarus | Detention | Freedom of the press | Justice | | | Noted | N/A |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Take additional effective measures to combat neo-Nazi manifestations, discrimination on the basis of race or nationality, ensure a proper response to the increasing number of anti-Semitic incidents, including violence, attacks, threats, insults and desecration of property (Belarus #2); | Belarus | Discrimination | | | | | Noted | The UK is clear that racism, racial discrimination and anti-Semitism have no place in our society and is committed to tackling them in all their forms. The UK has robust equality laws and has set out a comprehensive plan towards a more inclusive and integrated society in the Inclusive Britain strategy. |
| Refrain from adopting the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill, which provides amnesty to serious human rights violations during the conflict in Northern Ireland and deprives victims of legal remedies (Belarus #3); | Belarus | Other | | | | | Noted | The Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill seeks to set out a way forward to address and deal with Northern Ireland's Troubled past as comprehensively and fairly as possible. It will not introduce an amnesty and will not remove the prospect of criminal prosecutions. Conditional immunity will only be granted to individuals who cooperate fully and truthfully with the Commission. Individuals who do not will remain liable to prosecution and will be referred to prosecutors should sufficient evidence exist. |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Refrain from the practice of the use of unilateral coercive measures which are contrary to international law and the Charter of the United Nations, and which have a negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights, as well as use available resources to promote international cooperation for development, and not put pressure on the governments of other countries (Belarus #1); | Belarus | Other | | | | | Noted | The UK Government does not accept the premise of the recommendation. |
| Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility (Belgium #3); | Belgium | Right of the Child | Justice | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Reconsider the intention to replace the Human Rights Act 1998 with a Bill of Rights and commit to continued domestic incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights (Belgium #1); | Belgium | General | International Instruments | | | | Partially Supported | The UK remains committed to the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and fully incorporating the ECHR into the law of Northern Ireland. |
| Ensure that all cases of domestic violence are effectively being investigated and prosecuted and that all competent authorities have the appropriate training and necessary capacity to investigate, prosecute and penalize this type of violence (Belgium #2); | Belgium | Human rights education and training | Justice | | | | Supported | N/A |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Strengthen the labour inspection regime, including through adequate budgetary provision, to ensure favourable and non-discriminatory conditions in the workplace (Botswana #2); | Botswana | Labour Rights | | | | | Noted | The UK Government continues to ensure the UK has a robust and adequately funded labour inspection regime in place. The UK has a labour inspection regime in place to identify and stop labour exploitation including modern slavery. The UK's enforcement system primarily focuses on individual, rather than state, enforcement. |
| Undertake deliberate and robust measures to ensure equitable access to quality education opportunities at all levels (Botswana #1); | Botswana | Right to education | Discrimination | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Continue training of law enforcement officials for the proportionate use of force especially with regard to minority groups (Brazil #1); | Brazil | Human rights education | Minority Rights | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Advance measures to improve food security, in particular for young children, adolescents and persons with disabilities (Brazil #2); | Brazil | Right of the Child | Disability Rights | Right to Food | | | Partially Supported | The UK Government supports the premise of the recommendation and feels there are sufficient measures in place to adequately address this. It has a robust approach to tackling poverty and provide significant financial support. The UK Government is committed to tackling child poverty through its reformed welfare system that incentivises employment while providing a strong safety net for those who need it. |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Incorporate the human rights model of disability into all laws and regulations regarding children and young people with disabilities (Bulgaria #3); | Bulgaria | Disability Rights | Right of the Child | | | | Noted | The UK has a comprehensive legislative framework regarding disabled children and young people based on the social model of disability. |
| Continue efforts within the Media Freedom Coalition to defend media freedom at home and abroad, and improve the safety of journalists and media workers who report across the world (Bulgaria #1); | Bulgaria | Freedom of the press | | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Develop a comprehensive digital inclusion strategy for children and young people to promote their online safety and sustainable inclusion (Bulgaria #2); | Bulgaria | Right of the Child | Other | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Remove structural barriers that prevent racial and ethnic minorities from enjoying human rights without discrimination (Burkina Faso #1); | Burkina Faso | Racial Discrimination | Minority Rights | | | | Partially Supported | The UK continues to address racial disparities and discrimination, including through its flagship Inclusive Britain strategy. |
| Ensure the full application of its legislation on female genital mutilation and take further measures to prosecute the perpetrators of such acts (Burkina Faso #2); | Burkina Faso | Women's Rights | Sexual and reproductive rights | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Continue taking additional measures to increase opportunity for women to gain access to formal employment (Cambodia #2); | Cambodia | Women's Rights | Labour Rights | | | | Partially Supported | The UK Government supports the premise of this recommendation. The UK is confident that sufficient measures, including legislation, are already in place to adequately address this |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Develop an effective employment policy for persons with disabilities aimed at ensuring decent work for them and equal pay for work of equal value (Cambodia #1); | Cambodia | Disability Rights | Labour Rights | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Continue to fight against the discrimination faced by transgender people, by expanding the planned ban on conversion therapy to include transgender people (Canada #2); | Canada | Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity | | | | | Noted | The UK Government is committed to protecting people from these practices and is carefully considering the responses to the public consultation on banning conversion practices which closed in 2022. The UK will set out our next steps and the Government response in due course. |
| Maintain its robust tradition of citizens' right to peacefully protest as new legislation on public order is introduced (Canada #3); | Canada | Freedom of opinion and expression | Freedom of assembly | | | | Supported | The UK's current and planned public order legislation is not restrictive on peaceful and non-disruptive protest. New legislation targets unjustifiably disruptive protests and will not impact the vast majority of protesters who are peaceful and do not cause serious disruption. The legislation is compatible with the ECHR and the police and judiciary will continue to read public order legislation compatibly with the ECHR (section 3 of the Human Rights Act 1998). |
| Ensure that the current level of human rights protection provided by the Human Rights Act of 1998, including the rights of asylum seekers, are maintained under any legislative reform (Canada #1); | Canada | General | Asylum-seekers - refugees | | | | Supported | The UK Government does not accept the premise that the Bill of Rights weakens the legal effects of the Human Rights Act |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Move towards the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Chile #1); | Chile | International Instruments | Migrants | Labour Rights | Enforced Disappearances | | Noted | <p>The UK Government has no plans to ratify the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. The rights of migrant workers are already protected in UK legislation, including under the Human Rights Act 1998. The Human Rights Act 1998 protects people from torture, or inhuman and degrading treatment and it also protects all people from slavery and forced labour and the right to a fair trial.</p> <p>The UK Government considers that the current domestic framework already prevents arbitrary arrests, prohibits torture and degrading treatment, and holds the Security and Intelligence Agencies to account. The UK is therefore unclear about the benefits of ratifying the CPED.</p> |
| Consider raising the age of criminal responsibility to 14 (Chile #2); | Chile | Right of the Child | Justice | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Consider moving towards the promulgation of the action plan for LGBTI persons, as well as adopt measures to criminalize the prohibition of conversion therapies (Chile #3); | Chile | Sexual Orientation and Gender | | | | | Noted | N/A |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Do away with islamophobia (China #1); | China | Freedom of religion and belief | | | | | Information Missing* | Information missing* |
| Put an end to the violation of rights of migrants and refugees (China #2); | China | Asylum-seekers - refugees | Migrants | | | | Noted | The UK Government is committed to upholding the rights of refugees and stands with those around the world facing persecution. |
| Have an in-depth investigation of murders carried out by the British in foreign military operations (China #8); | China | International humanitarian law | Justice | | | | Noted | UK Armed Forces are rightly held to the highest standards. Military operations are conducted in accordance with the Law of Armed Conflict and all allegations are considered and investigated as appropriate. The Service Police have carried out extensive and independent investigations into allegations of misconduct by UK forces overseas. |
| Remove unilateral coercive measures against developing countries (China #6); | China | Other | | | | | Noted | The UK Government does not accept the premise of the recommendation. |
| Stop meddling in the domestic affairs of other states (China #7); | China | Other | | | | | Noted | The UK Government works to promote and protect human rights across the globe, particularly where there are human rights challenges and where it is considered that the UK can make a real difference. |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Prevent ill-treatment in prisons towards inmates and start investigations to find those responsible (China #5); | China | Detention | | | | | Supported | The UK Government supports the premise of this recommendation. The UK is confident that sufficient measures, including legislation, are already in place to adequately address this |
| Effectively combat against human trafficking and sexual exploitation (China #4); | China | Trafficking | | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Promote gender equality, ensuring that women are protected from discrimination (China #3); | China | Women's Rights | Sexual Orientation and | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Colombia #2); | Colombia | International Instruments | Migrants | Labour Rights | | | Noted | The UK Government has no plans to ratify the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. The rights of migrant workers are already protected in UK legislation, including under the Human Rights Act 1998. The Human Rights Act 1998 protects people from torture, or inhuman and degrading treatment and it also protects all people from slavery and forced labour and the right to a fair trial. |
| Continue the implementation of measures against racial disparities in criminal justice, employment, mental health, and education (Colombia #1); | Colombia | Racial Discrimination | Justice | Labour Rights | Right to Health | Right to education | Supported | N/A |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Establish an immediate moratorium to grant new oil and gas exploration and exploitation concessions (Costa Rica #2); | Costa Rica | Environment and Human | | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Incorporate the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment in its legal system (Costa Rica #1); | Costa Rica | Environment and Human Rights | | | | | Noted | A human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment has not been agreed in any legally binding international human rights treaty. The UK Government believes human rights should be negotiated in legally binding instruments after thorough intergovernmental discussion as to their substance, including definition. The UK does not incorporate non-legally binding UN resolutions into its legal system. |
| Commit to remain a member state of the Council of Europe and party to the European Convention on Human Rights (Costa Rica #3); | Costa Rica | International Instruments | | | | | Partially Supported | Our Bill of Rights will allow us to remain a State Party to the ECHR and fully avail ourselves of the margin of appreciation to restore some common sense to our human rights laws. |
| Take concrete measures to address the over-representation of minors of African-descent and other racial minorities in the juvenile criminal justice system and adopt legislation to ensure that those under 18 are not incarcerated with adults (Costa Rica #4); | Costa Rica | Detention | Right of the Child | Racial Discrimination | | | Supported | N/A |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------|---------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Accept the procedure for the submission of communications from individuals, provided for in article 14 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and withdraw its reservation to article 4 of the Convention (Côte d'Ivoire #2); | Cote d'Ivoire | International Instruments | Racial Discrimination | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Côte d'Ivoire #1); | Côte d'Ivoire | International Instruments | Migrants | Labour Rights | | | Noted | The UK Government has no plans to ratify the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. The rights of migrant workers are already protected in UK legislation, including under the Human Rights Act 1998. The Human Rights Act 1998 protects people from torture, or inhuman and degrading treatment and it also protects all people from slavery and forced labour and the right to a fair trial. |
| Take measures to improve data collection on gender-based violence, including disability disaggregated data when reporting such violence (Croatia #1); | Croatia | Gender-based violence | | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Ensure that the victims of trafficking are provided with timely information regarding their rights and assistance possibilities (Croatia #2); | Croatia | Trafficking | | | | | Supported | N/A |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Identify and address the shortcomings in hate crime legislation with regard to combating racist and xenophobic speech and violence (Croatia #3); | Croatia | Racial Discrimination | | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Continue updating and ensure the effective implementation of action plans on combating hate crimes (Cuba #1); | Cuba | Discrimination | | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Continue taking measures to eliminate disparities affecting minorities in accessing to criminal justice, employment, health, and education (Cuba #2); | Cuba | Minority Rights | Justice | Labour Rights | Right to Health | Right to education | Supported | N/A |
| Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Cyprus #2); | Cyprus | International Instrument | Right of the Child | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Cyprus #1); | Cyprus | International instruments | CP rights - general | ESC rights - general | | | Noted | The UK Government believes that effective domestic laws already exist in the UK under which individuals may seek enforceable remedies in the courts if their rights have been breached. The UK is also subject to the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights. The UK therefore does not see the value in accepting this further individual communication mechanism. |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Ensure that all new legislation remains in line with the UK's international human rights obligations (Cyprus #4); | Cyprus | General | International instrument | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Commit to continued domestic incorporation of ECHR rights and provisions (Cyprus #3); | Cyprus | International Instrument | | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility in accordance with acceptable international standards (Czechia #3); | Czechia | Right of the Child | Justice | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Czechia #1); | Czechia | International instruments | Enforced Disappearances | | | | Noted | The UK Government considers that the current domestic framework already prevents arbitrary arrests, prohibits torture and degrading treatment, and holds the Security and Intelligence Agencies to account. The UK is therefore unclear about the benefits of ratifying the CPED. |
| Take necessary steps to allow individual complaints mechanisms under UN human rights treaties such as the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Czechia #2); | Czechia | International Instruments | | | | | Noted | The UK Government believes that effective domestic laws already exist, under which individuals may seek enforceable remedies in the courts if their rights have been breached. |

