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

**Statement**

**41st Universal Periodic Review – South Africa**

**Wednesday 16th November 2022**

Thank you, Mr President,

The United Kingdom welcomes the progress South Africa has made on human rights issues since its 2017 review.

The UK commends South Africa for its work to uphold the rights of women and girls domestically and globally, particularly their sexual and reproductive rights.

We recommend that South Africa:

1. Strengthen measures to address violence against marginalised groups by enacting the Hate Crimes Bill in early 2023.
2. Enhance measures to protect human rights defenders (HRDs) by ensuring that perpetrators of harassment, intimidation and violence against those defenders ahead of the 2024 general election, are held accountable for their actions.
3. Accelerate progress to address Gender Based Violence, including abhorrent practices like so called ‘corrective rape’, by implementing the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide

Thank you.