**UPR – United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland – 4 May 2017**

**STATEMENT by BULGARIA**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Bulgaria welcomes the distinguished delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

We would like to thank for the comprehensive national report and the detailed presentation, demonstrating a strong commitment to the UPR process.

Bulgaria commends the efforts of the UK in combating violence against women and girls, considered by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women „one of the most pervasive human rights issues in the UK“. We note particularly the rollout of Domestic Violence Protection Orders and the Domestic Violence Disclosure scheme as well as the introduction of Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders and mandatory reporting duty.

Bulgaria appreciates positively the launch in 2016 of the new Hate Crime Action Plan which, inter alia, includes actions on education, tackling hate crime in communities, increasing reporting, improving the services of victims and witnesses and improving understanding of hate crime.

We share the concerns expressed by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination that the proposal to replace the Human Rights Act of 1998 with a new British bill of rights could lead to decreased levels of human rights protection.

Bulgaria would like to make the following **recommendations:**

1. To raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility in accordance with acceptable international standards
2. To ratify the Convention of the CoE on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

Thank you!