



**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand,
H.E. Mr. Pisanu Chanvitan,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative,
13th session of the Working Group on Universal Periodic Review
The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
24 May 2012**

Madame President,

Thailand welcomes the delegation of the UK to the UPR Working Group today and thanks them for the presentation of the national report. We wish to begin by commending the establishment of the three A-status National Human Rights Institutions in the country. We are also pleased to learn that the UK has followed up on the recommendations from the first UPR in many areas such as hate crime, counter-terrorism, and gender equality.

Particularly on the rights of vulnerable groups, we are pleased to learn that the UK has stepped up its efforts to strengthen the rights of women and children. At the same time, we note the observation by the CEDAW on the absence of a comprehensive policy for the management of women in prison. Therefore, we wish to ask the UK to elaborate further whether they are developing any policy in this regard. We also wish to recommend the UK to consider incorporating the UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders, otherwise known as the "Bangkok Rules" as part of its policy on the treatment of women prisoners.

At the same time, we take note of the comment by the Human Rights Committee suggesting the UK to conduct prompt and independent investigations into all allegations concerning the detention facilities in Afghanistan and Iraq. We therefore encourage the UK to follow-up on the Committee's suggestion. Moreover, it is our hope that the counter-terrorism policies in the UK will avoid targeting certain ethnic or religious groups.

Lastly, while we appreciate the ongoing efforts in the UK to promote and protect the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, especially its combat against human trafficking, we recommend the UK to retain the Overseas Domestic Worker visa as a measure to safeguard against abuses of migrant workers.

Thank you, Madame President.

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