

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

**CZECHIA**

- Does the Government consider allowing individual complaints/ communications mechanisms under the CAT, ICCPR, ICERD and CRC?
- Does the Government plan to review its interpretative declarations and reservations to international treaties, especially to the OP-CRC-AC, Article 1, that allows children to take part in hostilities?
- What measures does the Government plan to adopt to lower the domestic violence incidence and its negative impact on children?
- Does the Government plan revoking the blanket ban on prisoners' exercise of their right to vote and, by doing so, comply with the rulings of international courts on this matter?

**MEXICO**

During the previous review of the United Kingdom, Mexico expressed its appreciation for the United Kingdom's outstanding tradition on human rights and its contributions to the rule of law and the legal framework for the protection of the person.

In this regard, based on the UK's commitment to basic human rights principles such as the universality of these rights, and the rule of law, Mexico made recommendations about the implementation of human rights rulings, and the indefinite detention of migrants. All such recommendations were accepted by the UK.

The midterm report of 2014 reiterated the UK's support to the recommendations and elaborated on the measures being put in place to implement them.

With this background, we note with concern that in the annex to the national report provided for the current review, the government position with regard to such recommendations has substantially changed, and 2 of them are now "noted". Furthermore, the national report does not provide information as to the motivations to these changes.

- Given that the Universal Periodic Review is based on transparency, could you elaborate on the motivations of the UK that lead to change its position with regards to recommendations 110.48 and 110.114?
- What alternatives to the detention of migrants has the UK considered? After the adoption of the Immigration Act 2016, how does the UK ensure that detention of migrants is for the

shortest possible duration? Is the UK considering setting a statutory time limit for immigration detention?

- What measures had/ have been taken to end the practice of unnecessarily detaining children for immigration purposes? How does the UK ensure that children seeking asylum receive the appropriate protection under refugee law and the CRC? Are the age assessments carried out objectively by independent experts?
- The United Kingdom has expressed its intention to replace the human rights Act (which incorporates the ECHR into the domestic law) with a human rights bill. On this front, it is important to note that the issue of incorporating the ECHR into domestic law played an important role in the Northern Ireland peace agreement.
- How will the UK ensure that current standards of rights protections and redress enjoyed under the ECHR and the Human Rights Act are maintained in any possible future legislation which amends or repeals the Act? How does the UK envisage addressing these issues with regards to the referred peace agreement?
- With regard to Mexico's recommendation 110.124, which was supported by the UK, what steps are being taken to address the human rights concerns rising from the counter extremism strategy "Prevent", as raised by the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association?

## **NORWAY**

- At the 2012 UPR for the United Kingdom, Norway and other countries recommended that the United Kingdom continue to review all counter-terrorism legislation and ensure that it complies with the highest human right standards. We note the tension around the "prevent duty" obligation on certain public bodies, including schools, that may risk violating human rights such as freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly and of association. Is the UK considering revisiting this legislation?
- We note a growing concern regarding the possibility of a weakening of legal protections for certain groups once the UK exits the European Union and extracts itself from EU laws. How will the UK ensure that employment protections, anti-discrimination policies, and asylum and migration laws are maintained at the current levels after the exit from the EU?

## **SPAIN**

- Recently, we have heard about a proposal on a new British Bill of Rights to replace the Human Rights Act. Could you please, give us any indication about the United Kingdom Government intentions to repeal or suspend the Human Rights Act?
- A high number of suspected child victims of trafficking under local authority care go missing and some of them are never found. What measures is the government of the United Kingdom taking to monitor and protect child victims as well as unaccompanied and separated children entering the United Kingdom, always to the best interest of the child?

- Despite the adoption of the 2010 Equality Act, one of the most comprehensive anti-discrimination legislations world-wide, inequalities regarding access to health, education and employment as well as gender income gaps, persist. Which causes are hampering governmental efforts to promote equality and non-discrimination? What aspects of the Act relating to gender identity are being reviewed?