

United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland National Statement

Universal Periodic Review – Philippines

Thank you Madam President,

The UK welcomes the Philippine delegation. We are pleased that the Philippines has ratified the OPCAT and Rome Statute on the ICC since its last review.

The rule of law, legal redress and an independent judiciary are fundamental to democracy and stable political and economic progress.

We urge the government to ensure these legal and institutional frameworks are fully effective to protect the human rights of the Philippine people. We have remaining concerns about the use of the justice system, the level of corruption, and the slow convictions of perpetrators.

We note that numbers of extra judicial killings and enforced disappearances have decreased but have not been completely eliminated.

We strongly support the government's significant push for transparency and accountability, which impacts on the lives of vulnerable people, as well as the Philippines membership of the Open Government Partnership.

We hope the government provides women with the full range of options to exercise their reproductive rights.

We have 2 **recommendations**:

1. Ensure that the police and National Bureau of Investigation pursue serious rights violations allegedly committed by military and police personnel
2. Invite the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders to visit the Philippines

Thank you Madam President.