



UK Mission to the
United Nations
in Geneva

TERESA LÉVIGNE

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United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland Statement

Universal Periodic Review – Bosnia and Herzegovina November 2014

Thank you Mr President,

The United Kingdom welcomes the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Geneva and thanks them for the national report prepared for this Universal Periodic Review.

We support the continued vital work of the Human Rights Ombudsmen and look forward to the early drafting and adoption of a National Plan for Human Rights. This requires the proper funding for the Institution of the Ombudsman, to ensure its effective operation, as recommended by the Venice Commission. Similarly, sustained political and financial support to the State Court and to the Prosecutor's Office, as well as to judicial and investigative bodies at the entity level, needs to continue.

The UK welcomes the ongoing implementation of the National War Crimes Strategy, including the transfer of cases to the Entity level, and hopes that it will result in clearing the backlog of cases according to the schedule agreed, with a particular focus on cases of sexual violence.

We have **two recommendations**:

1. That adequate funding is allocated to strengthen the state-level Human Rights Ombudsman and allow early implementation of Venice Commission recommendations.
2. Ensure adequately trained prosecutors, judges and staff in the justice systems of the Federation and of Republic Srpska, in order to make timely and efficient progress on war crimes cases, including the sensitive handling of those dealing with sexual violence.

Thank you, Mr President.