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| Continue efforts to improve conditions in prisons (Czechia #4); | Czechia | Detention | | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Ensure protecting the right of minorities and migrants for access to employment, housing, public health and education on an equal basis with others and enhancing their quality of life (Democratic People's Republic of Korea #3); | Democratic People's Republic of Korea | Migrants | Minority Rights | Labour Rights | Right to Health | Right to education | Noted | The UK has a framework of laws and policies which ensure those who are eligible to access work, benefits and services can do so and publish codes of practice on avoiding discrimination for landlords and employers. |
| Commit to establishing a comprehensive national framework to prevent trafficking of women and girls for sexual or labour exploitation and criminal activity (Democratic People's Republic of Korea #2); | Democratic People's Republic of Korea | Trafficking | Women's Rights | | | | Partially Supported | The UK already has existing processes in place to provide a coordinated national response to prevent and tackle sexual and labour exploitation |
| End deep-rooted racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia, as well as all sorts of hate crimes on the basis of ethnic, racial, cultural or religious background in the public sphere (Democratic People's Republic of Korea #1); | Democratic People's Republic of Korea | Racial Discrimination | Freedom of religion and belief | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Denmark #1); | Denmark | International Instruments | Right of the Child | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Follow up - and guarantee full implementation - of its recent commitment to ensure access to abortion for women in Northern Ireland (Denmark #2); | Denmark | Sexual and reproductive rights | | | | | Supported | N/A |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Ecuador #3); | Ecuador | International Instrument | Right of the Child | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Ensure that any instrument that may replace the Human Rights Act of 1998 grants rights-holders at least the same level of effective protection (Ecuador #2); | Ecuador | General | | | | | Supported | The UK Government does not accept the premise that the Bill of Rights weakens human rights protections. |
| Take necessary measures to outlaw detention based on appearance or membership to national and ethnic groups (Ecuador #1); | Ecuador | Detention | Racial Discrimination | | | | Supported | The UK Government agrees that detention should never be based on appearance or membership to national and ethnic groups and UK law reflects this |
| Sign and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Egypt #2); | Egypt | International Instruments | Migrants | Labour Rights | | | Noted | The UK Government has no plans to ratify the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. The rights of migrant workers are already protected in UK legislation, including under the Human Rights Act 1998. The Human Rights Act 1998 protects people from torture, or inhuman and degrading treatment and it also protects all people from slavery and forced labour and the right to a fair trial. |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Amend asylum laws to explicitly provide for family reunification (Egypt #3); | Egypt | Asylum-seekers - refugees | | | | | Noted | The UK's refugee family reunion policy already allows for children to join their family members in the UK, where they formed part of the family unit before their sponsor fled to claim asylum. The best interests of the child is a primary consideration under this policy. As such the UK Government does not consider that any further review is required at this point. |
| Stop plans to transfer asylum seekers to other countries in violation of international law (Egypt #4); | Egypt | Asylum-seekers - refugees | | | | | Noted | MEDP is part of the UK's New Plan for Immigration to stop illegal migration and the UK believes that the partnership arrangement with Rwanda and the broader inadmissibility framework is compatible with national and international law, including the 1951 Refugee Convention. |
| Promote policies to support the family as the basic and natural unit of society (Egypt #1); | Egypt | Other | | | | | Partially Supported | The UK Government is committed to supporting the all different kinds of families, and to protecting the human rights of all individuals within those families. |

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| Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Estonia #1); | Estonia | International Instruments | | | | | Noted | The UK Government believes that effective domestic laws already exist in the UK under which individuals may seek enforceable remedies in the courts if their rights have been breached. The UK is also subject to the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights. The UK therefore does not see the value in accepting this further individual communication mechanism. |
| Consistently implement the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, by establishing a strategy for the eradication of child poverty (Estonia #2); | Estonia | International Instruments | Poverty | Right of the Child | | | Partially Supported | The UK supports the premise of the recommendation and feels there are sufficient measures in place to adequately address this. We have a robust approach to tackling poverty and provide significant financial support. |
| Ensure the effectiveness and scope of the Human Rights Act in any future legislation (Estonia #3); | Estonia | General | | | | | Supported | The UK Government does not accept the premise that the Bill of Rights weakens human rights protections. |
| Strengthen laws that combat racial profiling and stigmatization of people of African and Asian descent (Eswatini #1); | Eswatini | Racial Discrimination | | | | | Partially Supported | The UK Government supports the premise of this recommendation. The UK is confident that sufficient measures, including legislation, are already in place to adequately address this |
| Continue to address and strengthen laws that improve access to healthcare for women and girls (Eswatini #2); | Eswatini | Right to Health | Women's Rights | Right of the Child | | | Partially Supported | The UK Government supports the premise of this recommendation. The UK is confident that sufficient measures, including legislation, are already in place to adequately address this |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Further strengthen laws that ensure all children within the education system are afforded quality education, especially children living with disabilities (Eswatini #3); | Eswatini | Right of the Child | Right to Education | Disability Rights | | | Partially Supported | The UK is fully committed to protecting and promoting children's rights, and strongly believes in the principles laid out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child that the UK ratified in 1991; that every child has the right to an education. |
| Introduce a ban on all corporal punishment of children as recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child and other treaty bodies (Finland #3); | Finland | Right of the Child | Justice | Treaty bodies | | | Noted | The UK Government supports the right to an adequate standard of living for every child. The UK has clear laws in place to deal with any violence towards children. Unless children are at risk of abuse, the government does not want to interfere in how parents bring up their children. Where a parent or any adult is violent towards a child, they can be charged with assault. The governments of Wales and Scotland have passed legislation to remove the legal defence of reasonable punishment but there are no plans to do so in England. |
| Dedicate sufficient resources to central, devolved and local authorities to ensure effective implementation of the Istanbul Convention (Finland #1); | Finland | International Instrument | Women's Rights | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Ensure that women in Northern Ireland are able to access safe abortion services on equal basis with women living in other parts of the United Kingdom (Finland #2); | Finland | Right to Health | Women's Rights | | | | Supported | N/A |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Develop a national strategy aimed at facilitating access for children to health, education, culture and justice, in particular for children in a situation of vulnerability, and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (France #1); | France | Right of the Child | Right to Education | Justice | International instruments | | Noted | N/A |
| Sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France #3); | France | International Instruments | Enforced Disappearances | | | | Noted | The UK Government considers that the current domestic framework already prevents arbitrary arrests, prohibits torture and degrading treatment, and holds the Security and Intelligence Agencies to account. The UK is therefore unclear about the benefits of ratifying the CPED. |
| Take all necessary measures to implement the provisions of the Istanbul Convention across its entire territory (France #2); | France | International Instruments | Women's Rights | | | | Partially Supported | The Istanbul Convention has been implemented across the whole of the UK. However, it has not been implemented in the crown dependencies and overseas territories, that would be a decision for their respective governments. |
| Continue and strengthen its awareness raising campaigns aimed at eliminating prejudice and negative stereotypes regarding people with disabilities (Gabon #2); | Gabon | Disability Rights | Discrimination | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Redouble efforts to fight against forced marriages (Gabon #1); | Gabon | Women's Rights | | | | | Supported | N/A |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Continue its work on strengthening measures for the prevention of sexual harassment in the workplace (Georgia #2); | Georgia | Gender-based violence | Labour Rights | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Continue its efforts to combat violence against women and girls (Georgia #1); | Georgia | Women's Rights | Right of the Child | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Introduce a general statutory time limit on detention pending deportation (Germany #3); | Germany | Detention | Asylum-seekers - refugees | Justice | | | Noted | A statutory time limit on detention will not be effective in ensuring that those with no right to be in the UK leave. |
| Ensure that any possible reform to the Human Rights Act 1998 does not weaken the protection or limit the ability of individuals to enjoy and enforce rights under the European Convention on Human Rights (Germany #1); | Germany | General | International Instruments | | | | Supported | The UK Government does not accept the premise that the Bill of Rights weakens human rights protections. |
| Remain committed to fully implement the European Convention on Human Rights (Germany #4); | Germany | International Instrument | | | | | Supported | The UK gives full effect to its international obligations |
| Ensure all women and girls are equally protected from violence (Germany #2); | Germany | Women's Rights | Right of the Child | Gender-based violence | | | Supported | N/A |

