

Delivered by Chris Lomax

**United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland**  
**National Statement**

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**Universal Periodic Review – Poland**

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Thank you Madam President,

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

We welcome the Act of 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2010 Implementing Certain European Union Provisions on Equal Treatment that came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011. We look forward to hearing how the principle of equal treatment has been implemented by relevant Polish authorities.

The UK is pleased to note Poland's intention to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2012. We would be interested to hear how this is progressing.

The UK notes that there are no hate crime provisions in the Criminal Code that include sexual orientation and gender identity as possible ground or an aggravating circumstance. We would like to ask how Poland intends to address this matter?

We would like to make 2 recommendations that Poland:

- Ensure that the right to fair trial is not affected by the excessive length of the court proceedings and of excessive pre-trial detention
- Recognise gender identity as possible ground for discrimination and gender identity and sexual orientation as an aggravating circumstance for hate crime

Thank you Madam President.