

United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland
National Statement

Universal Periodic Review – Tuvalu

Thank you Mr President,

The UK welcomes the delegation of Tuvalu and notes the positive steps taken on human rights advancement since the country's 2008 Universal Periodic Review.

We understand the challenges facing Tuvalu, particularly on climate change, and we are impressed by the government's level of consultation with civil society in preparation for this review process.

The UK notes that Tuvalu has ratified just two International Human Rights Treaties - the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). We, therefore, encourage the government to sign and ratify other human rights treaties.

We echo wider calls for the government to take urgent steps to address problems concerning access to water and sanitation for the entire population. The UK emphasises the importance of a right to social security and to an adequate standard of living.

We have **two recommendations**:

1. We **recommend** that Tuvalu repeals all provisions that criminalise consensual same-sex conduct and that it ensures anti-discrimination laws cover sexual orientation.
2. We **recommend** that Tuvalu passes and implements its proposed legislation to prevent violence against women and that it adopts a strategy to properly tackle the unequal status of women in many areas including education, public life and decision-making.

Thank you, Mr President.