



UK Mission to the
United Nations
in Geneva

H.E

Julian

Braithwaite

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United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland Statement

Universal Periodic Review – Sierra Leone January 2016

The United Kingdom commends Sierra Leone on the completion of its national report, coming as it did against the background of the Ebola epidemic.

We welcome progress on implementing some recommendations from the previous UPR and encourages the Government to complete the Constitutional Review process by the agreed timescale, ensuring that the new Constitution complies with international human rights treaties to which Sierra Leone is a party.

We note that a draft national strategy on countering the practice of Female Genital Mutilation is being developed. The United Kingdom encourages the Government to agree and implement this strategy.

We have 2 recommendations:

1. Take appropriate actions to reduce prison overcrowding, including through a reduction in lengthy pre-trial detention and alternatives to custodial sentence for minor offences.
2. Upholds the right to freedom of expression, including for journalists and human rights defenders, in particular takes steps to ensure that defamation charges are not used to undermine the right to freedom of expression.

Thank you Mr President.