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| Consider ratifying outstanding Conventions such as the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Ghana #1); | Ghana | International Instruments | Migrants | Labour Rights | | | Noted | The UK Government has no plans to ratify the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. The rights of migrant workers are already protected in UK legislation, including under the Human Rights Act 1998. The Human Rights Act 1998 protects people from torture, or inhuman and degrading treatment and it also protects all people from slavery and forced labour and the right to a fair trial. |
| Reinforce measures to combat all forms of discrimination and inequality (Ghana #2); | Ghana | Discrimination | | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Take further action to ensure a safe environment for civil society, including the removal of potentially restrictive legislation to the rights of association and peaceful assembly (Greece #1); | Greece | Civil Society | Freedom of association and peaceful assembly | | | | Partially Supported | The UK's current and planned public order legislation is not restrictive on peaceful and non-disruptive protest. New legislation targets unjustifiably disruptive protests and will not impact the vast majority of protesters who are peaceful and do not cause serious disruption. The legislation is compatible with the ECHR and the police and judiciary will continue to read public order legislation compatibly with the ECHR (section 3 of the Human Rights Act 1998). |

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| Take concrete steps to improve the safety of journalists, investigate incidents of attacks on journalists, and implement the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity (Greece #2); | Greece | Freedom of the press | | | | | Partially Supported | The UK Government is implementing measures to ensure the safety of journalists in the UK, such as the National Action Plan for the Safety of Journalists, many of which are aligned to actions within the UN Plan of Action to protect the safety of journalists. The UK police treat any and all attacks against individuals with the utmost importance |
| Ensure that any proposed changes to the Human Rights Act do not diminish access to justice (Greece #3); | Greece | General | | | | | Supported | The UK Government does not accept the premise that the Bill of Rights weakens human rights protections. |
| Ban conversion therapy practices for all LGBTQI+ persons (Iceland #5); | Iceland | Sexual Orientation and | | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Combat media disinformation directed against the LGBTQI+ community (Iceland #6); | Iceland | Sexual Orientation and | | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Introduce legislation to reform the Gender Recognition Act, remove requirements of diagnoses and introduce a process of self-determination (Iceland #3); | Iceland | Sexual Orientation and | | | | | Noted | N/A |

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| Revise the Domestic Abuse Act to ensure protection and support for migrant women (Iceland #1); | Iceland | Migrants | Women's Rights | | | | Partially Supported | The UK Government is committed to ensuring the protection and support for migrant women and girls. The UK is confident that the Domestic Abuse act already provides strong measures in this area but will keep the position under review. |
| Protect and fulfil the right to health of trans persons by increasing capacity and competence of gender identity health care services (Iceland #4); | Iceland | Sexual Orientation and | Right to health | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Ensure equal access to abortion across Northern Ireland (Iceland #2); | Iceland | Women's Rights | Right to health | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Consider further measures to ensure the minimum age of marriage is raised to at least 18 years across all of the United Kingdom (India #3); | India | Right of the Child | | | | | Partially Supported | Legislation to raise the minimum age of marriage in England and Wales to 18 came into force on 27 February 2023. The Scottish Government is currently gathering views from key stakeholders on raising the minimum age of marriage and civil partnership to 18 from 16. |
| Continue to strengthen the functioning of its various National Human Rights Institutions, in accordance with the Paris Principles (India #2); | India | National Human Rights | | | | | Supported | N/A |

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| Continue with legislative and policy measures for ensuring pay parity and equal access to safe reproductive health services across all of the United Kingdom (India #1); | India | Right to health | Discrimination | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Take all necessary measures to end abuse and exploitation in immigration by integrating human rights standards in line with the United Kingdom's obligations under international law (Indonesia #1); | Indonesia | Migrants | | | | | Noted | The UK Government remains committed to upholding the rights of refugees and ensuring compliance with our international obligations under the European Convention of Human Rights and the Refugee Convention. |
| Take concrete measures to ensure the fulfilment of the right to adequate housing for all without discrimination to prevent homelessness (Indonesia #3); | Indonesia | Right to housing | | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Improve efforts to address discrimination and prejudice towards racial, ethnic and religious minorities including Muslim minorities (Indonesia #2); | Indonesia | Racial Discrimination | Minority Rights | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Implement the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism's recommendations regarding the withdrawal of interpretative declaration under article 4 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, "preventive duty" and media prejudice (Iran (Islamic Republic of) #5); | Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Special procedures | Racial Discrimination | International instruments | | | Noted | UK law prohibits the incitement to racial hatred. The law applies to online and offline media as well as to individuals. The UK Government believes that the existing legal framework strikes the right balance between maintaining the right to freedom of speech and protecting individuals from violence and hatred. |

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| Halt its plans to transfer asylum-seekers to other territories (Iran (Islamic Republic of) #6); | Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Asylum-seekers - refugees | | | | | Noted | MEDP is part of the UK's New Plan for Immigration to stop illegal migration and the UK believes that the partnership arrangement with Rwanda and the broader inadmissibility framework is compatible with national and international law, including the 1951 Refugee Convention. |
| Ensure the accountability of media outlets under its jurisdiction which provoke riots, violence and terrorism (Iran (Islamic Republic of) #3); | Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Freedom of the press | Human rights and terrorism | | | | Noted | The UK Government strongly supports editorial independence and does not interfere with what is broadcast or published. The UK Government recognises media freedom as fundamental to a healthy democracy and strongly supports it, as long as media organisations abide by the law of the land. |
| Guarantee the responsibility and accountability of all financial institutions and other businesses under its jurisdiction with regard to recommendations of Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures in her country visit report on Iran (Iran (Islamic Republic of) #2); | Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Other | Special Procedures | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Refrain from compliance with unilateral coercive measures and contributing to gross violations of human rights of targeted populations (Iran (Islamic Republic of) #1); | Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Other | | | | | Noted | The UK Government does not accept the premise of the recommendation. |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Put an end to disproportionate use of force against members of minority groups that are increasingly reported to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Iran (Islamic Republic of) #4); | Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Minority Rights | International instruments | | | | Partially Supported | The UK Government takes its human rights obligations seriously. The UK does not accept that use of force is disproportionately applied to minorities but is committed to abide by our obligations under the Convention Against Torture. |
| Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Iraq #1); | Iraq | International Instruments | Enforced Disappearances | | | | Noted | The UK Government considers that the current domestic framework already prevents arbitrary arrests, prohibits torture and degrading treatment, and holds the Security and Intelligence Agencies to account. The UK is therefore unclear about the benefits of ratifying the CPED. |
| Improve humanitarian conditions in places of detention for asylum seekers in line with international human rights standards (Iraq #3); | Iraq | Asylum-seekers - refugees | Detention | | | | Partially Supported | The UK Government always seek to ensure that our facilities for asylum seekers comply with UK domestic law. Conditions in Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs) and Residential Short-Term Holding Facilities (RSTHFs) meet statutory Rules and in line with human rights standards. |
| Expand the opportunities for migrants and asylum seekers to obtain adequate legal advice before deciding on their applications (Iraq #2); | Iraq | Asylum-seekers - refugees | Access to justice | | | | Supported | N/A |

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| Ensure that any future human rights legislation complies with the duty under the Good Friday Agreement to ensure full incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into Northern Ireland law (Ireland #1); | Ireland | General | International Instruments | | | | Supported | The UK Government is committed to the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and the incorporation of the ECHR into Northern Ireland law follows on from that. |
| Ensure the compatibility of any legislation addressing the legacy of the troubles with the United Kingdom's human rights obligations, including by ensuring that investigations into deaths are independent, effective and timely, with adequate involvement of next of kin and public scrutiny, and ensure accountability for gross human rights violations (Ireland #2); | Ireland | General | Justice | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Adopt legislation to ban all conversion therapy practices in all forms and settings (Israel #1); | Israel | Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity | | | | | Partially Supported | This is a live policy area and would not be appropriate to comment on at this time, until a final position on the scope of any proposed legislation has been decided after pre legislative scrutiny has concluded |
| Strengthen awareness-raising campaigns aimed at eliminating negative stereotypes and prejudice towards persons with disabilities (Israel #2); | Israel | Disability Rights | Discrimination | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Take effective measures to address low prosecution and conviction rates for domestic violence (Israel #3); | Israel | Justice | | | | | Supported | N/A |

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| Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Italy #1); | Italy | International Instruments | Enforced Disappearances | | | | Noted | The UK Government considers that the current domestic framework already prevents arbitrary arrests, prohibits torture and degrading treatment, and holds the Security and Intelligence Agencies to account. The UK is therefore unclear about the benefits of ratifying the CPED. |
| Keep under review the reservations registered upon ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) (Italy #2); | Italy | International instruments | Women's Rights | | | | Partially Supported | The reservation on Article 59 is under review, pending the results and evaluation of the Support for Migrant Victims (SMV) Scheme pilot and wider policy considerations. There are no current plans to lift the reservation on Article 44. |
| Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Japan #1); | Japan | International Instruments | Enforced Disappearances | | | | Noted | The UK Government considers that the current domestic framework already prevents arbitrary arrests, prohibits torture and degrading treatment, and holds the Security and Intelligence Agencies to account. The UK is therefore unclear about the benefits of ratifying the CPED. |
| Facilitate regular availability of information to potential victims of human trafficking about their rights, ensure access to legal aid for victims, ensure timely access to psychological assistance, and take further steps to improve the identification process for victims of human trafficking (Jordan #3); | Jordan | Trafficking | Access to justice | Right to health | | | Supported | N/A |

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| Develop an effective employment policy for persons with disabilities aimed at ensuring decent work for them and ensuring equal pay (Jordan #2); | Jordan | Disability Rights | Labour Rights | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Adopt measures aiming at combating racism, hate crimes and Islamophobia (Jordan #1); | Jordan | Racial Discrimination | Freedom of religion and belief | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Provide more targeted social policies to help disadvantaged families, and in particular their children, establish a Government strategy for the eradication of child poverty (Kazakhstan #3); | Kazakhstan | Poverty | Right of the Child | | | | Partially Supported | The UK Government supports the premise of the recommendation and feels there are sufficient measures in place to adequately address this. The UK has a robust approach to tackling poverty and provide significant financial support and is committed to tackling child poverty through its reformed welfare system that incentivises employment while providing a strong safety net for those who need it. |
| Continue to improve policies to combat hate crimes in communities and share its best practices with other Member States (Kazakhstan #2); | Kazakhstan | Discrimination | | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Increase opportunities for women and persons with disabilities to gain access to formal employment and ensure equal pay for work of equal value (Kazakhstan #1); | Kazakhstan | Women's Rights | Disability Rights | Labour Rights | | | Supported | N/A |

