



UK Mission to the
United Nations
in Geneva

Kate Kyriakides . 555

United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland Statement

Universal Periodic Review – Malawi May 2015

Thank you Mr President,

The UK thanks Malawi for its participation in the UPR. We recognise progress since the last review, including peaceful elections in 2014, improved press freedoms and legislation such as the Disability, Gender and Marriage Acts.

We encourage Malawi to implement these Acts. We also urge the government to ensure the proportionate and appropriate use of firearms by the Police Service and to confirm there is no "shoot to kill" policy.

We note the need for greater commitment to enable Malawians to enjoy fully their economic, social and cultural rights, including by addressing corruption.

Finally, we express our continued concern at the discrimination individuals face in Malawi because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Whilst we welcome the Marriage Act and the impact it will have in many areas, we regret that such discrimination persists in the wording of the Act.

We have two recommendations:

1. Consider abolishing the death penalty, given that there has been no execution since 1992 and that death row cases are being reviewed
2. Urgently address the inconsistency between the age of marriage in the Marriage Act and the Constitution.