



13th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

Finland's recommendations to United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 24 May 2012

Madam President,

Finland wishes to thank the United Kingdom for the presentation of its national report today. Finland appreciates the active role of the United Kingdom in promoting and protecting human rights.

Finland welcomes the continued commitment of the United Kingdom to the **rights of the child**, in particular the removal of its reservations to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Articles 22 and 37c).

In 2008 the United Kingdom accepted the recommendation to consider going beyond current legislation if the need arises to protect children from violence. The recommendation then did not specify that all corporal punishment of children should be banned by law. However, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and other treaty bodies have been concerned that the United Kingdom has not explicitly prohibited all corporal punishment of children.

Finland recommends that the United Kingdom introduce a ban on all corporal punishment of children as recommended by the CRC and other treaty bodies.

Women in Northern Ireland do not have the same **access to all sexual and reproductive health care and services** as women living in England, Scotland and Wales. Regarding safe and legal abortion, women in Northern Ireland have to travel to other parts of the United Kingdom and pay for abortion while women living in England, Scotland and Wales are provided with it without charge on the National Health Service. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) has drawn attention to this situation.

Finland recommends that the United Kingdom ensure by legislative and other measures that women in Northern Ireland are entitled to safe and legal abortion on equal basis with women living in other parts of the United Kingdom.

Thank you.