

NEW

United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland National Statement

Universal Periodic Review – Peru

Thank you Madam President,

The UK welcomes the Peruvian Government's determination to address human rights concerns, particularly through the creation of the Vice Ministry of Human Rights. We commend efforts to develop a national human rights strategy with civil society engagement. This increased attention on human rights issues since the last review should be applauded.

The work of the Ombudsman's Office in defending the rights of the Peruvian people is vital, in particular its role as a neutral mediator during social conflict. We would encourage the Government of Peru to work with Congress towards the early appointment of a credible and effective head of the Ombudsman's Office.

The UK is concerned by the recent deaths of individuals involved in social protests. It is right that the Government of Peru uphold the law, but we urge Peru to ensure that security forces act in an appropriate and proportionate manner, in line with international human rights standards, when dealing with social protests.

We also urge the Peruvian Government to make improving prison conditions a priority. We hope that the recently announced *Ten Steps to Reform the Penitentiary System* programme makes concrete progress in this area.

The UK welcomes that Peru has abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes. However it is concerned to note that the death penalty remains in force for a number of specific crimes.

We have two recommendations:

- Produce and publish a plan to eliminate child and forced labour, with clear and specific objectives, milestones and timelines.
- To abolish the death penalty completely and to ratify the second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

Thank you Madam President.