

39th Universal Periodic Review of human rights: UK statement on Eswatini

World news story

The UK delivered the statement on Eswatini at the 39th Session of Universal Periodic Review (UPR), sharing recommendations to improve their human rights record.



The United Kingdom recognises Eswatini's progress on certain human rights issues since its 2016 review, notably the adoption of the 2018 Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act. However, we are concerned by the limited progress on accessibility and safe reporting mechanisms for victims.

The UK is particularly concerned by evidence of excessive use of force by military police against protestors during the civil unrest seen in recent months. We urge the Government to ensure accountability for all human rights violations. We call on Eswatini to sign the Global Media Freedom pledge, and to allow media workers to do their work without fear of harassment.

We recommend that Eswatini:

- Amend legislation which restricts freedoms of expression, association

and peaceful assembly, and take steps to guarantee space for civil society actors and journalists to operate without fear of reprisals;

- Decriminalise consensual same-sex sexual conduct and take measures to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity;
- Fully fund and implement the anti-trafficking national action plan, and allow the anti-trafficking taskforce to lead these efforts.

Thank you.

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