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

**Statement**

**42nd Universal Periodic Review – Czech Republic**

**Monday 23rd January 2023**

Madam President,

The United Kingdom commends the Czech Republic’s longstanding commitment to promoting and protecting human rights including through their Presidency of this Council.

In particular, we welcome the Government’s commitment to address gender-based violence through the 2030 Gender Equality Strategy.

We welcome too its Strategy for Education Policy, and encourage the Government to end segregation for Roma students and consider anti-discrimination training for teachers.

We recommend:

1. Ratify the Istanbul Convention, and implement it into domestic law
2. Amend the legal definition of rape within the criminal code to be based on a lack of consent rather than use of force or threat.
3. Pass legislation recognising same-sex unions, ensuring same-sex and heterosexual couples enjoy equal rights and freedoms

Thank you.