

Nord-Sud XXI's Oral Statement on Item 6:
Universal Periodic Review of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
HRC21 – 21 September 2012

Nord-Sud XXI welcomes the UPR Report on the Universal Periodic Review of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

We congratulate the UK government on its broad engagement of the civil society in the preparation of its UPR report.

Nord-Sud XXI expresses a serious concern about the levels of poverty of children in the United Kingdom. Almost one-third of the children in the United Kingdom live in poverty according to the NGO "End Child Poverty". Thus while we welcome the government's commitment to ending child poverty by 2020, we regret the absence of any concrete plan or plans containing specific steps to achieve this goal. We urge the British Government to make such a plan public as soon as possible and to cooperate with other States to achieve this goal.

Nord-Sud XXI is also concerned about the increasing incidents of discrimination based on the religion or race in the United Kingdom. These incidents especially concern Muslims and migrant workers and have even reached children among these groups. We urge the government of the United Kingdom to ensure that steps are taken to change public attitudes toward minority groups and to foster an environment of mutual respect among all peoples regardless of race or religion. In this regards, we highlight that the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action provides a valuable indication of the types of action needed to end discrimination. We ask the government of the United Kingdom to make this document widely available in its country.

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