

44

# United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland National Statement

## Universal Periodic Review – South Africa

---

Thank you Madam President,

We welcome South Africa's strong commitment to human rights, the progress made since the last UPR and encourage them to continue to promote human rights regionally and globally.

We welcome the leading role South Africa has played internationally to end discrimination on the grounds of gender or sexual orientation, but are concerned by continuing violent crimes against women and LGBTI people in South Africa.

The UK welcomes that the constitution upholds freedom of expression, and would like to ask how the Government will ensure proposed legislation does not restrict this right?

We are encouraged by substantial progress made to expand access to health treatment to tackle the HIV/AIDS epidemic - and encourage South Africa to ensure access to health services for all and to continue tackling health issues, including high maternal and infant mortality rates.

We have 2 **recommendations**:

- enhance the prevention, investigation and prosecution of crimes of violence against individuals based on their gender or sexual orientation.
  
- complete the ratification process for human rights treaties that it has signed; including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

Thank you Madam President.