

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

GERMANY

- Can the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland confirm it will not dilute the existing protections by the Human Rights Act 1998 if it goes ahead with proposals for a British Bill of Rights?
- Will the Government remain committed to retaining membership in the Council of Europe and to maintaining the current level of protection for human rights within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and consider how international human rights commitments can be further strengthened within the domestic legal system?

SLOVENIA

- We welcome the introduction of a section on rights of older persons in your National Report. What measures will the UK Government take to strengthen the protection of rights of older persons?
- CEDAW Committee made several recommendations on the protection of women in Northern Ireland and their effective access to health care, including with regard to their sexual and reproductive health and rights. We would like to ask about the measures taken to implement these recommendations, including about the recommendation to expedite the amendment of the anti-abortion law in Northern Ireland.
- In your National Report you pointed out, that parents should not be criminalized for giving a child a mild smack and that no legal ban of psychical punishment is envisaged. We would like to ask about the measures to be taken to prevent corporal punishment of children in the home.

SWEDEN

- The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has recommended the United Kingdom to prohibit all corporal punishment of children, holding that the legality of such punishment in the context of the family contradicts the Convention on the Rights of Child. What measures is the Government of the United Kingdom taking to ensure that children are not subjected to physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation in accordance with the said Convention?
- In its national report to the 2008 Universal Periodic Review, the United Kingdom affirmed that the protection of human rights is an integral and indispensable part of the country's efforts to counter terrorism. However, there is a concern among the civil society organizations that the government of the United Kingdom has too much authority in terms of supervising and controlling individuals suspected of terrorism. Could the Government of the United Kingdom elaborate on how the anti-terrorism measures are applied in accordance with its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights?

SWITZERLAND

- Terrorism prevention and investigation measures can amount to deprivation of liberty or constitute restrictions on the rights to privacy, freedom of expression and opinion, as well as freedom of association and movement. The use of widespread indiscriminate surveillance of communications by the UK for security purposes has been revealed since its last UPR. What measures does the UK government take to ensure that its terrorism prevention legislation and measures comply with international human rights norms and standards, including the rights to privacy and freedom of expression?
- The Immigration Acts from 2014 and 2016 set the basis for denying access to housing and healthcare and the transfer of personal data to immigration authorities on the grounds of suspected irregular immigration status. Moreover, indefinite immigration detention continues to be widely used with no formal guarantee of proper regular judicial oversight. Are there initiatives to introduce a time limit for immigration detention and to guarantee proper regular judicial oversight?

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- What steps has the Government taken to address concerns that data collection regarding the Hate Crime Action Plan has been insufficiently comprehensive?
- What is the status of plans to establish a Historical Investigations Unit, as provided for in the 2014 Stormont House Agreement and the 2015 Fresh Start Agreement?