

FACTSHEET 2

THE UPR PROJECT
AT BCU



The United Kingdom's Third Universal Periodic Review, 2017

Summary

The UK's Fourth UPR occurred on the 10th November 2022.

This was an opportunity to reflect on the progress made since its last review in 2017.

In 2017, the UK received 234 recommendations.

The UK supported 96 (41%) and noted 138 (59%) – the lowest rate as a member state of the EU.

Prominent themes included international instruments (e.g. treaty ratification), rights of the child, and racial discrimination.



The UK and the third UPR cycle

- The UK's National Report was submitted in February 2017 following consultation with "various civil society organisations and the NHRIs". It is unclear whether parliamentarians contributed to the Report.
- The Government claimed it was "fully committed to the UPR and to promoting human rights internationally".
- 70 stakeholder reports (including 16 joint submissions) were also submitted by civil society in advance of the third cycle.



At the review

- The UK's delegation was comprised of 13 members led by the Minister for Human Rights, Sir Oliver Heald QC. He was also accompanied by representatives from the civil service and devolved administrations.
- The following human rights themes were especially prominent within the 234 recommendations: international instruments (35% of recommendations); rights of the child (20%); racial discrimination (16%); women's rights (14%); migrants (10%); labour rights (9%); and detention (6%).
- Other states' reviews follow similar patterns. However migrant rights were more prominent at the UK's review. This could indicate a particular issue of concern from the last review.



"The Ministry of Justice is consulting across the UK Government, with the Devolved Administrations and civil society to determine the best approach to developing a framework for monitoring implementation of the UPR recommendations"

UK Responses to Recommendations, 2012

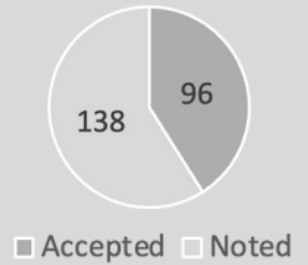


Civil society engagement project funded by the Equality and Human Rights Commission
Provided by The UPR Project at BCU, Centre for Human Rights, Birmingham City University
For more info, search 'UPR Project at BCU' or go to <https://bit.ly/3DcYGDP>



Post Review

Of the 234 recommendations received the UK supported 96 (41%). This was 34% lower than the global average of other states' responses to their recommendations (75%) and the lowest rate in the European Union.



Implementation

- The UK submitted two mid-term reports in 2018 and 2020. It is one of only 7 states to have submitted mid-term reports for all UPRs.
- The UK committed to 'developing a framework for monitoring implementation of the UPR recommendations' after the second cycle (see right). However, this did not materialise.
- Unlike other states, the UK has not adopted a plan of action or coordination mechanism for implementing its UPR recommendations. This is contrary to calls from the UN, the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), and is contrary to the recommendations from the devolved administrations.
- The EHRC's Human Rights Tracker shows that the UK Government has made 'no progress' cooperating with human rights mechanisms, such as the UPR. Poor progress or regression seen across other areas on the Tracker raises doubts about whether the UK's 2017 UPR recommendations have been implemented. See: <https://humanrightstracker.com/en/>

PROMINENT
THIRD
CYCLE THEMES

INTERNATIONAL
INSTRUMENTS

RIGHTS OF
THE CHILD

RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION

WOMEN'S
RIGHTS

MIGRANTS

LABOUR
RIGHTS

DETENTION

