

34th Universal Periodic Review: UK statement on the Gambia



The Universal Periodic Review takes place in Geneva.

The United Kingdom welcomes The Gambia's engagement with the UPR and notes that this is a pivotal time in the country.

We commend the progress made to address past violations through the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission and the drafting of a new Constitution that will, we expect, embed human rights in the future of a democratic and stable Gambia.

However, we are concerned that: violence against women remains a serious problem; laws continue to repress freedom of expression, including for journalists; and women and minority groups continue to face discrimination. Corruption is also seriously concerning, causing many human rights issues and undermining democracy.

We also urge the Government to respect the right to peaceful assembly and association.

We recommend that The Gambia:

1. Protect the right to freedom of expression by repealing the Seditious Act and Official Secrets Act;
2. Set out publicly, steps the Government will take to ensure women's full participation and leadership in public life;
3. Ensure effective implementation of anti-trafficking legislation, including the timely and just prosecution of perpetrators of human trafficking.