

United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland
National Statement

Universal Periodic Review – Barbados

Thank you, Mr President,

The UK welcomes the Government of Barbados's on-going commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights. Evidence of this can be seen in the Bureau of Gender Affairs' mandate to promote the empowerment of women and achieve gender equality. However, Barbados needs to take prompt action to tackle the issue of violence of all kinds against women and children.

The UK welcomes the acknowledgement by Barbados that the establishment of a national human rights institution, which would include civil society organisations, is a priority. However, the UK remains concerned by the lack of progress and would urge the Government of Barbados to ensure that a Human Rights Advisory Committee be set up to oversee the establishment of the NHRI.

The UK welcomes the *de facto* moratorium on the death penalty. The fact that there has not been an execution in 29 years is clear evidence of a move in the right direction. The UK urges the government of Barbados to as quickly as possible also amend the legislation to abolish the mandatory death penalty.

Our recommendations are:

1. To repeal all legislative provisions that discriminate against persons on the grounds of their sexual orientation, including in the Sexual Offences Act, within the next two years.
2. To investigate all complaints made against the Police Force, including alleged unprofessional conduct, beatings and assaults, and to introduce electronic recording of interviews.

Thank you, Mr President.