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| Strengthen the implementation of programmes and policies aimed at providing effective access to health care for ethnic minorities and marginalized groups (Kenya #1); | Kenya | Right to health | Minority Rights | Racial Discrimination | | | Partially Supported | The UK Government supports the premise of this recommendation. The UK is confident that sufficient measures, including legislation, are already in place to adequately address this |
| Take necessary measures to ensure the current proposed new Bill of Rights does not result in weakening the legal effects, scope and effectiveness granted under the Human Rights Act of 1998 (Kenya #2); | Kenya | General | | | | | Supported | The UK Government does not accept the premise that the Bill of Rights weakens the legal effects of the Human Rights Act |
| Pursue efforts in protecting indigenous people and minorities by ensuring the provision and adequate and appropriate accommodation access to basic services (Lebanon #2); | Lebanon | Indigenous Peoples | Minority Rights | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Ratify the Convention for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage and to facilitate the participation of all stakeholders in cultural heritage and creative expressions (Lebanon #1); | Lebanon | International Instruments | | | | | Noted | The UK has ratified most of the major international human rights treaties. There are no others where it sees the value of further ratifications at this time. Effective domestic laws already exist in the UK under which individuals may seek enforceable remedies in the courts if their rights have been breached. The UK is also subject to the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights. The UK therefore does not see the value in accepting this further individual communication mechanism. |

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| Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Lesotho #1); | Lesotho | International Instruments | Labour Rights | Migrants | | | Noted | The UK Government has no plans to ratify the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. The rights of migrant workers are already protected in UK legislation, including under the Human Rights Act 1998. The Human Rights Act 1998 protects people from torture, or inhuman and degrading treatment and it also protects all people from slavery and forced labour and the right to a fair trial. |
| Continue efforts to ensure the submission of overdue State Party Reports to UN treaty bodies (Lesotho #2); | Lesotho | Treaty bodies | | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Beef up measures to curb racially motivated hate crimes and discrimination against black and other ethnic minorities in schools (Lesotho #3); | Lesotho | Racial Discrimination | | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Continue to work to combat discrimination, achieve equality and remove structural barriers that prevent racial and ethnic minorities from enjoying their rights without discrimination (Libya #1); | Libya | Racial Discrimination | | | | | Partially Supported | The UK continues to address racial disparities and discrimination, including through its flagship Inclusive Britain strategy. |
| Incorporate the minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners (the Mandela Rules) into police training curricula (Libya #2); | Libya | Detention | Human rights education | | | | Supported | N/A |

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| Enhance its efforts to investigate claims of human trafficking and to improve the training of law enforcement officers, prison personnel and other first responders (Liechtenstein #3); | Liechtenstein | Trafficking | Human rights education and training | | | | Partially Supported | The UK Government supports the premise of this recommendation. The UK is confident that sufficient measures, including legislation, are already in place to adequately address this |
| Ensure that all cases of violence, especially sexual assault, against children in detention are promptly, impartially and effectively investigated and that judges, prosecutors and members of the police receive specialized training in preventing the abuse of children in detention (Liechtenstein #2); | Liechtenstein | Right of the Child | Detention | Justice | Human rights education and training | | Partially Supported | The judiciary of England and Wales is independent of Government. It would therefore not be constitutionally appropriate for any judicial training to be supported or overseen by the Government, or any statutory body established by it. |
| Bring all legislation concerning communication surveillance in line with international human rights standards and ensure that all communications surveillance requires a test of necessity and proportionality (Liechtenstein #1); | Liechtenstein | Privacy | | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Consider raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility to at least 14 years of age (Lithuania #1); | Lithuania | Right of the Child | Justice | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Continue measures to increase gender balance in political and public life, particularly in Northern Ireland (Lithuania #2); | Lithuania | Discrimination | | | | | Supported | N/A |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Make education, employment and healthcare services more accessible for women and girls living in remote rural areas (Lithuania #3); | Lithuania | Right to education | Labour Rights | Right to Health | Women's Rights | Right of the Child | Supported | N/A |
| Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to at least 14 years and ensure the full implementation of juvenile justice standards and prohibit the application of solitary confinement measures to juveniles (Luxembourg #2); | Luxembourg | Right of the Child | Detention | Justice | | | Noted | N/A |
| Refrain from sending asylum seekers back to Rwanda and denounce the Asylum Partnership Agreement, which is in violation of international law and risks causing irreparable harm to those seeking international protection (Luxembourg #1); | Luxembourg | Asylum-seekers - refugees | | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Ensure that the British Bill of Rights provide the same level of human rights protection as the 1998 Human Rights Act it seeks to replace (Luxembourg #3); | Luxembourg | General | | | | | Supported | The UK Government does not accept the premise that the Bill of Rights weakens the legal effects of the Human Rights Act |
| Extend the applicability of the Equality Act of 2010 to Northern Ireland to ensure that it affords protection to women (Malawi #1); | Malawi | Discrimination | Women's Rights | | | | Noted | N/A |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Refrain from replacing the Human Rights Act of 1998 with more limited legislation, and rather maintain the same level of human rights protection provided by the Human Rights Act in the British Bill of Rights and include additional child-specific rights (Malawi #2); | Malawi | General | Right of the Child | | | | Partially Supported | Under the Bill of Rights the human rights of both adults and children will be protected. More broadly, the UK has effective legislation in place to secure the rights of children. |
| Develop a comprehensive nationwide anti-poverty strategy and eliminate child poverty (Malaysia #1); | Malaysia | Poverty | Right of the Child | | | | Partially Supported | The UK supports the premise of the recommendation and feels there are sufficient measures in place to adequately address this. We have a robust approach to tackling poverty and provide significant financial support. |
| Intensify efforts to combat human trafficking and all forms of slavery (Malaysia #3); | Malaysia | Trafficking | Modern Slavery | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Continue to refine its policies to combat all forms of hate crimes, particularly those against racial and religious minorities (Malaysia #2); | Malaysia | Racial Discrimination | Freedom of religion and belief | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Continue to strengthen the legal and institutional systems on environmental protection, in particular with respect to the right to a Healthy Environment (Maldives #1); | Maldives | Environment and Human Rights | | | | | Noted | Existing UK domestic legislation and regulatory regimes already satisfy our environmental obligations in a way that is sufficiently robust and covers environmental and human health protection aspects. |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Enhance efforts to further narrow the gender pay gap (Maldives #2); | Maldives | Discrimination | Labour Rights | | | | Partially Supported | The UK Government supports the premise of this recommendation. The UK is confident that sufficient measures, including legislation, are already in place to adequately address this |
| Adopt legislation to ban all conversion therapy practices for all LGBTIQ+ persons of all ages (Malta #2); | Malta | Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity | | | | | Noted | The UK Government is committed to protecting people from these practices and is carefully considering the responses to the public consultation on banning conversion practices which closed earlier this year. The UK will set out our next steps and the Government response in due course. |
| Consider introducing legislation to reform the Gender Recognition Act of 2004 to remove requirements of diagnosis, 'living in role' for 2 years, spousal veto and to introduce a process of self-determination (Malta #1); | Malta | Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity | | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Intensify efforts to address the harmful effects of fracking, environmental pollution, and climate change, to ensure that all persons can enjoy a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment (Marshall Islands #2); | Marshall Islands | Environment and Human Rights | | | | | Noted | The UK is already a world-leader in terms of regulations and measures to protect people and the environment. Furthermore, the Government has a moratorium in place on hydraulic fracturing for shale gas extraction |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Sign the Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action and accelerate efforts to achieve "net zero" no later than 2050 (Marshall Islands #1); | Marshall Islands | Environment and Human Rights | | | | | Noted | The UK Government supports the premise of this recommendation but we have not agreed to sign the Declaration. The UK is confident that sufficient measures, including legislation, are already in place to adequately address this. |
| Resolve all outstanding issues related to the Chagos archipelago through inclusive dialogue with all concerned (Marshall Islands #4); | Marshall Islands | Other | | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Remove structural barriers to racial and ethnic minority communities' equal and non-discriminatory enjoyment of human rights (Marshall Islands #3); | Marshall Islands | Racial Discrimination | | | | | Partially Supported | The UK continues to address racial disparities and discrimination, including through its flagship Inclusive Britain strategy. |
| End the detention of asylum-seekers and ensure that no refugee is discriminated against on the basis of the manner in which they arrive in the country (Mexico #3); | Mexico | Asylum-seekers - refugees | | | | | Noted | The Nationality and Borders Act 2022 includes the power to differentiate entitlements between two groups of refugees, to influence the decisions of migrants who may be considering using criminal smugglers to facilitate dangerous journeys to the UK and therefore prevent dangerous journeys from safe countries. It also acts to disincentivise migrants from making late asylum claims to delay removal. |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Review the Domestic Abuse Act to ensure protection and support for women and girls, regardless of their immigration status (Mexico #4); | Mexico | Women's Rights | Migrants | | | | Partially Supported | The UK Government is committed to ensuring the protection and support for migrant women and girls. The UK is confident that the Domestic Abuse act already provides strong measures in this area but will keep the position under review. |
| Ensure that any amendments to the legal framework maintain the same level of protection as the current Human Rights Act of 1998 (Mexico #1); | Mexico | General | | | | | Supported | The UK Government does not accept the premise that the Bill of Rights weakens human rights protections. |
| Strengthen measures to ensure the effective enforcement of provisional measures and judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (Mexico #2); | Mexico | International Instruments | | | | | Supported | The UK Government is committed to fulfilling its international human rights obligations. This includes the obligation to implement judgments of the European Court of Human Rights against the UK |
| Consider ratifying the United Nations Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Mongolia #1); | Mongolia | International Instruments | Enforced Disappearances | Right of the Child | | | Noted | The UK Government considers that the current domestic framework already prevents arbitrary arrests, prohibits torture and degrading treatment, and holds the Security and Intelligence Agencies to account. The UK is therefore unclear about the benefits of ratifying the CPED. |
| Continue its efforts to implement the recommendations of the United Nations Sub-Committee for the Prevention of Torture (Mongolia #2); | Mongolia | Treaty bodies | Torture and other CID | | | | Supported | N/A |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Withdraw its interpretive declaration with regard to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Montenegro #1); | Montenegro | Right of the Child | international humanitarian law | | | | Noted | The UK complies with its commitments to take all feasible measures to ensure that U18s do not take part in hostilities consistent with its obligations under Optional Protocol 1 to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. |
| Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to at least 14 years (Montenegro #2); | Montenegro | Right of the Child | Justice | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Morocco #1); | Morocco | International instruments | Migrants | Labour Rights | | | Noted | The UK Government has no plans to ratify the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. The rights of migrant workers are already protected in UK legislation, including under the Human Rights Act 1998. The Human Rights Act 1998 protects people from torture, or inhuman and degrading treatment and it also protects all people from slavery and forced labour and the right to a fair trial. |
| Pursue the efforts to investigate claims on human trafficking and improve the training of law enforcement officers, prison personnel and other first responders, as recommended by the Committee against Torture (Morocco #2); | Morocco | Trafficking | Human rights education and training | Treaty bodies | | | Partially Supported | N/A |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Withdraw its interpretative declaration to Article 4 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Namibia #1); | Namibia | International instrument | Racial Discrimination | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Take effective measures to address institutional racism, including by removing structural barriers that prevent racial and ethnic minority communities from enjoying human rights on an equal and non-discriminatory basis (Namibia #2); | Namibia | Racial Discrimination | | | | | Partially Supported | The UK continues to address racial disparities and discrimination, including through its flagship Inclusive Britain strategy. |
| Continue efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against migrants and ethnic minorities (Nepal #2); | Nepal | Migrants | Racial Discrimination | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Continue measures to enhance representation of women in decision making levels including from ethnic minorities (Nepal #1); | Nepal | Women's Rights | Racial Discrimination | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Revoke parts of the Migration and Economic Development Partnership which do not comply with the 1951 Refugee Convention in particular the principle of non-refoulement (Netherlands #1); | Netherlands | Asylum-seekers - refugees | | | | | Noted | MEDP is part of the UK's New Plan for Immigration to stop illegal migration and the UK believes that the partnership arrangement with Rwanda and the broader inadmissibility framework is compatible with national and international law, including the 1951 Refugee Convention. |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Reform the Gender Recognition Act in all parts of the UK and bring it in line with the international human rights standards including with regard to legal self-determination of ones gender without the imposition of medical requirement (Netherlands #2); | Netherlands | Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity | | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Ensure that its treatment of asylum seekers is consistent with its humanitarian responsibilities and commitments under international human rights law and international refugee law, in particular the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, and with specific reference to the UK's offshore processing arrangement with Rwanda (New Zealand #3); | New Zealand | Asylum-seekers - refugees | | | | | Noted | The UK considers that the partnership arrangement with Rwanda and the broader inadmissibility framework is compatible with national and international law, including the 1951 Refugee Convention. We have worked to ensure that it is in line with the UKs obligations under international law. |
| Advance comprehensive policies and practices to eliminate discrimination against minorities (New Zealand #2); | New Zealand | Minority Rights | Discrimination | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Uphold and strengthen legal protections for LGBTQI+ persons, in particular transgender persons (New Zealand #1); | New Zealand | Sexual Orientation and | | | | | Supported | N/A |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Niger #1); | Niger | International Instruments | Migrants | Labour Rights | | | Noted | The UK Government has no plans to ratify the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. The rights of migrant workers are already protected in UK legislation, including under the Human Rights Act 1998. The Human Rights Act 1998 protects people from torture, or inhuman and degrading treatment and it also protects all people from slavery and forced labour and the right to a fair trial. |
| Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Niger #2); | Niger | International Instruments | Enforced Disappearances | | | | Noted | The UK Government considers that the current domestic framework already prevents arbitrary arrests, prohibits torture and degrading treatment, and holds the Security and Intelligence Agencies to account. The UK is therefore unclear about the benefits of ratifying the CPED. |
| Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Nigeria #1); | Nigeria | International Instruments | Migrants | Labour Rights | | | Noted | The UK Government has no plans to ratify the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. The rights of migrant workers are already protected in UK legislation, including under the Human Rights Act 1998. The Human Rights Act 1998 protects people from torture, or inhuman and degrading treatment and it also protects all people from slavery and forced labour and the right to a fair trial. |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Scale up efforts in combating human trafficking and the protection of the rights the the victims of trafficking (Nigeria #3); | Nigeria | Trafficking | | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Scale up efforts in ensuring the elimination of racism and racial discrimination (Nigeria #2); | Nigeria | Racial Discrimination | | | | | Supported | The UK Government supports the premise of this recommendation. The UK is confident that sufficient measures, including legislation, are already in place to adequately address this |
| Respect the rights of parents to raise and educate their children, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Nigeria #4); | Nigeria | Right of the Child | Right to Education | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Strengthen the efforts to identify victims of human trafficking and forced labour, increase their access to legal and psychological assistance, and ensure prosecution of human traffickers (Norway #2); | Norway | Trafficking | Modern Slavery | | | | Partially Supported | The UK Government supports the premise of this recommendation. The UK is confident that sufficient measures, including legislation, are already in place to adequately address this |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Take further measures to protect children from physical punishment and ensure the right of every child to adequate standard of living, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Norway #3); | Norway | Right of the Child | Poverty | International instruments | | | Partially Supported | The UK Government supports the right to an adequate standard of living for every child. The UK has clear laws in place to deal with any violence towards children. Unless children are at risk of abuse, the government does not want to interfere in how parents bring up their children. Where a parent or any adult is violent towards a child, they can be charged with assault. The governments of Wales and Scotland have passed legislation to remove the legal defence of reasonable punishment but there are no plans to do so in England. |
| Strengthen the protection against sexual harassment in the workplace affecting women workers with disabilities and LGBTIQ workers, in accordance with the ILO Convention No. 111 (Norway #1); | Norway | Gender-based violence | Women's Rights | Sexual Orientation and Gender | International instruments | | Supported | N/A |
| Strengthen and safeguard the economic and social rights of migrants (Pakistan #2); | Pakistan | ESC rights - general | Migrants | | | | Partially Supported | N/A |
| Improve prison safety and conditions to address self-harm, suicide and overcrowding (Pakistan #4); | Pakistan | Detention | | | | | Supported | N/A |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Prosecute hate crimes and address incidents of Islamophobia (Pakistan #3); | Pakistan | Freedom of religion and belief | | | | | Supported | The UK Government supports the premise of this recommendation. The UK is confident that sufficient measures, including legislation, are already in place to adequately address this |
| Pursue a holistic approach to prevent violence against women including through enhanced reporting, increased conviction rates and targeted assistance (Pakistan #1); | Pakistan | Gender-based violence | Justice | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Withdraw its interpretative declaration on article 1 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Panama #1); | Panama | International Instruments | Right of the Child | International humanitarian law | | | Noted | The UK complies with its commitments to take all feasible measures to ensure that U18s do not take part in hostilities consistent with its obligations under Optional Protocol 1 to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. |
| Guarantee responsible business conduct in the arms sector in line with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, taking into account the Information Note that the Working Group on Business and Human Rights published on this topic in August 2022 (Panama #2); | Panama | Business and human rights | | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Sign the Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action, and accelerate action to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 (Panama #3); | Panama | Environment and Human | | | | | Noted | The UK is not a signatory of this Declaration. |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 14 years, in accordance with international standards (Paraguay #3); | Paraguay | Right of the Child | Justice | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Ratify the pending international human rights instruments and accept the competence of treaty bodies to receive individual communications (Paraguay #1); | Paraguay | International Instruments | Treaty Bodies | | | | Noted | Ratification of additional human rights treaties will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The UK Government believes that effective domestic laws already exist, under which individuals may seek enforceable remedies in the courts if their rights have been breached. |
| Establish inclusive and affordable measures to facilitate women and girls' access to education, health care and other support services in rural areas (Paraguay #2); | Paraguay | Women's Rights | Right of the child | Right to Education | Right to Health | | Supported | N/A |
| Evaluate the review of the minimum age of criminal responsibility in line with international standards (Peru #3); | Peru | Right of the Child | Justice | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Undertake the necessary reforms to include protection against gender-based discrimination in the national legislation (Peru #1); | Peru | Discrimination | | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Redouble efforts to protect women from harassment at work and to boost access to the labour market for women belonging to marginalized groups (Peru #2); | Peru | Women's Rights | Labour Rights | Minority Rights | | | Supported | N/A |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Ensure that the Nationality and Borders Act is fully in line with the 1951 Refugee Convention (Philippines #1); | Philippines | International Instruments | Migrants | Asylum-seekers - refugees | | | Noted | The Act itself is already in line with the 1951 Refugee Convention. The UK Government remains committed to upholding the rights of refugees and ensuring compliance with our international obligations under the European Convention of Human Rights and the Refugee Convention. |
| Enhance anti-discriminatory measures to protect ethnic minorities and migrants, and guarantee their access to various government welfare and support programmes (Philippines #2); | Philippines | Racial Discrimination | Migrants | | | | Partially Supported | N/A |
| Accelerate and scale up climate action in accordance with its international obligations and with a view to upholding climate justice (Philippines #3); | Philippines | Environment and Human Rights | | | | | Partially Supported | The UK Government supports the premise of this recommendation. The UK is confident that sufficient measures, including legislation, are already in place to adequately address this |

