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UPR WORKING GROUP - THIRTEENTH SESSION

(21 May - 4 June, 2012)

UPR of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland -

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

21 May 2012; 0900-1230 hrs

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Madam President,

India warmly welcomes the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and thanks the delegation for the presentation of its National Report, which provides an overview of developments in the human rights situation of the country including follow-up action on recommendations in the first Review.

2. We appreciate UK's commitment to end all forms of violence against women and girls, which is clearly evident in the launch of the Action Plan in March 2011, setting out a comprehensive programme of actions. With regard to gender Equality, concerns have been expressed that many public bodies faced difficulties in mainstreaming gender equality into policies and processes as also the slow progress in reducing the gender-pay gap. In this regard India recommends that UK consider policies and legal provisions to encourage equal pay practices.

3. There have also been concerns on the continuing prevalence of racial prejudice, discrimination of ethnic minorities, immigrants and asylum seekers. In particular, CERD has expressed deep concern that provisions of the earlier Race Relations Act of 2000, which permit public officials to discriminate on grounds of nationality, ethnic and national origin, have been replicated in the Equality Act 2010. We would like to ask the delegation on the status of the actual situation on ground and what could be the basis for these concerns.

4. Finally, we wish to express our appreciation for UK's tradition of commitment to human rights and encourage them to continue to do so. We wish them all success in this regard.

Thank you Madam President.
