



UK Mission to the
United Nations
in Geneva

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United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland Statement

Universal Periodic Review – Albania April 2014

Thank you Mr President,

The UK welcomes Albania's tradition of inter-religious harmony and welcomes the robust action to tackle religious extremism. The UK also welcomes the renewed efforts to counter human trafficking through increased investigation and prosecution of the criminal networks carrying out these activities. We also welcome the steps taken by the Albanian government to combat blood feuds.

Although we welcome revised legislation, we remain concerned about the preponderance of domestic violence in Albania, and call upon the government to address this issue urgently, both through increased convictions as well as public awareness campaigns.

We are concerned by inadequate facilities in places of detention for people with physical disabilities, such as appropriate bathroom facilities, sign language interpreters, or access to medical supplies. We are also concerned about inadequate care of prisoners with mental health issues, especially as being under detention could exacerbate these issues.

We have 2 recommendations:

- First, to ensure that reports of domestic violence are investigated swiftly and fully, and that prosecutions are carried out with the full force of the law.
- Second, to improve facilities in places of detention for people with physical disabilities and to improve access to adequate care for prisoners with mental health issues.

Thank you Mr President.