

United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland National Statement

Universal Periodic Review –Dominican Republic

The UK recognises the Dominican Government's broad commitment to the protection of human rights and to addressing problems where they exist. We commend the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the passing of the Law on the Equality of the Rights of People with a Disability. We welcome the appointment of the Ombudsman but encourage the Dominican government to strengthen the Ombudsman's office with adequate funding and the appointment of capable and independent investigators.

The UK welcomes the reduction in the number of extrajudicial killings by the National Police but believe the numbers remain unacceptably high. We encourage the Dominican Government to introduce further human rights-based reform of the security services and the establishment of a fully independent oversight body.

The UK remains concerned by impunity, corruption and inefficiencies within the judicial system which effectively denies access to justice to many citizens. **Anything more here?**

The UK is also concerned by ongoing evidence of racism and racial discrimination in Dominican society, in particular towards people of Haitian origin. We believe that the authorities should do more to ensure that state officials at all levels stop discriminatory practices, including in relation to the process of issuing identity documents. **Further line on birth certificates?**

We have 2 **recommendations**:

-To review and properly resource the judicial system. Identify improvements required in order to guarantee the human right of access to justice. Anything more specific?

-To take action to ensure all births in the Dominican Republic are properly registered. This will ensure respect for the human right to a name, identity and nationality.