



# General Assembly

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**Human Rights Council**  
**Thirty-sixth session**  
11-29 September 2017  
Agenda item 6  
**Universal Periodic Review**

## **Joint written submission by the Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Scottish Human Rights Commission\***

### **Note by the Secretariat**

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council hereby transmits the communication submitted by the Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Scottish Human Rights Commission, which is being circulated in accordance with rule 7 (b) of the rules of procedure of the Council (see resolution 5/1, annex) and with the arrangements and practices agreed upon by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 2005/74.

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\* National human rights institution with A status accreditation from the Global Alliance of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

GE.17-15321(E)



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**Statement on behalf of the Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Scottish Human Rights Commission, on the UK's Universal Periodic Review Recommendations\*\***

Dear Mr. President, I welcome the opportunity to make this statement in the name of the Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Scottish Human Rights Commission.

We would like to thank member states for their recommendations which addressed many of the major issues facing the UK.

As member states have recognised, there are some areas which have seen progress in the last few years. However it is concerning that so many of the challenges outlined in our latest reports were also raised when we last spoke to you in 2012.

Historically the UK has been a champion of human rights. But that reputation is now under threat, due to the negative tone of debate from some politicians and many parts of the media around the Human Rights Act, and the potential risk to people's equality and human rights protections when the UK leaves the European Union.

The international human rights system provides greater protection for those rights, but the UK Government's continued refusal to fully incorporate the UN treaties it has signed shows scant regard for its international commitments.

We are disappointed by the lack of leadership on human rights across the UK Government, and would like to see greater engagement with the UPR process from now on. Governments across the UK should publish clear and actionable plans for implementing your recommendations.

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\*\* Circulated as received, in the language of submission only.