



UK Mission to the
United Nations
in Geneva

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United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland Statement

Universal Periodic Review – QATAR

Thank you Mr President

The UK thanks Qatar for their national report and notes the progress made in a number of areas; including those related to combating human trafficking and protection against torture, increasing opportunities for women and the establishment of the National Human Rights Committee. This demonstrates a clear effort by Qatar to improve human rights in the country.

The UK welcomes the recent efforts made by Qatar to promote the rights of migrant workers. We urge Qatar to reform the current sponsorship system as a priority and ensure the Labour laws in place are effectively enforced. We hope the existing Labour laws will be expanded to cover domestic workers who remain vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

We acknowledge the measures implemented to combat gender-based violence but remain concerned that no specific law criminalising domestic violence exists.

We also urge Qatar to review and revise its draft laws on media and cyber regulation to follow international standards.

Finally, we strongly encourage Qatar to fully abolish the death penalty.

We have two recommendations:

1. To reform the sponsorship system, removing the requirement for foreign workers to obtain permission before leaving Qatar or moving jobs.
2. To reform the Labour laws to ensure domestic workers are legally protected and to improve the enforcement of these laws ensuring the rights of foreign workers in Qatar are guaranteed.