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

**Statement**

**42nd Universal Periodic Review – Republic of Korea**

**Thursday 26th January 2023**

Thank you very much, Mr President,

And let me just start by commending you Vice-Minister and your country for your constructive approach as a Council member and indeed as our very charming neighbour these past three years.

The UK really welcomes steps taken by the Korean Government to tackle human trafficking, including training prosecutors and implementing legislation.

We are however aware of plans to abolish the Ministry of Gender, Equality and Family and really encourage the Government to continue prioritising equality and non-discrimination.

We also welcome the bill to abolish the death penalty and we urge the government to declare a moratorium on all executions.

We recommend that the Republic of Korea:

1. Introduces a taskforce to tackle all sexual violence against women, bringing in tougher penalties for perpetrators.
2. Announce a comprehensive anti-discrimination law, that prohibits all forms of discrimination, including for protection for those in the LGBT+ community.
3. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

Thank you.