**United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland**

**Statement**

**44th Universal Periodic Review – Bangladesh**

**Monday 13 November 2023**

Thank you, Mr President,

The United Kingdom welcomes steps taken by the Government of Bangladesh to promote and protect human rights. We look forward to a free, fair, participatory, and peaceful national election next year.

We recommend that Bangladesh:

1. Take measures to guarantee a safe and transparent environment for civil society, human rights defenders and the media, ensuring that they can exercise their right to freedom of expression and assembly without fear of repercussions.
2. Take steps to ensure the full independence of the judiciary from the Executive and Parliament.
3. Continue working with partners at all levels to protect the rights of women and girls, empowering them to fulfil their potential and lead a healthy life, free from gender-based violence.

Thank you.