

UPR Pre-session 41 of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

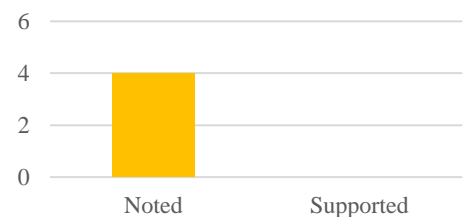
Palais des Nations, Building E, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland, **Monday 29th August 2022**

Contact: Professor Jon Yorke, Director of the BCU Centre for Human Rights: jon.yorke@bcu.ac.uk

United Kingdom and International Law

- The United Kingdom is party to **7** of the UN's **9** core human rights treaties
 - **NO DECLARATION** under **Convention Against Torture** Article 22 for the acceptance of individual petitions
 - **NOT RATIFIED** the **Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child**
 - **NEED TO RAISE** the minimum age of criminal responsibility (ACR) from **10-years-old to 14**
 - **NEED TO APPLY UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners**

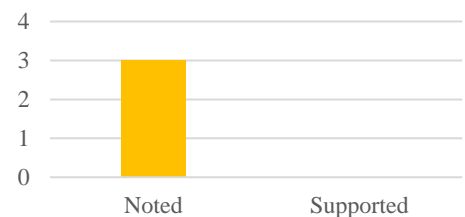
Raise the Age of Criminal Responsibility



Children in the Criminal Justice System

- 3rd cycle recommendations included:
 - **3** to consider abolishing mandatory life sentences for minors: **Paraguay** (134.203); **Greece** (134.204); and **Albania** (134.204)
 - **4** concerning raising the age of criminal responsibility: **Albania** (134.205); **Peru** (134.206); **Belarus** (134.207); and **Bulgaria** (134.208)
 - All recommendations were **noted**

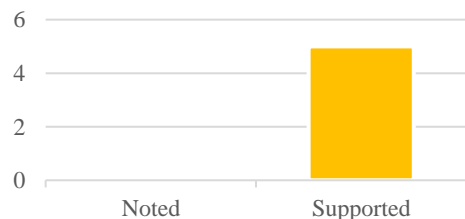
Abolish Mandatory Life Sentences



Conditions of Detention

- 3rd cycle recommendations included
 - **5** to commit to reducing the UK prison population, improving prisoner safety, tackling self-harm and improving prison conditions: **Serbia** (134.158); **USA** (134.159); **Canada** (134.160); **Japan** (134.162); and **Egypt** (134.137)
 - All recommendations were **supported**

Conditions of Detention



Recommendations

- **We recommend the United Kingdom**
 - **SUBMIT A DECLARATION** under **CAT** Article 22 for the acceptance of individual petitions
 - **RATIFY** the **Third Optional Protocol to Convention on the Rights of the Child**
 - **RAISE THE MINIMUM AGE** of criminal responsibility from 10-years-old to 14 by amending the **Children and Young Persons Act 1963** s. 16
 - **REVOKE** mandatory life sentences for minors by amending the **Sentencing Act 2020**, ss. 258 & 259
 - **CONDUCT A CONSULTATION** on self-harm and suicide in the prison and the youth secure estate to identify causes with a commitment to remedial action
 - **ADDRESS PRISON OVERCROWDING** by implementing the steps set out in the Prisons Strategy White Paper