



Promoting and strengthening  
the Universal Periodic Review

## Recommendations & Pledges

### UNITED KINGDOM

#### Second Review Session 13

Review in the Working Group: 24 May 2012  
Adoption in the Plenary: 20 September 2012

#### United Kingdom's responses to recommendations (as of 27.09.2012):

In the Report of the Working Group:	In the Addendum:	During the plenary:	Summary:
No response, all pending	The delegation accepted 72 recs. fully, 19 in part (underlined in blue), and rejected 41	No additional information provided	Accepted: 91 Rejected: 41 No clear position: 0 Pending: 0 Total: 132

*Paragraph headers are as in the Report of the Working Group, but the nature of responses to recommendations may have subsequently been changed.*

#### List of recommendations contained in Section II of the Report of the Working Group A/HRC/21/9:

**110. The following recommendations will be examined by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the twenty-first session of the Human Rights Council in September 2012. The response of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to these recommendations will be included in the outcome report adopted by the Human Rights Council at its twenty-first session in September 2012:**

**R - 110.1. Ratify the First Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (Estonia);**

**A - 110.2. Accept the full implementation of the provisions of the CAT and the ICCRP in overseas territories under its control (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

R - 110.3. Recognize the extraterritorial application of the CAT, according to its jurisprudence (Nicaragua);

A - 110.4. Lift multiple reservations to international human rights treaties, including the ICESCR and the Optional Protocols to the CRC (Belarus);

A - 110.5. Consider an early ratification of the newest international human right instrument – the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communication procedure (Slovakia);

R - 110.6. Consider withdrawing its declaration to Article 1 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Right of the Child on Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, and raise the armed forces minimum recruitment age to 18 (Slovenia);

A - 110.7. Withdraw its reservations to the CRC concerning detained and asylum seeking children (Iran (Islamic Republic of));

R - 110.8. Withdraw its interpretive statement on the OP to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Russian Federation);

R - 110.9. Incorporate fully, as a matter of urgency, the principles and provisions of the CRC into domestic law (Slovakia);

A - 110.10. Take all measures necessary to fully implement the CRC (France);

R - 110.11. Consider withdrawing its interpretative declaration on article 4 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, as recommended by the Committee on Racial Discrimination as well as take measures aimed at eliminating racial discrimination, incitement of racial hatred (Algeria);

R - 110.12. Withdraw its reservations and interpretative statement with respect to Article 4 of the ICERD (Iran (Islamic Republic of));

R - 110.13. Remove reservations to the CEDAW (Greece);

R - 110.14. Consider the possibility of ratifying the international Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Chile);

R - 110.15. Consider acceding to the ICRMW (Ecuador);

R - 110.16. Consider the possibility of ratifying the ICRMW and ILO Convention No. 143 on Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers (Honduras);

R - 110.17. Protect the children and families of migrants and refugees, and accede to the ICRMW (Morocco);

R - 110.18. Ratify the ICRMW (Egypt, Guatemala, Sudan)/Accede to the ICRMW (Uruguay, Iran (Islamic Republic of));

R - 110.19. In conformity with article 77 of the ICRMW, recognize the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications which allege violations of individual rights recognized by this Convention (Uruguay);

R - 110.20. Establish a timetable for signature and ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and for full recognition of the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearance (France);

A - 110.21. Work on accession to the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Iraq);

A - 110.22. Accelerate its current efforts to sign and ratify the CED (Japan);

R - 110.23. Ratify the CED (Austria)/Accede to the CED (Uruguay);

A - 110.24. Continue efforts to ratify the CED (Argentina);

R - 110.25. In conformity with articles 31 and 32 of the CED, recognize the competence of the respective monitoring body to receive and consider communications from individuals and States that allege that they have been victims of violations of the provisions of the Convention (Uruguay);

R - 110.26. Ratify the CED, the first OP-ICCPR and OP-ICESCR (Spain);

R - 110.27. Ratify ILO Convention No. 189 on Domestic Workers (Uruguay);

R - 110.28. Consider ratifying ILO Convention 189 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers and the ICRMW (Philippines);

