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

**Statement**

**Universal Periodic Review – Belize**

 **November 2018**

Thank you Mr President,

The UK welcomes the delegation from the Government of Belize and thanks them for their comprehensive report.

We commend Belize for fostering a national debate on the rights of LGBTI persons and the sodomy law, however we note with concern that LGBTI persons continue to face discrimination in the public sphere, including when making complaints to the police.

We recognise the significant steps Belize has made in addressing the multiple challenges posed by HIV/AIDS, and encourage Belize to ensure that all regions of the country are benefiting from increased funding to the health sector, including rural and indigenous areas.

We recommend

1)      Strengthen measures around investigating, prosecuting and punishing those responsible for modern slavery offences, and ensure adequate victim protection and care.

2)   Strengthen the criminal justice system, and speed up the court process to reduce the amount of time prisoners are being held on remand before trial.

3)      Adoption of an open, merit-based selection process when selecting national candidates for UN Treaty Body elections.