

**Solomon Islands UPR – UK Statement**

Thank you, Mr President

The UK welcomes the Solomon Islands delegation and congratulates them on their national report.

The UK welcomes progress on human rights protections in Solomon Islands since its last UPR and commends the consultative and inclusive process set up by the Government of Solomon Islands to take forward the recommendations it accepted.

We welcome the fact that the Government of Solomon Islands has enacted a number of significant human rights related pieces of legislation including the Immigration Act of 2012, the Family Protection Act of 2014, The Police Act of 2013; and for criminalising the practice of smuggling and human trafficking.

However, we note the continued disturbingly high instances of Violence against Women recorded in the country, and urge the Government of Solomon Islands to take action to address this.

The UK is also concerned that there has been no evident progress towards the decriminalisation of same sex relationships.

We would like to make the following recommendations to the Government of the Solomon Islands:

1. That recently introduced legislation is fully enforced to protect women and girls from gender based violence, including prosecutions for individuals suspected of human trafficking.
2. To extend the scope of the Penal Code (Sexual Offences) (Amendment) Bill of 2015 to clarify existing and create new legislation to protect the human rights of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Inter-sex community.

Thank You, Mr President