A - 110.29. Sign and ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Woman and Domestic Violence (France);

A - 110.30. Consider the effect and continued relevance of its remaining reservations to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and consider the possibility of withdrawing them (New Zealand);

R - 110.31. Withdraw reservations made upon the ratification of the CRPD (Hungary);

A - 110.32. Continue to ensure that human rights principles are integrated in domestic laws (Qatar);

R - 110.33. Consider that any person detained by its armed forces is under its jurisdiction, and respect its obligations concerning the human rights of such individuals (Iran (Islamic Republic of));

A - 110.34. Introduce law that will criminalize use of children in military actions (Uzbekistan);

R - 110.35. Prohibit under the law the sale of weapons to the countries where children have been or are used in military actions (Uzbekistan);

A - 110.36. Adopt measures necessary to ensure the independence of the Commissioners in accordance with the Paris Principles (Costa Rica);

A - 110.37. Ensure that the reform process of the Equality and Human Rights Commission does not affect its independence in conformity with the Paris Principles (Morocco);

A - 110.38. Introduce legislation at the earliest opportunity to give the Children's Commissioner for England an explicit role of promoting and protecting children's rights in line with the CRC and to make the Commissioner more independent from Government and more accountable to Parliament (Australia);

A - 110.39. Develop appropriate policies and targeted measures in ensuring genuine equality in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Uzbekistan);

A - 110.40. Continue efforts in the promotion of women rights (Indonesia);

A - 110.41. Set out a clear pathway to meet the goal of ending child poverty in the UK by 2020 as stated in the Coalition's programme for government (Norway);

A - 110.42. Continue efforts in enhancing the welfare of all segments of society and protect their rights (Nepal);

A - 110.43. Intensify its efforts to promote multiculturalism at all levels (Pakistan);

A - 110.44. Take further measures for the promotion and protection of human rights, including those of migrants (Nepal);

A - 110.45. Continue to support overseas territories to abide with basic human rights protection for all (Trinidad and Tobago);

A - 110.46. Adopt and implement a concrete plan of action realizing recommendations of treaty bodies and UN human rights mechanisms, and international human rights obligations (Iran (Islamic Republic of));

A - 110.47. Improve the response rate of the UK to the communications from the Human Rights Council mechanisms (Hungary);

A - 110.48. On the basis of the UK's commitment to the rule of law, comply with the rulings of the European Court of Human Rights on the cases concerning the United Kingdom, as well as promote the participation and cooperation of the European Union and its Member States with the Court (Mexico);

A - 110.49. Review national legislation to ensure equality and non-discrimination (Egypt);

A - 110.50. Continue stepping up its efforts in tackling discrimination and inequality for all its citizens (Indonesia);

A - 110.51. Continue efforts to combat discrimination on any ground and violence against women and girls (Cuba);

A - 110.52. Give priority attention to the questions of gender equality and discrimination against women (Uzbekistan);

A - 110.53. Take effective measure to eliminate discrimination on the grounds of race, religion and nationality and to guarantee the rights of Muslims, Roma people and migrant workers (China);

R - 110.54. Take further steps to address ethnic profiling in practice (Greece);

R - 110.55. Revise the policies that involve racial and ethnic profiling such as "stop and search" practice (Brazil);

A - 110.56. Investigate allegations that stop and search orders disproportionately fall on persons belonging to ethnic, religious and other minorities and introduce adequate safeguards in this regard (Austria);

R - 110.57. That the law enforcement authorities put an end to stop and search practices based on religious and ethnic profiling (Pakistan);

A - 110.58. Put an end to the use of religious profiling in combating terrorism by inserting legal safeguards against abuse and the deliberate targeting of certain religious groups (Malaysia);

A - 110.59. Take all appropriate measures to combat prejudices and negative stereotypes, which may result in racial discrimination or incitement to racial hatred (Turkey);

A - 110.60. Implement ECRI's recommendation to continue to monitor hate crimes and to work with the community to increase understanding of the impact of such offences, and to pursue efforts to improve the police gathering of evidence of racist motivations (Turkey);

