

UN Human Rights Council 45: Interactive Dialogue with the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan

Thank you, Madam President,

The United Kingdom thanks the Commission for their critical work promoting truth and accountability in South Sudan. We commend the Government of South Sudan for their cooperation with the Commission and stand ready to support them on delivering human rights improvements.

Despite welcome progress in implementating the 2018 peace deal, we are concerned by: increased violence; continued civilian killings and rapes; recruitment of child combatants; and forced civilian displacement. The Government must address these issues and end the culture of impunity. All parties to the peace deal must meet their commitments on transitional justice and accountability.

We welcome the Commission's 14 August comments highlighting escalating violence, especially at the sub-national level. The Government has a responsibility to protect its citizens, stop violence and put effective governance arrangements in place. The Government must also investigate sexual violence, support survivors, and take action to prevent further attacks.

We are also concerned by arbitrary detentions and executions, and restrictions to freedom of expression. We restate our call for investigation and accountability regarding the 2017 death of journalist Christopher Allen. Commissioners,

What steps are needed in South Sudan to end the violence, protect civilians and hold those responsible to account?

Thank you.