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| Establish a reasonable statutory time limit to the detention of asylum-seekers, which should be used as a measure of last resort and that it makes express provision for family reunification for any unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (Portugal #3); | Portugal | Detention | Asylum-seekers - refugees | Right of the Child | | | Noted | The UK Government does not consider that a statutory time limit on detention will be effective in ensuring that those with no right to be in the UK leave. In regard to family reunification for unaccompanied asylum seeking children, the UK's refugee family reunion policy already allows for children to join their family members in the UK, where they formed part of the family unit before their sponsor fled to claim asylum. Children are unable to sponsor their family members under this policy as this would risk creating incentives for more children to be encouraged, or even forced, to leave their family and risk hazardous journeys to the UK. |
| Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal #1); | Portugal | International Instruments | ESC rights - general | | | | Noted | The UK Government believes that effective domestic laws already exist in the UK under which individuals may seek enforceable remedies in the courts if their rights have been breached. The UK is also subject to the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights. The UK therefore does not see the value in accepting this further individual communication mechanism. |

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| Ensure that modifications to the Human Rights Act do not result in the weakening of the current level of human rights protection (Portugal #2); | Portugal | General | | | | | Supported | The UK Government does not accept the premise that the Bill of Rights weakens human rights protections. |
| Continue efforts aimed at combatting human trafficking and take necessary measures to sustain the protection and assistance for the victims (Qatar #2); | Qatar | Trafficking | | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Take further measures to strengthen countering racism, and related intolerance and xenophobia, religious intolerance and their related crimes (Qatar #3); | Qatar | Racial Discrimination | Freedom of religion and belief | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Ensure the application of provisions and principles of international conventions on combatting all forms of racial discrimination in local legislation (Qatar #1); | Qatar | Racial Discrimination | International instrument | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Take stronger action to combat hate crimes which was aggravated during the COVID-19 pandemic (Republic of Korea #1); | Republic of Korea | Discrimination | | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Continue efforts to promote equal political, social, and economic rights of ethnic minorities, especially women and girls (Republic of Korea #2); | Republic of Korea | Racial Discrimination | Women's Rights | Right of the Child | ESC rights - general | CP rights - general | Supported | N/A |
| Strengthen legislation in order to eliminate all forms of gender discrimination in employment, including pay gaps and access to fund enforcement bodies (Republic of Moldova #2); | Republic of Moldova | Discrimination | Labour Rights | | | | Noted | The UK Government supports the premise of this recommendation. The UK is confident that sufficient measures, including legislation, are already in place to adequately address this. |

