



UK Mission to the  
United Nations  
in Geneva

Eleni  
Alexandrou.

38

## United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland Statement

### Universal Periodic Review – Latvia January 2016

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Thank you, Mr President,

The UK commends Latvia's commitment to strengthening human rights protection over the reporting period.

The UK notes with appreciation progress made on the accreditation of the Ombudsman's Office to the International Coordinating Committee, and efforts to tackle human trafficking, sham marriages and domestic violence.

We welcome the amendments in the Citizenship Law which have encouraged an increase in the number of non-citizens registering their children as citizens. This, coupled with the policy guidelines on society integration, are tangible demonstrations of Latvia's commitment to protect individuals belonging to minorities.

Whilst the UK welcomes Latvia criminalising acts inciting hatred on the basis of gender, age, disability, or any other characteristics, we note with concern that there was no explicit reference to hate crimes based on sexual orientation.

We have 2 **recommendations**:

1. Amend legal prohibitions on incitement to hatred to include prohibitions on the basis of sexual orientation.
2. Strengthen the Ombudsman's capacity to investigate and act on allegations of discrimination in all its forms.

Thank you, Mr President.