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

**Statement**

**43rd Universal Periodic Review – Botswana**

**Wednesday 3rd May 2023**

Thank you, Mr Vice President,

The United Kingdom commends Botswana’s commitment to gender equality as well as incremental policy interventions to counter rising cases of sexual and gender based violence. We also recognise Botswana’s efforts to enhance child protection through child-friendly police stations. However, we remain concerned by Botswana’s continued use of the death penalty.

We recommend that Botswana:

1. Impose an immediate moratorium on the death penalty while working towards further reforms of its justice system and gathering public opinion on its relevance and efficiency as a deterrent.
2. Continue strengthening legislation to end violence against women and girls, including repealing the use of corporal punishment and strengthening penalties for sexual and gender-based violence-related offences.
3. Take effective measures to address threats to democracy by strengthening media freedom, freedom of expression, and transparency and accountability.

Thank you Mr Vice President.