

United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland National Statement

Universal Periodic Review – Ukraine

Thank you Madam President,

The UK ^{notes} ~~welcomes~~ the reform of the judicial system undertaken by the Ukrainian authorities, including a new Criminal Procedure Code, and measures to safeguard the independence of, and reduce corruption within, the judicial system. It is essential that Ukraine respects, and implements consistently, all guarantees of the right to a fair trial by an independent judiciary.

Recent examples of selective justice cast doubt on Ukraine's commitment to the highest democratic standards. Independent legal experts have identified serious violations of fundamental legal principles in relation to recent trials in Ukraine.

We also ^{note} ~~welcome~~ Ukraine's commitment to international human rights standards and the protection afforded by Article 24 of the Constitution. The UK is concerned by the potential introduction of legislation or policies that would result in discrimination against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered persons. In this context, we are disappointed by the first reading of Bill 8711. The provisions of the Bill run counter to principles of non-discrimination and freedom of expression.

We have two recommendations:

- take concrete steps to improve the impartiality, objectivity and independence of the criminal justice system; incorporating the recommendations of the Venice Commission, implementing the judgements of the European Court of Human Rights, and addressing the international community's concerns about selective justice;
- ensure that legislation, including the proposed Bill 8711, is fully compliant with Ukraine's international commitments, including under the European Convention for Human Rights.

Thank you Madam President.