



UK Mission to the  
United Nations  
in Geneva

## United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland National Statement

### Universal Periodic Review – Cyprus

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Thank you Mr President,

The United Kingdom welcomes Cyprus's commitment to human rights and applauds the actions taken by Cyprus to address the recommendations set out in the last Universal Periodic Review, and notes the creation of new policies, laws and institutions aimed at protecting and promoting human rights.

The UK specifically welcomes the role played by the Ombudsman in Cyprus in protecting human rights and encourages Cyprus to guarantee the full operational independence and financial autonomy of the Ombudsman.

We remain concerned, however, at the recent reports on the treatment of prisoners in Cyprus and the rights of LGBT persons facing discrimination.

We continue to believe a comprehensive settlement agreement would allow Cypriots across the whole island to enjoy human rights protection. The UK suggests that Cyprus pursue and develop measures to enable effective participation of Turkish Cypriots in cultural, social and economic life and in public affairs.

#### **We would like to make two RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. That Cyprus criminalise public incitement of acts against persons on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.
2. That Cyprus develop and employ measures to respect the rights of prisoners including reviewing the potential for alternative measures for offenders, and detention conditions.

Thank you Mr President