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

**Statement**

**46th Universal Periodic Review – North Macedonia**

**Thursday 2 May 2024**

Thank you,

The United Kingdom thanks the North Macedonian delegation for their constructive engagement with the Universal Periodic Review process. We welcome progress made since the last review, including work to reform the Commission for the Prevention and Protection against Discrimination which has become an institution positively recognised by citizens. It is important that the Commission be allowed to continue its work in a transparent and accountable way, and that the government acts on its findings.

The UK remains concerned about discrimination against minorities, with reports highlighting limited access to opportunities for members of Roma community in particular. Urgent action is needed to tackle these issues and implement reforms and equal rights for all citizens, regardless of ethnicity or background.

The negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights is clear. We urge North Macedonia to take greater steps to tackle corruption and rebuild public trust in institutions, including the judiciary.

We recommend that North Macedonia:

1. Adopt the new Law on Gender Equality which will improve the gender machinery on a national and local level and consistently implement the Gender Equality Strategy 2022–2027 and the National Action Plan for Gender Equality 2022–2024;
2. Create an independent body tasked with investigating allegations of police misconduct and human rights abuses, empowered to conduct impartial investigations, hold officers accountable for misconduct, and recommend disciplinary action or legal prosecution when necessary.
3. Implement measures to combat online harassment of journalists, including by promptly and thoroughly investigating threats and attacks, holding perpetrators accountable, and encouraging responsible online behaviour.

Thank you.