

# Sample Position Paper

Committee: Human Rights Council  
State: United Kingdom of  
Great Britain and Northern  
Ireland Agenda: Prisoner's  
Rights.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, commonly known as the United Kingdom (hereinafter the UK) is a constitutional monarchy composed of four regions: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Its capital city is London and each region has different divisions, such as counties (England), council areas (Scotland, Northern Ireland) and unit authorities (Wales). In addition, many territories depend on the UK, such as Gibraltar, Bermuda, British Indian Ocean Territory, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, etc. The UK Parliament has two houses: House of Lords and House of Commons and the country has no written constitution.

Historically, the UK has had a leading role, as it can be considered as one of the most influential countries in History, above all during the 19th Century, when the British Empire reached to a fourth of the total earth's surface. In the 20th Century, its hegemony ended due to the two World Wars and the independence of the Republic of Ireland. The UK has made large contributions to promoting parliamentary democracy around the world, and has joined many international organisations, being even one of the 5 members of the Security Council of United Nations, which means that it has veto power on the resolutions of the Security Council.

Moreover, the UK is one of the founding members of the Commonwealth, one of the oldest political associations of states which was created by the UK and the states that took part of the British Empire and started achieving its independence but wanted to maintain British's monarch as their Head of State. Nowadays, having any kind of relationship with

the UK is not necessary to become a formal member of the Commonwealth.

From the economic point of view, the UK is one of the members of the European Union which remain outside of the European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), so its currency is not the Euro, but the Great Britain Pound (GBP). The UK is the second largest economy of Europe after Germany.

Introduction to the topics

Violation of prisoner's rights is one of the most significant issues that the United Nations and other International Organizations are facing. According to the UN Human Rights General Assembly resolution 45/111 of December 1990, countries must ensure different principles for treating prisoners. Some of them can be summarised as absolute avoidance of any kind of discrimination, or the enhancement of abolition or restriction of solitary confinement as a punishment. In addition, the Geneva Conventions established Human Rights in times of War. They set the bar for all the basic protection countries must ensure, and in 1949 196 countries ratified them.

Torture and violation of Human Rights is persistent in even the most developed countries. For instance, in the United States, several cases of guards' violence in prisons are reported. Many people of these countries are in favour of these practices. 59% of Americans think CIA's torture of terrorists suspects produced valuable information and 58% think it is justified "often" or "sometimes".

Even in the most powerful economy in the World, the US, some cases are especially worrying. The Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp was created as a military prison to hold extremely dangerous terrorists. However, it was built in a Naval Base outside American territory, hence the prison administration would not have to respond before US courts, and from that moment on, they have not responded before international courts for their consistent violations of prisoner's rights, as evidenced by Senator Diane Feinstein, who stated that force-feeding of prisoners in hunger strike was inhuman. Moreover, the majority of prisoners have been detained since 2002 without a trial, even on the island, deepening their illegal situation

## Country Policy

United Kingdom is known to be one of the most developed countries in the world, so it is its situation regarding human rights and equality. Although some cases of prisoners' rights violations have been reported, the government is devoting all its efforts in this regard to eliminate these problems. Indeed, it is implementing concrete measures and policies to reach this goal. The government reduced the pre-charge detention in terrorism cases from 28 to 14 days. Plus control orders on terrorism suspects don't allow forced relocation anymore and time limits are much more condensed. Moreover, the United Kingdom's response to any sign of these practices is immediate, in the form of investigations and inquiries.

## Solution Ideas

Our suggestions in order to eliminate Prisoner's Rights violations are the upgrade of surveillance systems and continuous improvement of the investigations procedures and a reduction in bureaucracy, in order to offer a faster response to any appeal. A third measure would be to reinforce training and requirements for security staff.

Regarding Women's Rights, in our opinion, the best measures to implement are related with stricter and longer punishments for aggressors in countries in which the legislation is still not considering this type of violation as serious crimes. Furthermore, we advocate for dissuading men from corrective rape to lesbians by means of sexual education and for denying the "virgin cleansing myth", which expands all types of sexually related diseases, especially AIDS. Another type of rape present in developing countries is mass rape, used as a weapon to terrorise the population. In this regard, this delegation urges countries involved in wars to avoid these procedures, as they are specifically forbidden by the Geneva Conventions. We beg members of this committee to enforce these measures in their respective territories and we offer our help to all of them.