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| Raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14 years, in compliance with international standards (Republic of Moldova #1); | Republic of Moldova | Right of the Child | Justice | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Elaborate and implement an emergency poverty strategy that addresses the impact of rising costs on child poverty targets and on access to affordable, accessible and culturally-appropriate social housing (Romania #2); | Romania | Poverty | Right of the Child | Right to housing | | | Noted | N/A |
| Take further steps to improve the identification of victims in trafficking and provide them with the necessary assistance in their recovery (Romania #3); | Romania | Trafficking | | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Ensure equitable access to education in public schools for all children while combating the bullying phenomenon offline and online (Romania #1); | Romania | Right to education | Right of the Child | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Conduct an independent investigation at the national level into cases of "whitewashing" British servicemen who may be involved in committing war crimes during hostilities abroad and bring the perpetrators to justice (Russian Federation #3); | Russian Federation | International humanitarian law | | | | | Noted | UK Armed Forces are rightly held to the highest standards. Military operations are conducted in accordance with the Law of Armed Conflict and all allegations are considered and investigated as appropriate. The Service Police have carried out extensive and independent investigations into allegations of misconduct by UK forces overseas. |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Take effective measures to prevent an arbitrary interpretation of the permissible limits of the use of force by the police (Russian Federation #2); | Russian Federation | Other | | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Ensure the same standards of reception to all migrants as well as ensure them adequate access to health care and legal services (Russian Federation #4); | Russian Federation | Migrants | Right to Health | Access to Justice | | | Supported | N/A |
| Take effective measures to prevent manifestations of intolerance on ethnic/national and racial grounds (Russian Federation #1); | Russian Federation | Racial Discrimination | | | | | Supported | The UK has a clear legislative framework around equalities based on the 2010 Equality Act, which lists 9 different protected characteristics. One of these is race, specifically colour, nationality and ethnic or national origins. There is a strong legislative framework to tackle intolerance and discrimination, which includes on ethnicity and racial grounds |
| Harmonize the core human rights treaties into domestic law (Samoa #1); | Samoa | International instruments | | | | | Noted | The UN human rights treaties, do not require incorporation by State Parties into domestic law, and the UK has not done so. The UK Government remains confident that it is in full compliance with its UN treaty obligations. |
| Fully implement and go beyond emission reduction targets in NDCs (Samoa #4); | Samoa | Environment and Human Rights | | | | | Partially Supported | We support the full implementation of NDCs and will continue to set ambitious NDCs in light of the latest science but do not support the “go beyond” language given the UK’s NDC represents its highest possible ambition. |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Continue to take measures to ensure that UK military equipment and arms are not diverted to where there is risk of facilitating the violation of international human rights (Samoa #2); | Samoa | International humanitarian law | | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Take measures to ensure victims and families of victims of domestic violence have access to needed support and protection from further abuse (Samoa #3); | Samoa | Justice | Women's Rights | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Continue its efforts to combat hate crimes, by taking effective measures to deter hate speech and racism (Saudi Arabia #1); | Saudi Arabia | Racial Discrimination | | | | | Supported | <p>The UK Government supports the premise of this recommendation. The UK is confident that sufficient measures, including legislation, are already in place to adequately address this</p> <p>The right to freedom of expression is a fundamental value of our democracy. It is protected by Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which is given effect by the Human Rights Act 1998</p> |
| Strengthen efforts to combat human trafficking, especially women and girls (Saudi Arabia #2); | Saudi Arabia | Trafficking | Women's Rights | Right of the child | | | Supported | N/A |
| Consider to withdraw its interpretative declaration under Article 4 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Sierra Leone #2); | Sierra Leone | Racial Discrimination | International instruments | | | | Noted | N/A |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Sierra Leone #1); | Sierra Leone | International Instruments | Enforced Disappearances | Migrants | Labour Rights | | Noted | The UK Government has no plans to ratify the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. The rights of migrant workers are already protected in UK legislation, including under the Human Rights Act 1998. The Human Rights Act 1998 protects people from torture, or inhuman and degrading treatment and it also protects all people from slavery and forced labour and the right to a fair trial. |
| Take concrete steps in addressing structural forms of racial discrimination (Sierra Leone #4); | Sierra Leone | Racial Discrimination | | | | | Partially Supported | The UK continues to address racial disparities and discrimination, including through its flagship Inclusive Britain strategy. |
| Consider to withdraw its reservation on Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Sierra Leone #3); | Sierra Leone | Women's Rights | International instrument | | | | Supported | The UK Government keeps CEDAW reservations under review with a view to withdrawing them |
| Ensure that the European Convention on Human Rights is fully implemented and given effect in UK law (Slovakia #2); | Slovakia | International instrument | | | | | Supported | The UK Government does not accept the premise that the Bill of Rights weakens human rights protections. |
| Maintain its international obligations and international standards in accordance with the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights (Slovakia #1); | Slovakia | International instruments | | | | | Supported | The UK Government is committed to fulfilling our international human rights obligations. This includes the obligation to implement judgments of the European Court of Human Rights against the UK |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Apply a combined gender and age perspective in tax and benefits policy changes to avoid disproportionate negative effects on older women (Slovenia #3); | Slovenia | ESC rights - general | Women's Rights | Rights for older people | | | Noted | When considering equality impacts the UK considers the 9 protected characteristics, focusing on the groups most affected. However, which are most relevant will depend on the policy and it is unhelpful to be too prescriptive on exactly how these factors should be considered together for each case. |
| Consider raising the age of criminal responsibility to at least 14 across the UK (Slovenia #1); | Slovenia | Right of the child | Justice | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Consider prohibiting the use of solitary confinement for juveniles (Slovenia #2); | Slovenia | Detention | Right of the Child | | | | Partially Supported | The government partially supports this recommendation on the basis that children should only be separated from their peers for the purpose of managing risks to themselves or others and that any separation arrangements should only be in place for the time that they are necessary for managing that risk. While separation arrangements are in place, children should not be denied access to aspects of their daily regime if it is safe to do so. There are clear guidelines in place for custodial sites highlighting this policy. |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Somalia #2); | Somalia | International Instruments | Migrants | Labour Rights | | | Noted | The UK Government has no plans to ratify the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. The rights of migrant workers are already protected in UK legislation, including under the Human Rights Act 1998. The Human Rights Act 1998 protects people from torture, or inhuman and degrading treatment and it also protects all people from slavery and forced labour and the right to a fair trial. |
| Establish international refugee protection asylum seeker system, which is in conformity with the international standard and conventions (Somalia #1); | Somalia | Asylum-seekers - refugees | | | | | Noted | The Nationality and Borders Act 2022 includes significant new measures to increase the fairness of our asylum system, so that we can better protect and support those in need of protection, to deter illegal entry into the UK and stringently punish those responsible for facilitating it, and to help remove more easily from the UK those with no right to be here, including foreign national offenders. The UK remains committed to meeting our obligations under both the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR) and the 1951 Refugee Convention. All the asylum related provisions brought in by the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 are fully compliant with all our international obligations. |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Develop an effective employment policy, specifically designed for people with disabilities (Somalia #3); | Somalia | Labour Rights | Disability Rights | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Make pay gap reporting on race and ethnicity mandatory (South Africa #3); | South Africa | ESC rights - general | Racial Discrimination | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Intensify the removal of structural barriers to racial and ethnic minority communities' equal and non-discriminatory enjoyment of human rights (South Africa #2); | South Africa | Racial Discrimination | | | | | Partially Supported | The UK continues to address racial disparities and discrimination, including through its flagship Inclusive Britain strategy. |
| Accelerate the implementation of the 20 actions contained in the agenda towards transformative change for racial justice and equality (South Africa #1); | South Africa | Racial Discrimination | | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Redouble every effort to continue to make investigations or support investigations by partner and partners agencies into any allegation of misconduct by the UK military (South Sudan #3); | South Sudan | International humanitarian law | | | | | Noted | All allegations are considered and investigated as appropriate. The Service Police have carried out extensive and independent investigations into allegations of misconduct by UK forces overseas, and have supported investigations led by others. We are considering how to improve the tracking of the support we provide when not leading the investigation. |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Remove structural barriers to racial and ethnic minority community, equal and non-discrimination enjoyment of human rights, including the rights to health and the right to an adequate standard of living (South Sudan #1); | South Sudan | Racial Discrimination | Right to Health | | | | Partially Supported | The UK continues to address racial disparities and discrimination, including through its flagship Inclusive Britain strategy. |
| Take measures to address the low representation of women in Northern Ireland and specific targeted measures to improve the representation of women in political and public life, including "Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic" women and women with disabilities, in Parliament, the judiciary, and decision-making positions (South Sudan #2); | South Sudan | Women's Rights | Racial Discrimination | Elections | | | Supported | N/A |
| Raise the age of criminal responsibility, which stands at ten at the moment (Spain #4); | Spain | Right of the Child | Justice | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Ratify the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Spain #3); | Spain | International Instruments | ESC rights - general | cp rights - general | | | Noted | The UK Government believes that effective domestic laws already exist in the UK under which individuals may seek enforceable remedies in the courts if their rights have been breached. The UK is also subject to the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights. The UK therefore does not see the value in accepting this further individual communication mechanism. |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Lift your reservation to article 59 of the Istanbul Convention, so that migrant women can receive the same support and protection (Spain #1); | Spain | International Instruments | Migrants | | | | Noted | The reservation on Article 59 is under review, pending the results and evaluation of the Support for Migrant Victims (SMV) Scheme pilot and wider policy considerations. There are no current plans to lift the reservation on Article 44. |
| Strengthen the protection of the rights of women, people with disabilities and LGTBI people and take measures to prevent hate crimes both online and offline (Spain #2); | Spain | Women's Rights | Disability Rights | Sexual Orientation and | | | Supported | N/A |
| Take further measures for the protection of migrant workers, including through the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Sri Lanka #3); | Sri Lanka | Migrants | International instruments | Labour Rights | | | Noted | The UK Government has no plans to ratify the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. The rights of migrant workers are already protected in UK legislation, including under the Human Rights Act 1998. The Human Rights Act 1998 protects people from torture, or inhuman and degrading treatment and it also protects all people from slavery and forced labour and the right to a fair trial. |
| Improve safety in prisons, and address issues around immigration detention including a statutory limit on immigration detention (Sri Lanka #1); | Sri Lanka | Detention | Migrants | Asylum-seekers - refugees | | | Noted | A statutory time limit on detention will not be effective in ensuring that those with no right to be in the UK leave. |
| Address concerns of racial profiling (Sri Lanka #2); | Sri Lanka | Racial Discrimination | | | | | Supported | N/A |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Conduct a comprehensive review of counter-terrorism measures to eliminate any discriminatory and disproportionate impact on racial, ethnic, and religious minorities (State of Palestine #2); | State of Palestine | human rights and terrorism | Racial Discrimination | Freedom of religion and belief | | | Noted | N/A |
| Ensure that all refugees were not discriminated against on the grounds of their mode of arrival in the country (State of Palestine #1); | State of Palestine | Asylum-seekers - refugees | | | | | Noted | The Nationality and Borders Act 2022 includes the power to differentiate entitlements between two groups of refugees, to influence the decisions of migrants who may be considering using criminal smugglers to facilitate dangerous journeys to the UK and therefore prevent dangerous journeys from safe countries. It also acts to disincentivise migrants from making late asylum claims to delay removal. |
| Enact legislations to conflict affected areas and to provide guidance and advice for business enterprises on ensuring respect for human rights and to prevent and address the heightened risk of corporate involvement in gross human right violations in conflict affected areas including situations of foreign occupation (State of Palestine #3); | State of Palestine | Business and human rights | international humanitarian law | | | | Noted | N/A |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Consider accession to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Sudan #1); | Sudan | International Instruments | Enforced Disappearances | | | | Noted | The UK Government considers that the current domestic framework already prevents arbitrary arrests, prohibits torture and degrading treatment, and holds the Security and Intelligence Agencies to account. The UK is therefore unclear about the benefits of ratifying the CPED. |
| Ban corporal punishment of children in all settings, including the family, to ensure the full protection and freedom from violence for all children as required by the convention of the Rights of Child (Sweden #1); | Sweden | right of the child | International instruments | | | | Noted | The UK Government supports the right to an adequate standard of living for every child. The UK has clear laws in place to deal with any violence towards children. Unless children are at risk of abuse, the government does not want to interfere in how parents bring up their children. Where a parent or any adult is violent towards a child, they can be charged with assault. The governments of Wales and Scotland have passed legislation to remove the legal defence of reasonable punishment but there are no plans to do so in England. |
| Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility in accordance with international standards (Sweden #2); | Sweden | Right of the Child | justice | | | | Noted | N/A |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Ensure that the implementation of the Nationality and Borders Act is in line with international refugee and human rights conventions and that it does not undermine the protection of refugee and asylum rights (Sweden #3); | Sweden | international instruments | Asylum-seekers - refugees | | | | Noted | The Nationality and Borders Act 2022 is compliant with our international obligations, including under the European Convention of Human Rights and the Refugee Convention. The UK Government remains committed to upholding the rights of refugees and ensuring compliance with our international obligations under the European Convention of Human Rights and the Refugee Convention. |
| Ensure that the Northern Ireland Troubles Bill is in line with the Stormont House Agreement and that the necessary means are provided to carry out independent and impartial investigations (Switzerland #3); | Switzerland | International instruments | | | | | Partially Supported | The Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill is consistent with many of the key principles of the Stormont House Agreement, providing the Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery with all necessary powers to conduct effective and independent investigations. |
| Take all necessary measures to ensure that the Migration and Economic Development Partnership with Rwanda is in line with the UK's obligations under international law (Switzerland #2); | Switzerland | Asylum-seekers - refugees | International instruments | | | | Supported | MEDP is part of the UK's New Plan for Immigration to stop illegal migration and the UK believes that the partnership arrangement with Rwanda and the broader inadmissibility framework is compatible with national and international law, including the 1951 Refugee Convention. |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Ensure that any possible reform of the Human Rights Act 1998 does not in any way affect the scope of protection or access to the remedy mechanism of the European Convention on Human Rights (Switzerland #1); | Switzerland | General | International instruments | | | | Supported | The UK Government does not accept the premise that the Bill of Rights weakens human rights protections. |
| Develop a comprehensive plan of action to address its colonial legacy, including apologies and compensation for the killing of innocent people and plundering resources in different parts of the world, and stop supporting and protecting the current forms of racial colonialism (Syrian Arab Republic #4); | Syrian Arab Republic | Racial Discrimination | | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Prevent the flow of new waves of terrorist fighters from its nationals to other countries (Syrian Arab Republic #2); | Syrian Arab Republic | human rights and terrorism | | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Stop all forms of involvement in supporting terrorism, including collecting funds on its territory for this purpose (Syrian Arab Republic #6); | Syrian Arab Republic | human rights and terrorism | | | | | Noted | The UK has a robust legislative framework which criminalises the financing of terrorism in all its forms. The UK will continue to review our legislative framework to ensure that it is responsive to emerging terrorist financing threats. |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| End the prolonged impunity for war crimes and horrific violations committed, and continue to be committed, by its military forces overseas (Syrian Arab Republic #3); | Syrian Arab Republic | International humanitarian law | | | | | Noted | UK Armed Forces are rightly held to the highest standards. Military operations are conducted in accordance with the Law of Armed Conflict and all allegations are considered and investigated as appropriate. The Service Police have carried out extensive and independent investigations into allegations of misconduct by UK forces overseas. |
| Stop funding disinformation programmes aimed at fueling and prolonging wars and conflicts (Syrian Arab Republic #5); | Syrian Arab Republic | International humanita | | | | | Noted | The UK Government does not accept the premise of the recommendation. |
| Stop violating the Syrian sovereignty under the pretext of combating terrorism, and repatriate its nationals of foreign terrorist fighters and their families from north east of Syria, in accordance with international law, and stop the related practice of stripping of nationality (Syrian Arab Republic #1); | Syrian Arab Republic | Other | Statelessness and the right to nationality | human rights and terrorism | | | Noted | The British Nationality Act 1981 allows the UK Government (Home Secretary) to deprive any person of British citizenship should they deem it conducive to the public good to do so, including where individuals pose a threat to national security. All decisions to deprive are made in accordance with the 1961 UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and are consistent with the requirements of the common law and international law. |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
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| Ensure that its anti-trafficking legislation is in line with its obligations under international law, in particular, the protocol to prevent, suppress, and punish trafficking in persons, which would further improve ethical recruitment and enhance identification of victims and prosecution (Thailand #1); | Thailand | Trafficking | | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Continue to promote meaningful participation by women and girls from different ethnic groups, both in their political and public lives (Thailand #2); | Thailand | Women's Rights | Right of the Child | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Ensure the equal participation of rural women in policy making processes and disaster mitigation and climate change (Timor-Leste #1); | Timor-Leste | Women's Rights | environment and human | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Togo #1); | Togo | International Instruments | Migrants | Labour Rights | | | Noted | The UK Government has no plans to ratify the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. The rights of migrant workers are already protected in UK legislation, including under the Human Rights Act 1998. The Human Rights Act 1998 protects people from torture, or inhuman and degrading treatment and it also protects all people from slavery and forced labour and the right to a fair trial. |

