



UK Mission to the
United Nations
in Geneva

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United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland Statement

Universal Periodic Review – Montenegro

Thank you Mr President.

The UK welcomes the Montenegrin government's commitment to addressing human rights concerns, and in particular the progress achieved on legislation guaranteeing human rights, including of persons with disabilities, anti-discrimination laws and protection from domestic violence. The UK urges the Montenegrin government to ensure that legislation is implemented effectively, with adequate capacity and resources for enforcement.

Whilst acknowledging the Montenegrin government's Strategy for the Reform of the Judiciary, the UK notes the concerns of the Committee against Torture that the independence of the judiciary is not yet fully protected.

The UK recognises the determination of the Montenegrin government to improve the position of LGBT persons, and its strategy for the Improvement of the Position of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Minorities. However, the UK remains concerned about public attitudes towards homosexuality and about continuing inequalities faced by minorities in living conditions, access to public institutions, and particularly education, a gap which reinforces and perpetuates exclusion.

The UK notes that cultural change will require time, and sustained efforts in combating prejudice at all levels, in addition to the legislation agreed in central government. The UK encourages the Montenegrin government to invest in training for relevant professionals, police, judiciary, which will be essential to success.

We have two recommendations:

- Publish a communications plan that states how the government intends to increase the Ombudsman's office capacity (resources, staff and legal powers) and how it intends to increase public awareness about their rights and their recourse to the Ombudsman if their rights are denied.
- Fully publish and implement a plan that addresses how the government of Montenegro intends to make appointments and promotions in the judiciary a fair and transparent process, to ensure that the independence of the judiciary is fully protected.

Thank you Mr President