



UK Mission to the
United Nations
in Geneva

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United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland Statement

Universal Periodic Review – Seychelles January 2016

Thank you Mr President,

The UK thanks Seychelles for its participation in the UPR process.

We congratulate Seychelles for the advances in human rights protections which have taken since its last UPR. We applaud Seychelles for its recent Presidential election, which despite being - and still being - hotly contested took place peacefully. We also welcome the revocation of the Public Order Act and its replacement with more progressive legislation following the Constitutional Court's judgement.

We are concerned that the Ombudsman is also the chair of the National Human Rights Commission. We note the non-compliance of the National Human Rights Commission with the Paris Principles (which states that the necessary human and material resources should be provided to ensure both the Commission's independence and its effectiveness), a situation compounded by the lack of budgetary independence of the National Human Rights Commission.

We note that although no prosecutions have been brought under Section 151 of the Penal Code – which states that a male having "*carnal knowledge against the order of nature*" of another male is illegal – the potential for prosecution and persecution remains.

We have two recommendations:

1. That Seychelles ensures the National Human Rights Commission is in line with the Paris Principles and that the Ombudsman is fully independent.
2. That Seychelles implements its commitment to repeal Section 151 of the Penal Code to decriminalise same sex relationships.