



UK Mission to the  
United Nations  
in Geneva

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Virginia  
Browning

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

**Universal Periodic Review – Belgium  
January 2016**

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Thank you, Mr President,

The United Kingdom recognizes Belgium's strong commitment to human rights.

We acknowledge Belgium's efforts toward establishing an Independent National Human Rights Institution that conforms fully to the Paris Principles, and encourage Belgium to expedite this process which has been ongoing for several years.

The UK encourages Belgium to actively engage with civil society in the UPR process.

The UK makes the following recommendations:

1. To expedite the process of establishing a fully functioning Independent National Human Rights Institution that is fully compliant with the Paris Principles by the end of 2017.
2. To swiftly ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

Thank you, Mr President.