

HDIM - WORKING SESSION 13, TND II (CONTINUED) – UK STATEMENT

We align ourselves with the statement made by France on behalf of the European Union and would like to add some remarks in our national capacity.

The United Kingdom is committed to the principle of tolerance and respect for all persons regardless of their race, religion, belief, sexual orientation or any other characteristic. We condemn all instances where individuals are persecuted because of their faith or belief, wherever this happens and whatever the religion of the individual or group concerned.

Although no society including the UK is immune from bigotry and intolerance, we are determined to root out such behaviour wherever we can. Parliament has passed legislation that allows for courts to impose 'enhanced' sentences to reflect the seriousness of targeted crime. But punitive action is not enough. We also need to promote policies that foster awareness, understanding and tolerance of others' beliefs. We welcome the role that the 3 Personal Representatives play in raising awareness and promoting mutual respect and understanding

Mr/Madam Moderator,

Participating States have stressed the importance of equality of all before the law and the need to protect all persons against any discrimination on any ground. Unfortunately however LGB&T people remain vulnerable targets for violence, abuse and discrimination. OSCE states should take note of last week's resolution at the Human Rights Council and reaffirm the inadmissibility of violence against LGBT people.

Thank you