R - 110.61. Put in practice a national strategy to eliminate discrimination against caste, through the immediate adoption of the Equality Law of 2010 that prohibits such discrimination, in conformity with its international human rights obligations, including CERD's General Recommendation 29 and recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism (Nicaragua);

A - 110.62. Adopt Government policies and legislations to address the pay gap between men and women (Sudan);

A - 110.63. Consider policies and legal provisions to encourage equal pay practices (India);

A - 110.64. Take measures to address the existing wage gap between men and women (Algeria);

A - 110.65. Revitalize endeavours intended for eradication of the wage gap between men and women that has reportedly stalled (Ukraine);

A - 110.66. Consider strengthening policies to combat discrimination in all areas, notably in employment and education (Morocco); 2

A - 110.67. Ensure that inquiries are carried out immediately, independently, and transparently in cases where members of the armed forces are suspected of having committed acts of torture, particularly in the context of their service abroad (Switzerland);

A - 110.68. Along with the Special Procedures, investigate allegations of the systematic use of torture by British soldiers vis-à-vis detainees outside the country, and inform the results of these investigations to the UN human rights mechanisms, including the Human Rights Committee, Human Rights Council and its mechanisms (Belarus);

A - 110.69. Adopt a national strategy to combat all forms of violence against women and girls (Brazil);

A - 110.70. Continue making progress in implementing the Action Plan on violence against women and girls (Colombia);

A - 110.71. Take more effective measures to combat all forms of violence against women and girls and to ensure that the perpetrators of violence are taken to justice and punished (Malaysia);

A - 110.72. Increase efforts to combat trafficking in persons, particularly to protect women and children (Spain);

A - 110.73. Continue making progress in applying the strategy on trafficking in persons adopted in July 2011 (Colombia);

A - 110.74. Implement the EU Directive on trafficking in human beings by April 2013 and sign the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (Australia);

A - 110.75. Standardize anti-trafficking responses across the UK insofar as possible given the devolution of law enforcement powers, and appoint a rapporteur in each devolved authority to make critical assessments and improve the UK's overall anti-trafficking response (United States of America);

A - 110.76. Take all measures to ensure that all trafficked people are able to access the support and services they are entitled to, including free legal aid and access to their right to compensation (Greece);

R - 110.77. Ensure by legislative and other measures that women in Northern Ireland are entitled to safe and legal abortion on equal basis with women living in other parts of the United Kingdom (Finland);

R - 110.78. Reconsider its position about the continued legality of corporal punishment of children (Sweden);

R - 110.79. Take measures to ensure the freedom of children from physical punishment in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Norway);

R - 110.80. Introduce a ban on all corporal punishment of children as recommended by the CRC and other treaty bodies (Finland);

R - 110.81. Strengthen guarantees for detained persons, and not to extend but to shorten the length of time of pre-trial detention (Iran (Islamic Republic of));

A - 110.82. Ensure realization of the right of detainees to the legal assistance immediately after being taken into detention without exception (Russian Federation);

A - 110.83. Continue efforts to ensure that “secret evidence” is only used in cases where there is a serious and immediate threat to public security and ensure independent and effective judicial oversight (Austria);

A - 110.84. Begin an independent investigation of all cases of arbitrary detention denounced due to UK’s implication in the program of secret detention led by the United States (Nicaragua);

A - 110.85. Facilitate the ICRC access to prisons (Iran (Islamic Republic of));

A - 110.86. Take measures to reduce prison overcrowding and improve conditions for detainees (Russian Federation);

A - 110.87. Take concrete steps to further reduce overcrowding of prisons, including through the increased application of alternative sentencing for juvenile offenders (Austria);

A - 110.88. Consider incorporating the UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders, otherwise known as the “Bangkok Rules” as part of its policy on the treatment of women prisoners (Thailand); 1

A - 110.89. Improve programs for social reintegration of detainees (Nicaragua);

A - 110.90. Take more effective measures to ensure that the perpetrators of acts of discrimination, hate crimes and xenophobia are adequately deterred and sanctioned (Malaysia);