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| Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, again with the aim of further strengthening the national legal arsenal in this field (Togo #2); | Togo | International Instruments | Enforced Disappearances | | | | Noted | The UK Government considers that the current domestic framework already prevents arbitrary arrests, prohibits torture and degrading treatment, and holds the Security and Intelligence Agencies to account. The UK is therefore unclear about the benefits of ratifying the CPED. |
| Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility, ensuring the full application of child justice standards, and preventing the application of isolation measures to minors (Tunisia #3); | Tunisia | Right of the Child | Justice | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Review the legal framework pertaining to the violence against women to guarantee that women migrants get the necessary protection and support including women migrants who have not the right to get public aids (Tunisia #1); | Tunisia | Women's Rights | Migrants | | | | Partially Supported | The UK Government is committed to ensuring the protection and support for migrant women and girls. The UK is confident that the Domestic Abuse act already provides strong measures in this area but will keep the position under review. |
| Respect the principle of non-refoulement and prohibit collective expulsions (Tunisia #2); | Tunisia | Asylum-seekers - refugees | | | | | Supported | N/A |

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| Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (Türkiye #1); | Türkiye | International Instruments | Migrants | Labour Rights | | | Noted | The UK Government has no plans to ratify the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. The rights of migrant workers are already protected in UK legislation, including under the Human Rights Act 1998. The Human Rights Act 1998 protects people from torture, or inhuman and degrading treatment and it also protects all people from slavery and forced labour and the right to a fair trial. |
| Uphold its obligations under 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees and not to engage in any practice that has the effect of undermining the right to asylum in the UK (Türkiye #3); | Türkiye | Asylum-seekers - refugees | International instruments | | | | Noted | The Nationality and Borders Act 2022 is compliant with our international obligations, including under the European Convention of Human Rights and the Refugee Convention. The UK Government remains committed to upholding the rights of refugees and ensuring compliance with our international obligations under the European Convention of Human Rights and the Refugee Convention. |
| Address racial discrimination, antisemitism, xenophobia, Islamophobia and hate crimes by further strengthening effective legislative and judicial measures (Türkiye #2); | Türkiye | Racial Discrimination | Freedom of religion and belief | | | | Supported | N/A |

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| Put in place mechanisms to address all forms of hate crime and racism, especially against persons of African descent (Uganda #1); | Uganda | Racial Discrimination | | | | | Partially Supported | The UK Government supports the premise of this recommendation. The UK is confident that sufficient measures, including legislation, are already in place to adequately address this |
| Uphold and strengthen the legal protection of the rights of asylum seekers and all migrant workers in accordance with international law including the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Uganda #2); | Uganda | Asylum-seekers - refugees | International instruments | | | | Partially Supported | All UK asylum policies are in line with international obligations, including the 1951 Refugee Convention. The UK feels that nothing further is required to strengthen asylum seeker permission to work in accordance with our obligations. |
| Consider the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Ukraine #3); | Ukraine | International Instrument | Right of the Child | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Take further steps towards the incorporation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child into domestic law (Ukraine #2); | Ukraine | International Instrument | right of the child | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Ensure that any modifications to human rights legislation do not adversely affect the current level of the protection of human rights provided by the Human Rights Act 1998 (Ukraine #1); | Ukraine | General | | | | | Supported | The UK Government does not accept the premise that the Bill of Rights weakens human rights protections. |
| Provide support accessible to people with disabilities at the rural level (United Republic of Tanzania #1); | United Republic of Tanzania | Disability Rights | | | | | Supported | N/A |

