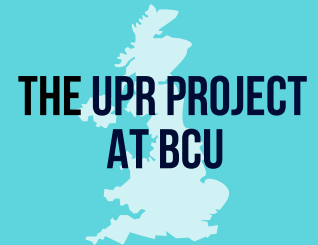


# FACTSHEET 4



## The UK's Fourth UPR: What Next for CSOs?



*"While it may be true that governments are not willing to engage with civil society on human rights that they are actively undermining, the UPR has, like no other UN human rights mechanism, called upon states to engage in dialogue with civil society*

*UPR Info, 2016*

---

### Engagement with the UPR: What is in it for CSOs?

- The UPR has proved to be a useful mechanism for driving human rights change. Studies (UPR Info, 2011; URG, 2016) suggest that around half of all recommendations to states have been implemented.
- Because of the diverse range of human rights that are assessed, the UPR can bring otherwise disconnected CSOs in the UK together to form coalitions.
- The public nature of the UPR means it is an opportunity to raise awareness of otherwise under appreciated human rights concerns.
- The UK Government continues to signal its commitment to the mechanism. CSOs may therefore find more success working through the UPR than through other channels.

---

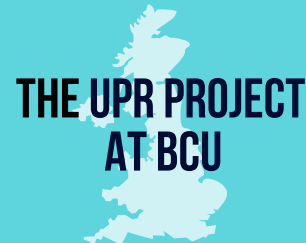
### What Next for CSOs? Making the most of the UK's UPR

- The UK's fourth UPR will take place on the 10th November 2022. It will receive recommendations on how it should improve human rights.
- Successful implementation of these depends on a range of factors, but domestic mobilisation by CSOs will be a significant catalyst.
- Between now and the adoption of the UK's Working Group Report (early 2023) CSOs can engage with the UPR by advocating for the UK to accept its recommendations.
- Working together to pressure central Government (particularly the Ministry of Justice which is responsible for UPR coordination): This might be done through letters, campaigns, meetings with Government officials, or through the media.
- Contact recommending states: Contact the Permanent Missions of the states that made recommendations to the UK and encourage them to follow these up through diplomatic channels.
- Lobbying parliamentarians: Previous UPR cycles have seen a lack of parliamentary engagement in the UK. Yet, they are recognised as central to the UPR's success. Contact parliamentarians and the Joint Committee on Human Rights who have an interest in certain themes of recommendation and ask them to refer to these in parliamentary debates.



# FACTSHEET 4

The UK's Fourth UPR: What is in it for CSO's?



## Implementation

- Once the Report is adopted, the UK should implement the recommendations it has supported. CSOs are especially important for maintaining pressure on the UK throughout the UPR cycle.
- Researching the UK's recommendations. These will be found in the UK's working group report, or you can use resources such as the Equality and Human Rights Commission's Human Rights Tracker, or UPR Info's database.
- Using the same channels identified above – advocate directly to Government, recommending states, and parliamentarians. MPs will be especially important for ensuring the UPR remains on the domestic political agenda in coming years.
- Encourage consultation – The UK Government has typically held engagement events between UPR cycles. Ensure that these happen, and that you have an opportunity to contribute.
- Mid-term reporting – Similarly, the UK has previously submitted mid-cycle reports. Encourage the Governments to commit to providing these reports within the Forth cycle.
- Push for a coordinated response – the UK Government has not previously adopted an action plan or process for coordinating implementation across departments. These are known to contribute to the sustainability and transparency of progress for implementation.

PROMINENT  
THIRD  
CYCLE THEMES

INTERNATIONAL  
INSTRUMENTS

RIGHTS OF  
THE CHILD

RACIAL  
DISCRIMINATION

WOMEN'S  
RIGHTS

MIGRANTS

LABOUR  
RIGHTS

DETENTION



Attend the CSO conference and contribute to a CSO national strategy to effectively utilise the UPR in the UK.

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW 2022 – UK CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT**



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>

