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

**Statement**

**39th Universal Periodic Review – Thailand**

**Wednesday 10th November 2021**

Thank you.

The United Kingdom welcomes Thailand’s transition to democracy and notes progress made on human rights, including the adoption of the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights. We look forward to its implementation and encourage Thailand to take further steps to create an open and enabling environment for civil society.

We recommend that Thailand:

1. Implement a National Referral Mechanism for modern slavery, which adopts a victim-centred approach, and ensure that national guidelines for victim identification and screening are uniformly implemented.
2. Adopt an open, merit-based process when selecting national candidates for UN Treaty Body elections.
3. Ensure the protection of civic space and human rights defenders, including youth, members of civil society, lawyers, media, and academics, so that they can operate freely and fully exercise the rights to freedom of expression, including online, and freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

Thank you.