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| Take steps to ensure migrant workers are not left vulnerable to abuse and exploitation from employers and the UK visa system (United States of America #2); | United States of America | Migrants | Labour Rights | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Strengthen efforts to combat antisemitism and anti-Muslim sentiment by publicly denouncing hate speech and acts of violence at the highest levels of government and through policies and practices promoting religious freedom (United States of America #3); | United States of America | Racial Discrimination | Freedom of religion and belief | | | | Supported | <p>The UK Government supports the premise of this recommendation. The UK is confident that sufficient measures, including legislation, are already in place to adequately address this.</p> <p>The right to freedom of expression is a fundamental value of our democracy. It is protected by Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which is given effect by the Human Rights Act 1998</p> |
| Continue furthering steps to reverse the rising number of violent, and largely racially motivated hate crimes and strengthen current policies and initiatives to combat societal discrimination against members of racial and ethnic minority groups (United States of America #1); | United States of America | Racial Discrimination | | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Take adequate measures to ensure that the detention of asylum seekers is used only as a measure of last resort and establish a maximum legal period for the detention of immigrants (Uruguay #2); | Uruguay | Asylum-seekers - refugees | Detention | Justice | | | Noted | A statutory time limit on detention will not be effective in ensuring that those with no right to be in the UK leave. |

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| Develop and implement public awareness campaigns on the human rights of trans people, including to combat misinformation and stigma (Uruguay #3); | Uruguay | Sexual Orientation and | Discrimination | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Pursue the review of immigration legislation to include provisions facilitating family reunification for unaccompanied refugee children, with the best interests of the child as the primary consideration (Uruguay #1); | Uruguay | Migrants | Asylum-seekers - refugees | Right of the Child | | | Partially Supported | The UK's refugee family reunion policy already allows for children to join their family members in the UK, where they formed part of the family unit before their sponsor fled to claim asylum. The best interests of the child is a primary consideration under this policy. As such the UK Government does not consider that any further review is required at this point. |
| Consider paying necessary attention to promote the enjoyment of human rights for ethnic minorities (Uzbekistan #2); | Uzbekistan | Racial Discrimination | | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Take measures to ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Uzbekistan #1); | Uzbekistan | International Instruments | CP rights - general | | | | Noted | The UK Government believes that effective domestic laws already exist in the UK under which individuals may seek enforceable remedies in the courts if their rights have been breached. The UK is also subject to the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights. The UK therefore does not see the value in accepting this further individual communication mechanism. |

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| Enhance the Government's commitment to take ambitious action to combat climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation by recognizing the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and align its legislation to guarantee the enjoyment of this right by all (Vanuatu #1); | Vanuatu | Environment and Human Rights | | | | | Noted | The UK Government is fully committed to taking ambitious action to combat climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation. However, the scope and content of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment has not been defined or agreed in any international treaty instrument and legislation cannot therefore be aligned to the right. |
| Continue to strengthen mechanisms and policies to eliminate all kinds of discrimination against minorities, in particular women living in the rural areas of the country (Vanuatu #2); | Vanuatu | Minority Rights | Women's Rights | Discrimination | | | Supported | N/A |
| Take urgent action to end corporal punishment of children and raise the age of criminal responsibility to international standards (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) #5); | Venezuela | Right of the Child | Justice | | | | Noted | The UK Government supports the right to an adequate standard of living for every child. The UK has clear laws in place to deal with any violence towards children. Unless children are at risk of abuse, the government does not want to interfere in how parents bring up their children. Where a parent or any adult is violent towards a child, they can be charged with assault. The governments of Wales and Scotland have passed legislation to remove the legal defence of reasonable punishment but there are no plans to do so in England. |

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| Stop the plan to replace the Human Rights Act 1998 with a Bill limiting their protection (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) #4); | Venezuela | General | | | | | Noted | The UK Government does not accept the premise that the Bill of Rights weakens human rights protections. |
| Cease the use of the justice system for continued and shameless theft of the 31 tons of gold belonging to the Central Bank and the Venezuelan people, which prevents their social investment (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) #1); | Venezuela | Other | | | | | Noted | This is not a human rights issue |
| Put an end to appalling conditions of violence, overcrowding and racial disproportion in prisons (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) #7); | Venezuela | Detention | Racial Discrimination | | | | Partially Supported | The UK Government refutes the implication regarding 'appalling conditions' and supports the need for decent conditions governed by the Certification of Prisoner Accommodation Policy |
| Ensure the right of migrants and ethnic groups to health and an adequate standard of living. Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Bring the 2016 Immigration Act into line with UN standards (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) #3); | Venezuela | International Instruments | Migrants | | | | Partially Supported | The UK Government has no plans to ratify the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. The rights of migrant workers are already protected in UK legislation, including under the Human Rights Act 1998. The Human Rights Act 1998 protects people from torture, or inhuman and degrading treatment and it also protects all people from slavery and forced labour and the right to a fair trial. |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------|---------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Put an end to racism, provide mandatory human rights training for law enforcement against discrimination and hate speech; stop impunity and punish hate crimes, racist, xenophobic, anti-Semitic, anti-Muslim, against LGBTI people, people with disabilities, and ensure the protection of victims (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) #2); | Venezuela | Racial Discrimination | Human rights education and training | Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity | Disability Rights | | Supported | The right to freedom of expression is a fundamental value of our democracy. It is protected by Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which is given effect by the Human Rights Act 1998 |
| Put an end to the trafficking in persons, women and girls exacerbated in the country, and provide comprehensive assistance to victims (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) #6); | Venezuela | Trafficking | | | | | Supported | N/A |
| Increase opportunities for women to gain access to formal employment with equal pay for work of equal value (Viet Nam #1); | Viet Nam | Labour Rights | Women's Rights | Discrimination | | | Partially Supported | The UK Government supports the premise of this recommendation. The UK is confident that sufficient measures, including legislation, are already in place to adequately address this |
| Strengthen investment and policy mix for job skills training aimed at reducing income inequality and levelling up opportunity for the working-age population (Viet Nam #3); | Viet Nam | Labour Rights | Discrimination | | | | Supported | N/A |

| RECOMMENDATION (SORTED BY RECOMMENDING STATE A-Z) | STATE | THEME 1 | THEME 2 | THEME 3 | THEME 4 | THEME 5 | RESPONSE | RATIONALE |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Allocate more resources for poverty reduction and social welfare programs (Viet Nam #2); | Vietnam | Poverty | ESC rights - general | | | | Noted | The UK Government is committed to a sustainable, long-term approach to tackling poverty, including child poverty, and supporting people on lower incomes. The UK has allocated significant funds to support the welfare system, and to provide cost of living support, and will continue to do so |
| Withdraw reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Zambia #4); | Zambia | International instrument | Women's Rights | | | | Noted | The UK Government keeps CEDAW reservations under review with a view to withdrawing them |
| Raise the age of criminal responsibility to at least 14 (Zambia #2); | Zambia | Right of the Child | Justice | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Enact legislation which explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in every setting (Zambia #3); | Zambia | Right of the Child | | | | | Noted | N/A |
| Enhance the status of the ratified human rights treaties in domestic law (Zambia #1); | Zambia | International Instruments | | | | | Noted | The UN human rights treaties, do not require incorporation by State Parties into domestic law, and the UK has not done so. The UK Government remains confident that it is in full compliance with its UN treaty obligations. |

ANNEX 2: STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF UK RESPONSES BY THEME

* According to the UK's Annex, one recommendation from China to 'Do away with Islamaphobia' did not receive a response. This may be because the recommendation was changed or rescinded between the review and the adoption of the UK's Working Group Report.

| THEME | COUNT (TOTAL RECOMMENDATIONS) | % SUPPORTED | % PARTIALLY SUPPORTED | % NOTED | INFORMATION MISSING* |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------|----------------------|
| International Instruments | 77 | 18.2 | 13.0 | 68.8 | 0.0 |
| Right of the Child | 55 | 20.0 | 25.5 | 54.5 | 0.0 |
| Racial Discrimination | 49 | 57.1 | 26.5 | 16.3 | 0.0 |
| Women's Rights | 39 | 69.2 | 23.1 | 7.7 | 0.0 |
| Labour Rights | 35 | 37.1 | 8.6 | 54.3 | 0.0 |
| Migrants | 32 | 9.4 | 21.9 | 68.8 | 0.0 |
| Justice | 30 | 26.7 | 3.3 | 70.0 | 0.0 |
| Asylum-seekers - refugees | 25 | 16.0 | 16.0 | 68.0 | 0.0 |
| Discrimination | 21 | 66.7 | 9.5 | 23.8 | 0.0 |
| General | 19 | 84.2 | 10.5 | 5.3 | 0.0 |
| Right to Health | 18 | 77.8 | 16.7 | 5.6 | 0.0 |
| Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity | 18 | 33.3 | 5.6 | 61.1 | 0.0 |
| Disability Rights | 16 | 75.0 | 18.8 | 6.3 | 0.0 |
| Detention | 16 | 37.5 | 25.0 | 37.5 | 0.0 |
| Trafficking | 14 | 71.4 | 28.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Minority Rights | 13 | 61.5 | 23.1 | 15.4 | 0.0 |
| Freedom of religion and belief | 12 | 83.3 | 0.0 | 8.3 | 8.3 |
| Right to education | 12 | 66.7 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 0.0 |
| Other | 12 | 8.3 | 8.3 | 83.3 | 0.0 |
| Enforced Disappearances | 12 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 0.0 |
| Environment and Human Rights | 11 | 9.1 | 27.3 | 63.6 | 0.0 |
| International humanitarian law | 9 | 11.1 | 0.0 | 88.9 | 0.0 |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|---|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| Gender-based violence | 8 | 87.5 | 0.0 | 12.5 | 0.0 |
| Human rights education and training | 8 | 62.5 | 37.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| ESC rights - general | 8 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 75.0 | 0.0 |
| Poverty | 7 | 0.0 | 57.1 | 42.9 | 0.0 |
| Treaty bodies | 5 | 40.0 | 20.0 | 40 | 0.0 |
| human rights and terrorism | 5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 0.0 |
| CP rights - general | 4 | 25.0 | 0.0 | 75.0 | 0.0 |
| Freedom of the press | 4 | 25.0 | 25.0 | 50.0 | 0.0 |
| Access to justice | 3 | 3.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Sexual and reproductive rights | 2 | 100.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Modern Slavery | 2 | 50.0 | 50.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Right to housing | 2 | 50.0 | 0.0 | 50.0 | 0.0 |
| Business and human rights | 2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 0.0 |
| Special procedures | 2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 0.0 |
| Elections | 1 | 100.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Freedom of assembly | 1 | 100.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Freedom of opinion and expression | 1 | 100.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| National Human Rights Institution | 1 | 100.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Privacy | 1 | 100.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Torture and other CID treatment | 1 | 100.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Civil Society | 1 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Freedom of association and peaceful assembly | 1 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Indigenous Peoples | 1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 0.0 |
| Right to Food | 1 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Rights for older people | 1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 0.0 |
| Statelessness and the right to nationality | 1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 0.0 |

ANNEX 3: STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF UK RESPONSES BY THEME – CHARTS FOR 10 MOST PROMINENT THEMES

