



UK Mission to the
United Nations
in Geneva

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United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland Statement

Universal Periodic Review – Bulgaria May 2015

We thank Bulgaria for its participation in the UPR and recognise progress made since its last review. Early national elections and the reestablishment of the National Assembly were important steps during a period of political instability.

We note positively the Government's firm commitment to improving the situation of its Roma community and the results achieved with the support of NGOs. However, we encourage further action at the municipal level.

The UK welcomes the adoption of the amendment to the Protection Against Discrimination Act, which grants equal rights to transgender persons. We hope the Government will foster understanding and tolerance in society for LGBT persons.

We recognise the National Legal Assistance Bureau's increased workforce and budget and that the amended Legal Assistance Act improves access to justice for disadvantaged groups. Yet, we regret that these changes have not been widely communicated.

We have 2 recommendations:

1. To develop an effective state family policy based on the prevention of separation of children from parents and early intervention measures, supported by an Action Plan for implementation and specifically designated funding.
2. To review all work under the EU Twinning Programme in the prison system and to agree to its next steps, in order to urgently address: occurrences of ill-treatment (both by police and in prisons), prisoner violence, prison overcrowding, detention facility conditions as well as prison health care and staffing levels.