



UK Mission to the
United Nations
in Geneva

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Ian Duddy
Political Counsellor

UK Statement

Universal Periodic Review – Mozambique, 19 January 2016

Thank you, Mr President,

~~The UK thanks Mozambique for its participation in the UPR.~~

The UK has two recommendations:

1. That Mozambique formally accept a request to visit by the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions and issues an invite in 2016.
2. That Mozambique agree to the registration of LAMBDA (The Association for Defence of Sexual Minorities) as an official NGO.

We commend Mozambique for the action taken since the last review to: revise the penal code to simplify the administration of justice and end the criminalisation of homosexuality; pass the Access to Information law; ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture; and commit to develop a strategy on preventing early marriage.

The UK is concerned that the human rights of individual citizens who do not support the government can be undermined in Mozambique. The 2014 elections saw political violence ~~and the improper use of state resources by the ruling party~~. Since the election there have been attacks on the leader of the opposition party and the use of defamation laws to charge journalists.

We note some members of the police have undermined the human rights of Mozambicans by engaging in criminal activity, ~~including kidnapping~~. We note the persistent reports of the police acting beyond their powers, including through the ill treatment of detainees.

Finally we note that prison over-crowding, gender based violence and discrimination against the albino community continue to impact the human rights of Mozambicans. We support government efforts to address these issues.

Thank you, Mr President.