

YASMIN ARYEE  
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United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
National Statement

Universal Periodic Review- Bahamas

**Thank you Mr President,**

The UK warmly welcomes the delegation to Geneva. We are pleased to note that the Bahamas has implemented a number of recommendations from the first UPR cycle, including ratifying both International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. We also note efforts to build capacity within the police, prison and defence forces to observe, respect and protect human rights.

We welcome the Bahamas commitment to protect women's rights and to combat violence against them. In this respect, we would again urge the Bahamas to raise awareness of marital rape and to amend the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act to criminalize marital rape.

We note that although the Bahamas accepted a previous recommendation to combat discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, no action has been taken and provisions to prevent discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation have not been made to its constitution.

Given that the Bahamas rejected all recommendations in the previous review associated with the abolition of the use of the death penalty, we would like to ask whether the Government has since considered whether to establish a moratorium on executions as a first step towards the abolition of the use of the death penalty.

We would like to make 2 recommendations

1. To ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and to consider the repeal of provisions allowing for the death penalty
2. To repeal all provisions that discriminate against persons on the grounds of their sexual orientation including in the Domestic Violence Act (Protection Orders) and the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act.

Thank you Mr President.

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