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**Human Rights Council**

**Fifty-second session**

27 February–31 March 2023

Agenda item 6

**Universal periodic review**

**Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**[[1]](#footnote-2)\*

**United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

**Addendum**

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

1. The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a constructive process for States to learn from and to help each other in protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. The United Kingdom (UK) remains fully committed to the UPR and to promoting human rights internationally.

2. This document and its annex were prepared by the UK Government, closely liaising as appropriate with the Devolved Administrations, the British Overseas Territories and the Crown Dependencies. Due to the lack of an Executive in Northern Ireland, it was not possible to provide as comprehensive a response for Northern Ireland as for other parts of the United Kingdom.

3. The UK has reviewed the 302 recommendations that it received during the dialogue with the UPR Working Group on 10 November 2022. In summary, the UK “supports” 135 recommendations, “notes” 112 recommendations, and partially accepts 55 recommendations, where it may be supportive of one or more of the actions being recommended, but cannot fully support the entire recommendation 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, for example when the issue in question relates to a reserved competency of one or more of the UK’s Devolved Administrations, British Overseas Territories, or Crown Dependencies.

4. In view of the word limit, the table below sets out the UK position on each recommendation, with rationale provided for those recommendations the UK “partially supports”. A separate annex provides further rationale of the UK position towards various other recommendations received by the UK.

