



Bob Last

UK Mission to the
United Nations
in Geneva

United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland Statement

Universal Periodic Review – Kazakhstan October 2014

Mr President,

The United Kingdom welcomes Kazakhstan's delegation and its constructive engagement with the UPR.

We welcome the adoption of a National Preventative Mechanism against torture and encourage Kazakhstan to impartially investigate all credible allegations of torture within this framework. The UK stands ready to continue supporting work in this area.

~~The United Kingdom~~
we

encourages Kazakhstan to implement the National Action Plan on Human Rights for 2014-2020 to strengthen further the role of human rights institutions in Kazakhstan.

We note that Kazakhstan is undergoing a comprehensive judicial reform process aimed at modernising its legal system. While it is positive that some civil society organisations have been consulted in the reform process, we note ongoing concerns about restrictions on civil society, freedom of expression and ~~legislation~~ ^{limitations} ~~on~~ the exercise of religious freedom. We call on Kazakhstan to ensure that all legislation adopted is in line with Kazakhstan's international human rights obligations. Further reform of the judiciary and the consolidation of the rule of law will benefit the long term stability and growth of Kazakhstan.

We have **two recommendations**:

1. To revise the Criminal Procedure Code to allow for ~~more~~ a more equal distribution of powers between prosecutors and defence.
2. To better resource the Office of the Ombudsman and the national human rights commission – including pressing ahead with increasing the presence of the Ombudsman outside the capital {with offices in the north, south, east and west of the country}.