

Universal Periodic Review

UK statement on Canada

~~Thank you Mr President~~

The UK welcomes the Canadian Government's willingness to engage robustly on human rights issues ~~and its own human rights record. This is evident in Canada's contribution to this Council, and by the reports provided as a basis for this review.~~ The UK has two recommendations for Canada:

1. The UK acknowledges steps taken by the Government of Canada to involve civil society in human rights issues. We would ~~like to~~ recommend that Canada continues to engage with civil society groups and demonstrate that challenges presented by relationships between its federal, provincial and territorial governments do not present unnecessary obstacles to ensuring implementation of its international human rights obligations.
2. We note that in 2009 Canada committed to ~~conducting the required analysis of its domestic legislation and policies in~~ the possible signature and ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OP-CAT). We would continue to encourage Canada to ratify OP-CAT and thereby set a useful precedent for other states who may be considering ratification.

~~The UK commends Canada for its establishment of an Office of Religious Freedom and the appointment of an ambassador for Freedom of Religious Belief to represent all religious minorities.~~

We note that reports continue to highlight inequalities between Aboriginal people and other Canadians. We welcome the steps Canada has taken to ~~help~~ ^{help} address the ~~Aboriginal Canadians~~ ^{Aboriginal Canadians}, including its statement of support for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. However, there still appears to be a significant divide between the economic security and well-being of Aboriginal Canadians compared with ^{its} other citizens ~~of Canada~~. Reports suggest that violence against ~~women, especially,~~ ^{is} aboriginal women also remains a key ~~problem in Canada~~ ^{issue}. We would encourage the federal government to work proactively with partners ~~at all other levels of government~~ ^{at all other levels of government} to address the high ~~level of violence against aboriginal women and its root causes.~~ ^{this}

Thank you Mr President