5. The position of the United Kingdom with respect to each recommendation is as follows:

| *Recommendation No.* | *UK Position* | *Rationale* |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
| 43.1 | Note |  |
| 43.2 | Partially support | 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. |
| 43.3 | Note |  |
| 43.4 | Note |  |
| 43.5 | Note |  |
| 43.6 | Note |  |
| 43.7 | Note |  |
| 43.8 | Note |  |
| 43.9 | Partially support | 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. |
| 43.10 | Note |  |
| 43.11 | Note |  |
| 43.12 | Note |  |
| 43.13 | Note |  |
| 43.14 | Support |  |
| 43.15 | Note |  |
| 43.16 | Note |  |
| 43.17 | Note |  |
| 43.18 | Support |  |
| 43.19 | Partially support | 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. |
| 43.20 | Support |  |
| 43.21 | Support |  |
| 43.22 | Support |  |
| 43.23 | Support |  |
| 43.24 | Support |  |
| 43.25 | Support |  |
| 43.26 | Note |  |
| 43.27 | Partially support | 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. |
| 43.28 | Note |  |
| 43.29 | Support |  |
| 43.30 | Note |  |
| 43.31 | Support |  |
| 43.32 | Partially support | The UK remains committed to the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and fully incorporating the ECHR into the law of Northern Ireland. |
| 43.33 | Support |  |
| 43.34 | Support |  |
| 43.35 | Note |  |
| 43.36 | Note |  |
| 43.37 | Note |  |
| 43.38 | Support |  |
| 43.39 | Support |  |
| 43.40 | Support |  |
| 43.41 | Partially support | 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. |
| 43.42 | Support |  |
| 43.43 | Support |  |
| 43.44 | Support |  |
| 43.45 | Support |  |
| 43.46 | Support |  |
| 43.47 | Note |  |
| 43.48 | Support |  |
| 43.49 | Partially support | 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. |
| 43.50 | Support |  |
| 43.51 | Support |  |
| 43.52 | Support |  |
| 43.53 | Support |  |
| 43.54 | Partially Support | The UK continues to address racial disparities and discrimination, including through its flagship Inclusive Britain strategy. |
| 43.55 | Support |  |
| 43.56 | Partially Support | See response to recommendation 43.54. |
| 43.57 | Partially Support | See response to recommendation 43.54. |
| 43.58 | Note |  |
| 43.59 | Support |  |
| 43.60 | Support |  |
| 43.61 | Support |  |
| 43.62 | Support |  |
| 43.63 | Support |  |
| 43.64 | Support |  |
| 43.65 | Support |  |
| 43.66 | Support |  |
| 43.67 | Partially support | See response to recommendation 43.54. |
| 43.68 | Support |  |
| 43.69 | Partially support | See response to recommendation 43.60. |
| 43.70 | Support |  |
| 43.71 | Support |  |
| 43.72 | Note |  |
| 43.73 | Support |  |
| 43.74 | Note |  |
| 43.75 | Partially Support | See response to recommendation 43.54. |
| 43.76 | Support |  |
| 43.77 | Support |  |
| 43.78 | Partially support | See response to recommendation 43.60. |
| 43.79 | Support |  |
| 43.80 | Support |  |
| 43.81 | Note |  |
| 43.82 | Support |  |
| 43.83 | Support |  |
| 43.84 | Support |  |
| 43.85 | Support |  |
| 43.86 | Support |  |
| 43.87 | Support |  |
| 43.88 | Partially support | The UK Government refutes the implication regarding 'appalling conditions' and supports the need for decent conditions governed by the Certification of Prisoner Accommodation Policy. |
| 43.89 | Note |  |
| 43.90 | Support |  |
| 43.91 | Support |  |
| 43.92 | Partially support | 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. |
| 43.93 | Support |  |
| 43.94 | Note |  |
| 43.95 | Support |  |
| 43.96 | Support |  |
| 43.97 | Support |  |
| 43.98 | Support |  |
| 43.99 | Note |  |
| 43.100 | Note |  |
| 43.101 | Note |  |
| 43.102 | Note |  |
| 43.103 | Note |  |
| 43.104 | Note |  |
| 43.105 | Note |  |
| 43.106 | Support |  |
| 43.107 | Note |  |
| 43.108 | Note |  |
| 43.109 | Support |  |
| 43.110 | Note |  |
| 43.111 | Support |  |
| 43.112 | Note |  |
| 43.113 | Partially support | See response to recommendation 43.60. |
| 43.114 | Support |  |
| 43.115 | Support |  |
| 43.116 | Support |  |
| 43.117 | Support |  |
| 43.118 | Support |  |
| 43.119 | Partially support | 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). |
| 43.120 | Partially support | 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. |
| 43.121 | Partially support | The UK Government is committed to supporting all different kinds of families and to protecting the human rights of all individuals within those families. |
| 43.122 | Support |  |
| 43.123 | Partially support | See response to recommendation 43.60. |
| 43.124 | Support |  |
| 43.125 | Partially support | See response to recommendation 43.60. |
| 43.126 | Support |  |
| 43.127 | Partially support | See response to recommendation 43.60. |
| 43.128 | Support |  |
| 43.129 | Support |  |
| 43.130 | Support |  |
| 43.131 | Support |  |
| 43.132 | Support |  |
| 43.133 | Support |  |
| 43.134 | Support |  |
| 43.135 | Partially support | The UK already has existing processes in place to provide a coordinated national response to prevent and tackle sexual and labour exploitation. |
| 43.136 | Note |  |
| 43.137 | Support |  |
| 43.138 | Support |  |
| 43.139 | Note |  |
| 43.140 | Partially support | See response to recommendation 43.60. |
| 43.141 | Partially support | See response to recommendation 43.60. |
| 43.142 | Note |  |
| 43.143 | Note |  |
| 43.144 | Note |  |
| 43.145 | Support |  |
| 43.146 | Note |  |
| 43.147 | Note |  |
| 43.148 | Partially support | See response to recommendation 43.60. |
| 43.149 | Note |  |
