**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

41st session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

***Review of the United Kingdom of***

***Great Britain and Northern Ireland***

10 November 2022

Mr. President,

Bulgaria welcomes the distinguished delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. We appreciate the comprehensive presentation of the national report.

Bulgaria acknowledges that the United Kingdom has ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (the Lanzarote Convention) in line with the recommendation made by Bulgaria during the third UPR cycle in 2017.

We also recognize that the United Kingdom’s legislation provides protection for children’s rights, while we regret that our recommendation, namely to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility in accordance with international standards, has not been fully implemented.

The Republic of Bulgaria would like to offer the following recommendations:

1. Continue its efforts within the Media Freedom Coalition to defend media freedom at home and abroad, and improve the safety of journalists and media workers who report across the world;
2. Develop a comprehensive digital inclusion strategy for children and young people to promote their online safety and sustainable inclusion;
3. Incorporate the human rights model of disability into all laws and regulations regarding children and young people with disabilities.

We wish the Delegation of the United Kingdom a successful review!

Thank you.