

(10)

Ian Duddy  
UK Mission Geneva

# United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland National Statement

## Universal Periodic Review – BAHRAIN

---

Thank you Madam President,

The UK welcomed the establishment of the Independent Commission of Inquiry and the Bahraini Government's acceptance of the Commission's findings. We welcome Bahrain's promises to implement reforms based on the Commission's recommendations. But the UK is deeply concerned by reports of human rights violations still occurring. We believe progress has been made in a number of areas, but more must be done to address these issues. In particular, the UK looks to the Bahraini authorities to ensure all convictions in military courts are urgently reviewed and that any prisoners still detained for exercising freedom of expression are released.

We believe that the key to national reconciliation lies in addressing the ongoing human rights abuses and establishing a genuine and inclusive political dialogue between all parties.

We would like to make the following two **recommendations**:

- To urgently conduct new trials of all defendants who have been convicted in military courts.
- To reflect in domestic law - in particular the Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure - Bahrain's obligations under international human rights laws and conventions.

The UK also submitted several advance questions and we look forward to a response.

Thank you Madam President.