

United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland National Statement

Universal Periodic Review – Finland

Thank you Madam President,

The United Kingdom welcomes the Finnish delegation to Geneva and acknowledges the many positive elements in the UPR reports. This clearly demonstrates Finland's strong commitment to human rights.

The UK recognises the Government's commitment to protect women's rights through a National Action Plan, which came into force in 2010. We encourage Finland to ensure effective implementation.

We welcome the Finnish government's commitment to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its optional protocol before the end of the current governmental period. It is vital that this commitment be followed through.

The UK believes the creation of a national human rights institution, which conforms fully to Paris principles, will make an important

contribution to Finland's ability to realise fully its commitment to promote and protect human rights in Finland. We welcome the Finnish Government's frank assessment that challenges remain around future funding of the Institute.

We welcome Finland's commitment to the rights of the Roma minority and encourage Finland to continue raising these domestically as well as in Europe.

We have 2 recommendations:

- Ensure that women who are victims of trafficking are recognised as such and provided with protection and assistance.
- Ratification and effective implementation of Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, with full participation and active involvement of NGOs in the promotion, protection and monitoring of the human rights treaty framework.

Thank you Madam President.