| 43.150 | Partially Support | See response to recommendation 43.54. |
| 43.151 | Support |  |
| 43.152 | Support |  |
| 43.153 | Support |  |
| 43.154 | Support |  |
| 43.155 | Support |  |
| 43.156 | Support |  |
| 43.157 | Support |  |
| 43.158 | Support |  |
| 43.159 | Support |  |
| 43.160 | Partially support | See response to recommendation 43.60. |
| 43.161 | Support |  |
| 43.162 | Support |  |
| 43.163 | Partially support | 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. |
| 43.164 | Support |  |
| 43.165 | Support |  |
| 43.166 | Support |  |
| 43.167 | Partially support | See response to recommendation 43.60. |
| 43.168 | Partially support | See response to recommendation 43.60. |
| 43.169 | Partially support | 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. |
| 43.170 | Note |  |
| 43.171 | Note |  |
| 43.172 | Note |  |
| 43.173 | Note |  |
| 43.174 | Note |  |
| 43.175 | Note |  |
| 43.176 | Note |  |
| 43.177 | Note |  |
| 43.178 | Note |  |
| 43.179 | Support |  |
| 43.180 | Note |  |
| 43.181 | Note |  |
| 43.182 | Note |  |
| 43.183 | Note |  |
| 43.184 | Note |  |
| 43.185 | Support |  |
| 43.186 | Note |  |
| 43.187 | Partially support | 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. |
| 43.188 | Support |  |
| 43.189 | Note |  |
| 43.190 | Support |  |
| 43.191 | Note |  |
| 43.192 | Support |  |
| 43.193 | Support |  |
| 43.194 | Support |  |
| 43.195 | Support |  |
| 43.196 | Support |  |
| 43.197 | Support |  |
| 43.198 | Support |  |
| 43.199 | Support |  |
| 43.200 | Partially support | See response to recommendation 43.60. |
| 43.201 | Support |  |
| 43.202 | Support |  |
| 43.203 | Support |  |
| 43.204 | Support |  |
| 43.205 | Note |  |
| 43.206 | Support |  |
| 43.207 | Support |  |
| 43.208 | Partially support | See response to recommendation 43.187. |
| 43.209 | Support |  |
| 43.210 | Support |  |
| 43.211 | Support |  |
| 43.212 | Support |  |
| 43.213 | Support |  |
| 43.214 | Partially support | 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. |
| 43.215 | Partially support | 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. |
| 43.216 | Note |  |
| 43.217 | Note |  |
| 43.218 | Partially support | 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. |
| 43.219 | Partially support | 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. |
| 43.220 | Note |  |
| 43.221 | Support |  |
| 43.222 | Partially support | 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. |
| 43.223 | Note |  |
| 43.224 | Note |  |
| 43.225 | Note |  |
| 43.226 | Note |  |
| 43.227 | Partially support | 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. |
| 43.228 | Note |  |
| 43.229 | Note |  |
| 43.230 | Note |  |
| 43.231 | Note |  |
| 43.232 | Note |  |
| 43.233 | Note |  |
| 43.234 | Support |  |
| 43.235 | Support |  |
| 43.236 | Note |  |
| 43.237 | Partially support | 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. |
| 43.238 | Note |  |
| 43.239 | Note |  |
| 43.240 | Note |  |
| 43.241 | Partially support | The UK has introduced legislation that is planned to come into force on 27 February 2023 to raise the minimum age of marriage in England and Wales to 18.  The Scottish Government is currently gathering views from key stakeholders on raising the minimum age of marriage and civil partnership to 18 from 16. |
| 43.242 | Note |  |
| 43.243 | Note |  |
| 43.244 | Note |  |
| 43.245 | Note |  |
| 43.246 | Note |  |
| 43.247 | Support |  |
| 43.248 | Support |  |
| 43.249 | Support |  |
| 43.250 | Support |  |
| 43.251 | Support |  |
| 43.252 | Partially support | 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. |
| 43.253 | Note |  |
| 43.254 | Support |  |
| 43.255 | Partially support | See response to recommendation 43.163. |
| 43.256 | Support |  |
| 43.257 | Support |  |
| 43.258 | Support |  |
| 43.259 | Note |  |
| 43.260 | Partially Support | See response to recommendation 43.54. |
| 43.261 | Support |  |
| 43.262 | Support |  |
| 43.263 | Note |  |
| 43.264 | Partially support | 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. |
| 43.265 | Note |  |
| 43.266 | Note |  |
| 43.267 | Note |  |
| 43.268 | Note |  |
| 43.269 | Note |  |
| 43.270 | Support |  |
| 43.271 | Support |  |
| 43.272 | Support |  |
| 43.273 | Note |  |
| 43.274 | Partially support | See response to recommendation 43.60. |
| 43.275 | Partially support |  |
| 43.276 | Note |  |
| 43.277 | Support |  |
| 43.278 | Partially support | 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. |
| 43.279 | Support |  |
| 43.280 | Partially support | 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. |
| 43.281 | Partially support | See response to recommendation 43.280. |
| 43.282 | Note |  |
| 43.283 | Partially support | See response to recommendation 43.208. |
| 43.284 | Support |  |
| 43.285 | Note |  |
| 43.286 | Note |  |
| 43.287 | Note |  |
| 43.288 | Support |  |
| 43.289 | Partially support | 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. |
| 43.290 | Note |  |
| 43.291 | Note |  |
| 43.292 | Note |  |
| 43.293 | Note |  |
| 43.294 | Note |  |
| 43.295 | Note |  |
| 43.296 | Support |  |
| 43.297 | Note |  |
| 43.298 | Note |  |
| 43.299 | Note |  |
| 43.300 | Note |  |
| 43.301 | Note |  |
| 43.302 | Note |  |

6. The UK Government will follow up on these recommendations by preparing and submitting a mid-term at the appropriate time.

1. \* The present document is being issued without formal editing. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)