



**International Convention on
the Elimination of All Forms
of Racial Discrimination**

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Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

**Information received from the United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland on follow-up to the concluding
observations on its combined twenty-fourth to twenty-sixth
periodic reports***

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* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



I. Introduction

1. The UK Government has taken significant strides in tackling overt racial discrimination over the past half century. Despite this huge progress, we recognise that there are still those facing disadvantages. This unfairness can persist if not challenged, which is why the UK Government is determined to root out structural racial inequality, as well as direct discrimination, and create a genuinely level playing field.
2. The UK Government is undertaking key measures in this space to make this a reality. As set out in the manifesto and in the King's Speech in July 2024, the UK Government is committed to making the right to equal pay effective for ethnic minority people and introducing mandatory ethnicity pay gap reporting for large employers. These measures will be part of the draft Equality (Race and Disability) Bill. Ethnicity pay gap reporting will provide transparency and vital data to help employers identify pay gaps within their workforce. The UK Government will work closely with businesses on developing and implementing this commitment, to ensure reporting is beneficial and helps to identify tangible actions.
3. Alongside this, the Race Equality Engagement Group, chaired by Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon OBE, met for the first time on 30 June 2025. The group will strengthen the government's links with ethnic minority communities, enabling effective, two-way dialogue on our work to tackle race inequalities.
4. The UK stands firmly against the scourge of racism and looks forward to taking further meaningful action domestically and internationally to build a fairer world for all.

II. Follow-up information on the concluding observations (CERD/C/GBR/CO/24-26)

5. On 13 and 14 August 2024, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination reviewed the twenty-fourth to twenty-sixth periodic reports of the United Kingdom under the International Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. In paragraph 65 of its subsequent Concluding Observations, the Committee asked the United Kingdom to provide information within one year on the recommendations contained in paragraphs 30, 34 and 52.
6. The UK Government's responses to these recommendations are set out below. This update also includes examples of activities from other parts of the UK State Party to indicate the breadth of action across the UK State Party.

A. Information relating to paragraph 30

UK Government

7. Peaceful protest is a vital part of our democratic society. It is a long-standing tradition in the UK that people are free to gather and to demonstrate their views, provided that they do so within the law.
8. To ensure the right to peacefully protest is respected, the UK Government has reaffirmed the commitment made by the previous administration to undertake expedited post-legislative scrutiny on all aspects of the Public Order Act 2023 starting in May 2025. The UK Government will carefully consider the outputs of that review to ensure that the law strikes the right balance between protecting democratic freedoms and maintaining order on our streets.
9. The UK Government is clear that all police use of force must be reasonable, proportionate and necessary and police officers are accountable through the law for their use of force.

Scotland

10. The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (as amended) sets out the legal framework for the facilitation of public processions in Scotland, while the Public Order Act 1986 provides Police Scotland with the powers to effectively and proportionately police public assemblies. Police Scotland is a human rights-based organisation which operates under the principle of policing by consent, where officers must act in a way that secures and maintains the respect and trust of the public and respects human rights, working to secure fairness and access to justice for all. This includes facilitating the important rights of freedom of peaceful assembly and expression.

11. The Action Group on Processions published their report in June 2024¹ and made six recommendations to improve the notification process and running of processions in Scotland. The Scottish Government has committed to working with partners to take forward these recommendations, for example, funding the Centre for Good Relations to run training courses to upskill stewards and marshals involved in facilitating marches, parades and protests.

Guernsey

12. Guernsey Police proactively engage with the local community to support peaceful protest. Whilst protest events are infrequent locally, positive community relations mean that historically there has been engagement ahead of planned gatherings which have been supported by a proportionate police presence, ensuring the safety of attendees and the public in general.

13. Locally, criminal legislation can be used if a protest were to become violent. If an officer were to use excessive force, that officer can be submitted to a formal disciplinary procedure and/or prosecuted under general criminal laws.

B. Information relating to paragraph 34

UK Government

14. The UK's counter-terrorism approach (CONTEST), most recently published in 2023, is an ideologically agnostic strategy, and the framework is designed to cover all types of terrorism. It is constantly kept under review to ensure it is fit for purpose, including reflecting and adapting to the findings and recommendations of inquests, inquiries, and reviews into terrorist attacks.

15. Equality, diversity, and inclusion are critical to how the UK delivers CONTEST. As outlined in the strategy, the counter-terrorism system is committed to ensuring inclusive approaches in the work to help respond to threats and ensure that everyone is treated fairly by the counter-terrorism system, leading to a safer society overall. This includes working in partnership with stakeholders with a diverse range of characteristics and backgrounds and embedding challenge functions and diversity of thought in the work.

16. Prevent is one of the four pillars of CONTEST. It is also ideologically agnostic and does not target any one ideology, faith or ethnic group. Prevent works to protect, rather than undermine, fundamental human rights and British law and there is broad international consensus that preventative programmes are vital.

17. Prevent intervenes early, to provide the appropriate support to people before they go too far down a road towards violence and criminal activity. In this sense, protecting children from the risk of radicalisation forms part of wider safeguarding duties, alongside harms such as drugs, gangs, and sexual exploitation. Participation in Prevent is voluntary and requires the consent of the individual or their parent or guardian. A Prevent referral allows for a multi-agency safeguarding assessment to be conducted, and for a tailored package of support to be offered. This helps to support people away from radicalisation.

