



Pledge submitted by the United Kingdom of Northern Ireland and Great Britain to the Human Rights 75 Secretariat

December 2023

Original language of submission: English

Type of pledge: Single (by one state/actor)

Pledging entity: Government of the United Kingdom of Northern Ireland and Great Britain

PLEDGE NUMBER 1: FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF: The UK reaffirms our longstanding commitment to defending FoRB for all. Building on the UK-hosted Ministerial conference on FoRB in 2022, we pledge to continue to prioritise FoRB, including through our dedicated programme spend on FoRB which in the year ahead will include a particular focus on legal reform. We will also continue to strengthen international coalitions of support for FoRB, including through the International Religious Freedom of Religion or Belief Alliance, which the UK Prime Minister's Special Envoy for FoRB will seek to further expand the membership and effectiveness of in 2024 in support of the incoming Chair.

Expected deadline within which pledge will be realised: Dec 31, 2024

PLEDGE NUMBER 2: PRIVATE MILITARY AND SECURITY COMPANIES: The UK pledges to raise the standards of public and private security organisations working in complex and high-risk areas through its involvement in the Voluntary Principles of Security and Human Rights for Businesses Operating in Complex or Fragile Environments Initiative (VPI) and International Code of Conduct Association for Private Security Providers (ICoCA). As a founder of the VPI and the ICoCA, the UK will continue to work with other governments, civil society, and industry to manage risks effectively in a manner that does not exacerbate conflicts and will support companies to protect human rights wherever they operate.

Expected deadline within which pledge will be realised: Dec 31, 2024

PLEDGE NUMBER 3: HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS: The UK pledges to continue to support human rights defenders who find their livelihoods or even their lives at risk. Our global network of Embassies and High Commissions will continue to monitor cases, observe trials, and raise specific cases with host governments. We will also provide agile direct and indirect funding to support civil society organisations, and human rights defenders, in crisis or under pressure. This includes a renewed funding commitment to the Lifeline Embattled CSO Assistance Fund. In all cases, we will respect the paramount importance of 'doing no harm'.

Expected deadline within which pledge will be realised: Mar 31, 2025

PLEDGE NUMBER 4: MODERN SLAVERY: Working with international partners to eradicate all forms of modern slavery globally in line with achieving UN Sustainable Development Goal 8.7 is a priority for the UK. The UK pledges to support the inclusion of survivors of modern slavery in our international programmes through funding to civil society organisations and survivor-led organisations. We will also champion survivor leadership within international partnerships including Alliance 8.7 and the Global Commission on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.

Expected deadline within which pledge will be realised: Mar 31, 2025

PLEDGE NUMBER 5: EQUALITIES: The UK pledges to support the rights of LGBT people and commit to provide an additional £40m of funding for LGBT organisations including grassroots organisations over five years. The UK will implement our Disability Inclusion and Rights Strategy 2022-2030 and extend our ground-breaking international Disability Capacity Building and Disability Inclusive Development programmes to March 2025 and December 2026 respectively. The UK pledges to increase our ambition to promote and protect women and girls' rights, including by committing that at least 80% of FCDO's bilateral aid programmes will have a focus on gender equality by 2030.

Expected deadline within which pledge will be realised: Dec 31, 2030