A - 110.91. Strengthen data collection and maintain disaggregated data to better understand the scale and severity of hate crimes towards women, immigrants, religious minorities, persons with disabilities, and children (United States of America);

R - 110.92. Encourage the devolved government of Northern Ireland to increase resources and personnel available to the Historical Enquiries Team (United States of America);

A - 110.93. Publish the conclusions of the inquiry into the death of an Angolan national during a deportation procedure in October 2010 (Angola);

R - 110.94. Consider the possibility of raising the minimum criminal age and refrain from the practice of keeping children in custody (Belarus);

R - 110.95. Consider the possibility of raising the age of criminal responsibility for minors (Chile);

A - 110.96. Ensure that the best interests of the child are taken into account when arresting, detaining, sentencing or considering early release for a sole or primary carer of the child, bearing in mind that visits of a parent in prison are primarily a right of the child rather than a privilege of the prisoner that can be withdrawn as a disciplinary measure (Slovakia);

A - 110.97. Publish the recommendations of the Leveson Inquiry on the establishment of a regulatory regime for ethical media (Angola);

A - 110.98. Adopt necessary actions to prevent impunity and further violations of privacy committed by private media companies such as News Corporation, through hacking into telephone communications, emails, and voicemails (Ecuador);

R - 110.99. Assess the impact of the minimum age limit for overseas spouses or fiancés on the prevention of forced marriage and review its policy in this regard (Slovenia);

A - 110.100. Need to avoid the impact of the draft Defamation Bill, presented in March 2011, which restricts practicing of the freedom of opinion and expression (Iraq);

A - 110.101. Provide more resources for reforming the welfare system in order to make it better able to tackle poverty and worklessness, and reduce negative impact on social vulnerable groups (Viet Nam);

R - 110.102. Strengthen measures aimed at reducing serious inequalities in access to health, education and employment, which still exist despite the adoption of the Equality Act (Spain);

A - 110.103. Guarantee the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, particularly health, education and adequate housing (Cuba);

A - 110.104. Recognize the right of access to safe drinking water and sanitation in line with GA resolution 64/292 and HRC resolution 18/1, as well as CESCR recommendations recognizing the right to sanitation as an integral part of the human right of access to safe drinking water (Spain);

A - 110.105. Fully recognize the human right to safe drinking (Germany); 3

A - 110.106. Adopt a strategy so that children of vulnerable groups are not excluded from the education system (Costa Rica);

A - 110.107. Raise awareness campaign about rights of migrants and against racial discrimination (Bangladesh);

A - 110.108. Strengthen governmental measures to guarantee the effective implementation of the human rights of migrants in accordance with the existing international instruments in this area (Paraguay);

A - 110.109. Retain the Overseas Domestic Worker visa as a measure to safeguard against abuses of migrant workers (Thailand);

A - 110.110. Strengthen national and local policies and measures to protect migrants, especially foreign workers (Viet Nam);

A - 110.111. Continue adopting measures to prevent cases of indefinite detention of migrants, and guarantee all their rights (Chile);

A - 110.112. Adopt necessary measures to prevent indefinite detention of migrants, and provide all legal safeguards to detained migrants (Honduras);

A - 110.113. Adopt necessary measures to avoid criminalization of irregular migration, de-facto indefinite detention without the provision of all legal safeguards for undocumented migrants and asylum seekers (Ecuador);

A - 110.114. In line with the British Government commitment to the universality of human rights, prohibit the indefinite detention of migrants, seek alternatives to their detention and ensure that such detention is for the shortest possible duration (Mexico);

R - 110.115. Take necessary measures to avoid any use of detention of asylum seekers during the process of determining their refugee status (Argentina);

A - 110.116. Establish immediate means of redress and protection of ethnic religious minorities and migrants, in particular Muslims (Iran (Islamic Republic of));

A - 110.117. Share best practices of tackling the situation of the Roma and Traveller people through the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies adopted in 2011 (Hungary);

