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Ms Teresa Levigne

United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland
National Statement
Universal Periodic Review April 2013 – Cameroon

Thank you, Mr President.

The UK thanks Cameroon for its contribution to the UPR process and its willingness to engage. We recognise improvements since the last UPR, including on the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

The absence of Government action following threats against human rights defenders and the LGBT community is unacceptable, and has left individuals to organise their own security or flee Cameroon. We urge the Government to speak out against these threats and provide security.

In 2009, Cameroon committed to addressing discrimination against women and children. However, female genital mutilation has not been criminalised, and violence against women remains widespread, with high levels of rape, gang rape and incest, and with an inadequate response from investigating authorities.

We call on the Government to decriminalise same sex acts between consenting adults and ensure that their rights are fully respected.

The UK is also concerned that the law on defamation is being used to target journalists; that the National Communication Council bans journalists; and that media programmes failed to promote a free press and access to information.

We would like to make the following **recommendations**:

1. To provide active and immediate protection for all human rights defenders,
2. To implement specific legislation criminalising female genital mutilation and domestic violence.

Thank you, Mr President.