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

**Statement**

**42nd Universal Periodic Review – Ghana**

**Tuesday 24th January 2023**

Thank you, Mr President,

The United Kingdom welcomes Ghana’s efforts in ensuring broad access to free family planning and mental health support and progress in tackling child, early and forced marriage. However, we are concerned by the continued existence of alleged ‘witch camps’, which run counter to Ghana’s social protections.

We are encouraged by discussions in Ghana’s parliament on abolishing the death penalty. We also note Ghana’s commitment to free speech, and urge them to address threats to journalists. We are also concerned by reported violence towards and criminalisation of LGBT+ individuals.

We recommend Ghana:

1. Further expands the provision of basic health services and social protections
2. Holds those who harm, intimidate or harass journalists to account.
3. Upholds its international human rights obligations, including protecting rights for LGBT+ people.

Thank you.