A - 110.118. Ensure full adherence to its international human rights obligations in its overseas counter-terrorism operations and set up comprehensive legislative and implementation frameworks for the identification, investigation, prosecution, and punishment of perpetrators of various human rights violations (Egypt);

A - 110.119. Continue to ensure that its terrorism prevention legislation and measures comply with the international human rights standards (Japan);

A - 110.120. Continue to review all counter-terrorism legislation and ensure that it complies with the highest human rights standards (Norway);

A - 110.121. Steadily review the implementation of its new system of terrorism prevention and investigation to ensure the effectiveness in practice of safeguards against abuse and the deliberate targeting of certain ethnic groups (Netherlands);

R - 110.122. Abandon the policy of using diplomatic assurances concerning torture and other ill-treatment as a means to avoid exposing persons to the risk of such human rights violations during any type of involuntary transfer to the territory or the custody of another State (Nicaragua);

A - 110.123. Legislate to restrict the detention of terror suspects without charge and ensure legality of such detention, including through action by the judicial system (Russian Federation);

A - 110.124. Cooperate with United Nations and other international and regional mechanisms with a view to guaranteeing that the legal and administrative measures adopted to combat terrorism respect the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (Mexico);

A - 110.125. Commit to investigating individuals suspected of involvement in terrorism-related activities and, where sufficient evidence exists, to prosecuting them in the ordinary criminal courts, and in conformity with international fair trial standards (Norway);

A - 110.126. Investigate all cases of violations of human rights in all counterterrorism settings related to lengthy secret detentions, extraordinary renditions, and the possible application of torture against individuals, and bring those responsible of such violations to justice (Belarus);

R - 110.127. Apply, without exception, the time limit for detention of persons suspected of terrorism stipulated in the Protection of Freedoms Bill, including cases of administrative detention in emergency situations (Switzerland);

A - 110.128. Ensure that all persons detained, also in terrorism-related cases, have access to legal counsel and are duly informed about the charges that are brought against them (Austria);

A - 110.129. Continue its financial commitment to international development through its overseas development assistance programmes (Trinidad and Tobago);

A - 110.130. Consider contributing to the objective of mainstreaming the right to development in its ODA programmes and policies (Bangladesh);

A - 110.131. Play an effective role to operationalize the right to development at the international level (Pakistan);

R - 110.132. Set up a mechanism to carry out the repatriation of funds of illicit origin and illegally acquired assets to their countries of origin and to ensure cooperation with the requesting states (Egypt).

## **Voluntary Pledges & Commitments Made By United Kingdom in the Framework of the UPR**

### **Document A/HRC/WG.6/13/GBR/1:**

- We are fully committed to the UPR process and the important role it plays in improving human rights across the world. We will engage civil society organisations in deciding which recommendations to accept, therefore ensuring a strategy for implementation which has buy in and is deliverable against the backdrop of reduced resources in both the statutory and voluntary sectors.

### **Document A/HRC/21/9/Add.1:**

- The UK is committed to updating the Working Group on progress through a midterm report in 2014. As well as updating the Working Group on progress on the recommendation the UK accepted at its 2012 review it will also provide updates on its position against those recommendations the UK didn't accept. This is part of a commitment to NHRIs and NGOs to keep all recommendations under review and recognition that the main objective of the UPR - of continual improvement of human rights.

## Endnotes

1 The UK interprets 'incorporating' as meaning policy of women prisoners being in line with the 'Bangkok Rules' (A/HRC/21/9/Add.1)

2 In offering partial support to this recommendation it should be noted that, the UK Government considers that the Equality Act 2010 provides sufficient, extensive protection from discrimination and therefore rejects any assertion that our current efforts are insufficient or fall short of good practice. However, as is done with all new legislation, the Government has committed to reviewing the Act in 2015 to ensure that it is operating as intended. Consideration of the effectiveness of policies in combating discrimination forms part of that review (A/HRC/21/9/Add.1)

3 The UK understands that the German delegation ran out of time when delivering recommendation 110.105, but following consultation with the delegation to determine the true meaning of the recommendation, the UK has interpreted this as 'Fully recognise the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation' (A/HRC/21/9/Add.1)

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