**ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND (SECOND BATCH)**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

* UNHCR has expressed concerns about the United Kingdom’s plan to send asylum seekers to third countries and has highlighted that this arrangement shifts asylum responsibilities to countries with less capacity to provide protection. How is the UK ensuring that these individuals have access to protection, and otherwise ensuring access to protection for those in need on its territory?

**BELGIUM**

* Is the government of the United Kingdom considering ratifying the first Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the ILO Domestic Workers Convention (N° 189).
* Is the government of the United Kingdom willing to abandon the proposal to replace the Human Rights Act 1998 with a Bill of Rights and commit to continued domestic incorporation of ECHR rights? If not, how will the government of the United Kingdom guarantee the same level of human rights protection and maintain its international obligations and international standards in accordance with the jurisprudence from the European Court of Human Rights?
* We welcome the United Kingdom's recent ratification of the Istanbul Convention and, in this regard, are interested to know which concrete measures the government of the United Kingdom will take for the effective implementation of the Convention, in particular regarding training of justice officials and law enforcement personnel?
* What concrete measures will the government of the United Kingdom take to ensure that abortion is equally available and accessible across Northern Ireland on all permitted grounds and to guarantee sufficient staffing and funding of all HSC Trusts?
* Which measures is the government of the United Kingdom taking to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility, as recommended by the Committee against Torture?

**URUGUAY**

* En razón de la relevancia de los sistemas regionales de derechos humanos, agradeceríamos recibir información sobre deliberaciones nacionales respecto a la condición de Reino Unido como Estado parte de la Convención Europea de Derechos Humanos.