



UK Mission to the
United Nations
in Geneva

United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland Statement

Universal Periodic Review – UAE

The UK thanks the UAE for their national report and notes the progress made, including in promoting participation through the expansion of the electorate and the Government's empowerment programme; combating human trafficking and increasing opportunities for women. This shows a clear effort by the UAE to improve the human rights of its citizens.

We acknowledge that the situation of foreign workers has improved, but we encourage the UAE to strengthen the protection of all foreign workers, including by implementing legislation to curb abuses and improve working conditions.

We have two recommendations:

1. Repeal the 1980 law on publications and amend other relevant legislation to ensure it is aligned with international human rights law on the freedom of expression.
2. Write and publish an action plan with clear milestones and timelines, to ensure swift and effective implementation of legislation protecting the living and working conditions of foreign workers in the UAE.

We welcome the establishment of human rights departments in key ministries, and the Federal National Council's call to establish a human rights committee. The UK urges the UAE to establish a National Human Rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.

We also urge the UAE to ensure its legislation protects and promotes individuals' rights to freedom of expression.

Finally, we strongly encourage the UAE to fully abolish the death penalty.