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Teresa Lévigne

UK Mission to the
United Nations
in Geneva

**United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland
Statement**

**Universal Periodic Review – Liberia
May 2015**

Thank you, Mr President.

The UK would like to thank Liberia for its engagement with the UPR process.

We recognise the impact the Ebola outbreak has had on Liberia. The UK welcomes the Government's *Investment Plan for Building a Resilient Health System*, as prevention is always easier than cure. We hope adequate steps will be taken to support Ebola survivors in Liberia and tackle issues around stigmatisation.

The UK notes Liberia's ongoing constitutional review, and urges the Government of Liberia to ensure that the freedom to exercise one's religion or belief is protected as part of the review process.

The UK also encourages Liberia to take steps to increase prosecution and conviction rates for sexual offenders, and to address the root causes of sexual and gender-based violence.

We have two recommendations:

1. Repeal legislation which allows for the death penalty, in line with Liberia's commitments under the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
2. To implement provisions in the *National Human Rights Action Plan* for the protection of vulnerable individuals, including children, persons with disabilities, persons with albinism, LGBT persons, and persons diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.

Thank you.