



UK Mission to the
United Nations
in Geneva

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Kate
Kyriakides.

United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland Statement

Universal Periodic Review – France

Thank you Mr President.

The UK welcomes steps taken in France to strengthen women's rights, including the re-establishment of the Minister for Women and replacement of the law on sexual harassment. We would like to ask what further measures will be introduced to improve gender equality in France - in particular, to improve the recourse to justice for victims of sexual crimes and address the low proportion of domestic violence victims that approach the authorities.

The UK welcomes the Justice Minister's commitment to re-building French prisons, cutting detainee numbers and reducing re-offending. We would welcome details of measures planned in response to the 12 November report on conditions at Baumettes prison in Marseille.

The UK would also like to ask how France intends to improve its anti-discrimination legislation, including by assessing the causes of inequality and effectiveness of current measures. In particular we would welcome information on how France plans to minimise discrimination against LGBT and disabled people; and plans to prevent vigilante action against minority groups, including the Roma population.

We have two recommendations:

1. Introduce and publish a national action plan to improve conditions and address over-crowding in prisons, including an increased focus on rehabilitation.
2. Adopt and publish a plan by 2015 to highlight measures the Government will take to improve gender equality in France, including by enforcing existing anti-discrimination legislation more effectively.