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

**Statement**

**42nd Universal Periodic Review – Pakistan**

**Monday 30th January 2023**

Thank you, Mr Vice-President,

The United Kingdom welcomes Pakistan’s progress on women’s rights, including expediting rape cases and strengthening sentences for sexual harassment.

We also recognise the establishment of the National Commission for Minorities. However, we remain concerned by continued violence and discrimination against minorities, including underage girls being subjected to forced marriages and forced religious conversions.

**We recommend that Pakistan:**

1. Define domestic violence as a crime, and provide adequate resources to end gender based violence.
2. Ensure school textbooks are inclusive of all religions, and ensure minorities can access suitable alternatives to compulsory Qu’ranic studies.
3. Ensure the Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals Act aligns with Pakistan’s Constitution, and end impunity for attacks against journalists.

Thank you.