

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

UK STATEMENT, 11 MAY 2015

Thank you Mr President,

The UK thanks the US Government for its national report and has two recommendations:

First, we recommend the Administration clarifies its interpretation of the Helms amendment, in order to enable the provision of safe abortion for rape survivors.

Second, we recommend the US Federal Government ensures consistent enforcement of consular notification at all levels of Government and supports the passage of related legislation through Congress.

While we welcome the renewed commitment to close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, we urge the Administration to make this a reality.

The UK supports the Administration's creation of a task force on 21st century policing, and its aims to create greater trust between communities and the police.

The UK welcomes progress made on the rights of LGBT persons, but we remain concerned about the consistency and implementation of legislation across individual states.

Finally, the misinterpretation of the Helms amendment is discouraging humanitarian agencies from working to improve access to safe abortion for women and girls who are pregnant as a consequence of rape.

Thank you