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

**Statement**

**41st Universal Periodic Review – Finland**

**Wednesday 9th November 2022**

Thank you, Mr President,

The United Kingdom recognises Finland’s strong record on protecting human rights. Finland continues to be exemplary in upholding freedom of speech and press, and has a comprehensive legislative framework outlawing various forms of discrimination.

However, as Finland’s national report indicates, further work is needed to combat violence against women, prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities, and uphold the rights of individuals belonging to religious minorities.

We recommend that Finland:

1. Makes further progress in prohibiting discrimination against persons with disabilities in all fields, including the provision of government services.
2. Continues to focus on combating violence against women, particularly intimate partner violence.
3. Ensures that government legislation, including the Animal Welfare Act, does not restrict individuals’ ability to practice their religion or belief freely in a manner which is incompatible with international human rights law, including Article 9 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Thank you.