



UK Mission to the  
United Nations  
in Geneva

**United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland  
Statement**

**Universal Periodic Review – Vanuatu  
January 2014**

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Thank you Mr President

The UK warmly welcomes the delegation from Vanuatu led by XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX and we appreciate their participation in the UPR Process.

We commend Vanuatu for the significant progress in achieving the International Conference on Population and Development targets and Millennium Development Goals through implementation of the country's Priority Action Agenda. We also commend Vanuatu for raising the question of gender and climate change at COP 19 in Warsaw in November 2013.

We commend Vanuatu for ratification of several of the UN's Human Rights Conventions treaties. In particular, we recognise that you are the first Pacific Island Nation to accede to the UN Convention Against Torture. We would like to ask the delegation whether the Government intends to become party to any of the other UN human rights treaties such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

We are concerned by the exclusion of disability as a prohibited ground for discrimination. Can the delegation provide any information on recent initiatives to address discrimination against persons with disabilities?



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While the UK commends efforts taken to date to encourage more women in leadership roles, we urge the Government to continue work to prevent violence against women.

We would like to make **two recommendations**:

**First** – we recommend that the Government of Vanuatu ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

**Second** – We recommend that Vanuatu implements its legislation to prevent violence against women and that it adopts a strategy to properly tackle the unequal status of women.

Thank you.

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