

United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland

National Statement

Universal Periodic Review – Brunei Darussalam

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Thank you Mr President,

The United Kingdom thanks the government of Brunei Darussalam for its detailed national report and commitment to the UPR process.

We welcome Brunei's progress on social and economic rights, and applaud its Millennium Development Goal achievements. We welcome Brunei's withdrawal of some reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and ask that it consider withdrawing its remaining reservations. We welcome Brunei's commitment to ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRC and urge the government to accede to other major UN human rights treaties.

The UK notes Brunei's expansion of membership to the Legislative Council and encourages more direct elections. The UK urges the government of Brunei to suspend the long-running state of emergency and related legislation which limit rights including freedom of expression.

Noting that Brunei's constitution protects religious freedom, we urge the government to ensure that implementation of the new Syariah Penal Code does not violate rights to freedom of religion or belief nor impose restrictions on minority faith groups.

We recommend:

1. That Brunei Darussalam ensures that implementation of the Syariah Penal Code Order, 2013 is compliant with international human rights standards and does not lead to the imposition of the death penalty or torture or other inhuman or degrading punishment.
2. That Brunei Darussalam establish an independent national human rights institution compliant with the Paris Principles.