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

**Statement**

**38th Universal Periodic Review – Belgium**

**Wednesday 5th May 2021**

The United Kingdom recognises Belgium’s commitment to protecting human rights. We welcome the announcement of a National Action Plan against racism and efforts to promote women’s rights.

We value Belgium’s endorsement of the UK’s Call to Action to End Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.

We recommend Belgium:

1. Establish and operationalise the Federal Human Rights Institute in accordance with Belgium's intention for a high-performance institute that is fully compliant with the Paris Principles;
2. Provide further training to first responders to identify victims of trafficking, particularly minors, and provide necessary financial and human resources to first-line actors, specialised shelters and the judiciary;
3. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and take forward consultations to establish a National Preventative Mechanism.

Thank you.