



UK Mission to the
United Nations
in Geneva

United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland Statement

Universal Periodic Review – Jamaica May 2015

Thank you Mr President. The UK thanks Jamaica for its participation in the UPR.

We recognise progress since the last review, most notably the adoption in April 2011 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms. However, we remain concerned that the establishment of this Charter did not include non-discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. We urge the government to implement fully comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation without delay.

We welcome the steps taken to identify and prosecute members of the security forces involved in acts of corruption or violence against civilians. We commend the work of the Independent Commission of Investigations and the establishment of the Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency. However, we believe human rights should feature more prominently in recruits' training.

We welcome Jamaica's 'de facto moratorium' on the use of the death penalty and hope Jamaica will establish a formal mechanism as a first step towards complete abolition.

We take note of attempts to improve the justice system, most notably the government's commitment to the Jamaican Justice System Reform Project to develop strategies that will facilitate modernization and efficiency. However implementation of new strategies has been piecemeal and the present system continues to be under resourced and mismanaged.

We have two recommendations:

- Introduction and implementation of fully comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation to include sexual orientation and gender.
- Immediate elimination of the practice of incarcerating juvenile offenders alongside adults.

Thank you, Mr President.