

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND
NATIONAL STATEMENT

Universal Periodic Review – Romania

Thank you Mr President,

The UK welcomes the delegation to Geneva. We welcome the creation of institutions designed to combat discrimination, such as the National Council for Combating Discrimination. However, we recognise the risk that the overlap of competencies between this body and other agencies, such as the Ombudsman, may hamper the effectiveness of the government's objectives.

We welcome legislative, regulatory, and institutional efforts in combating torture and ill treatment while in custody, and improving the situation of persons deprived of their liberty. However we share the concerns voiced in the UPR reports about allegations of ill treatment and police brutality against children.

We welcome steps taken towards reforming the Judiciary. For example, improving the professionalism of the Judiciary and reducing the average length of time which trials take to reach a judgement. However we note that the UPR reports raised concerns about conflicts of interest within the Supreme Council of Magistracy. We would like to ask what steps will be taken to mitigate this concern?

We would like to make 2 **recommendations**:

- Publish an enhanced and updated national action plan by 2015 which will detail how the government will eliminate the use of excessive force and beatings against prisoners and pre-trial detainees including updating existing educational programmes for police officers
- Ensure that Romania's National Strategy for Roma Integration is implemented in full to enable the Roma community to better integrate into society, giving them greater access to public amenities, healthcare and public housing.

Thank you Mr President