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

**Statement**

**40th Universal Periodic Review- Venezuela**

**Tuesday 25th January 2022**

The United Kingdom welcomes the arrival of the OHCHR and other UN actors in Venezuela. We are deeply concerned by their reports including on the use of the justice system to undermine democracy.

We urge Venezuela to allow unhindered humanitarian access.

We recommend Venezuela:

1. Take urgent steps to end forced labour, sexual exploitation and human trafficking in the Arco Minero del Orinoco;
2. Ensure sexual and reproductive health and rights for all, including maternal and newborn health care and safe abortions;
3. Respect political parties’ independence, lift arbitrary disqualifications of dissident leaders and cease to override Venezuelans’ will through court decisions.