¹ Scottish Government (2024), *Action Group on Processions: report*. Available online at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/report-action-group-processions/>

18. In the year ending 31 March 2024, there were 6,922 referrals to Prevent. The majority of referrals that went on to be adopted as a Channel case were for 'Extreme right-wing concerns' (230 out of 512; 45%); while 118 (23%) were for 'Islamist concerns' and 90 (18%) were for those with a conflicted ideology. The type of support available through the Channel Programme is wide-ranging, and can include help with education or career advice, dealing with mental or emotional health issues, drug or alcohol abuse, and theological or ideological interventions.

19. The Prevent duty is implemented in line with the requirements set out in the Public Sector Equality Duty - section 149 to 157 of the Equality Act 2010. In addition, an equality impact assessment was completed as part of the government's response to the Independent Review of Prevent, to ensure that there is no disproportionate impact on any protected groups. Separate equality impact assessments have been completed for all new policies.

20. In February 2024, the UK Government launched the Standards and Compliance Unit (StaCU) to provide a crucial new oversight function for Prevent. StaCU works to ensure that Prevent is being delivered properly within the direction set by UK Government ministers. It provides a clear and accessible route for the public and practitioners to raise concerns about Prevent activity where it may have fallen short of the high standards expected. Ministers have the power to instruct investigations through the unit, which has clear procedures to be followed should investigations find failings.

21. In December 2024, the UK Government announced the introduction of a new Independent Prevent Commissioner role, and in January 2025 an Interim Prevent Commissioner was confirmed until the appointment of a permanent holder. The Independent Prevent Commissioner will provide continuous independent scrutiny of Prevent legislation, policy and delivery to maximise the efficiency of Prevent. The Commissioner will have the specific remit of reviewing the programme's effectiveness, identifying gaps and problems before they emerge.

22. The UK's counter-terrorism legislative framework, including the definition of terrorism, is kept under review by the UK Government, and is subject to independent scrutiny provided by the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation (IRTL). The IRTL, is completely independent from UK Government, with access to relevant national security information as well as personnel to carry out their role. Part of the IRTL's role is to inform the public and political debate on counter-terrorism legislation in the United Kingdom, including producing annual reports on different aspects of the operation of terrorism in the United Kingdom.² To note, Prevent does not fall under the IRTL's statutory remit.

Scotland

23. While counter-terrorism is reserved to the UK Government, the Prevent duty is placed on devolved sectors and delivered through partners such as Local Government, Education and Policing in Scotland. This allows the Scottish Government to take an approach which is fit for purpose in the Scottish context and responsive to the needs of communities and stakeholders, whilst sharing the same overarching strategic objectives as the rest of the UK.

24. In Scotland, there are a significantly lower number of referrals to Prevent per capita than in England and Wales. In 2023/24 there were 114 referrals to Prevent in Scotland. As is comparable with previous years, 'Mixed, Unstable, or Unclear' (MUU) ideology (43; 38%) is most prevalent, with 'Right-Wing Extremism' (36; 32%) also constituting a significant volume of referrals³. At present, Police Scotland do not record the ethnicity of Prevent referrals.

25. The Scottish Government's approach is focused on maintaining safe and resilient communities, and strong relationships and engagement with key partner agencies and organisations is crucial to this.

² The Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation. *The Independent Reviewer's role*. Available online at: <https://terrorismlegislationreviewer.independent.gov.uk/about-me/>

³ Police Scotland. *Prevent Referral Data*. Available online at: <https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/prevent-referral-data/>

26. The ways that people can become involved in supporting or committing terrorism are continuously evolving, and there is no single pathway or single set of factors that contribute to involvement. This means it is important to remain alert and flexible to ensure wider efforts, across multiple partners, build inclusive communities that are resilient and equipped to challenge extremist narratives.

27. The Scottish Government works closely with Police Scotland to engage with communities across Scotland, provide reassurance and ensure no communities feel marginalised, isolated and/or vulnerable.

Guernsey

28. Although the UK's CONTEST Strategy does not extend to Guernsey, Guernsey Police have their own bespoke approach to counter terrorism, which focuses on the 'prevent' element of the CONTEST framework.

29. All Guernsey Police and Guernsey Border Agency officers receive training in relation to terrorism, and terrorism offences, which provides them with core competencies for their roles.

C. Information relating to paragraph 52

UK Government

30. In October 2024, the UK Government announced that the Windrush Unit had been re-established in the Home Office. The Windrush Unit are undertaking a review of all 30 recommendations made in the Windrush Lessons Learned Review in today's context, to see how far the UK Government has come in its learning and how much further we need to go to.

31. The Windrush Compensation Scheme was designed to be as clear and simple as possible, so people do not need legal assistance to make a claim. However, for those who want or need support to make a claim, the UK Government provides free assistance in making applications through an independent claims assistance provider, the *We Are Group*.

32. The UK Government has also heard the need for additional advocacy support, though caselaw has underlined that while the application process is emotionally complex, individuals are not required to argue complex points of law.

33. In respect of advocacy support, the UK Government has launched £1.5 million into a programme of grant funding over 3 years, the Windrush Compensation Advocacy Support Fund. Organisations will provide advocacy support for applicants who need additional help with the application process and will encourage applications to the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

34. The Advocacy Support Fund offers funding to established organisations experienced in providing advocacy support with the Windrush Compensation Scheme application process. The Advocates will understand the claimants' culture, and will support them to articulate their story, with the aim of submitting a viable and eligible application. This assistance will be offered alongside but separate to existing claims support and is designed to make the prospect of making a claim more accessible, and prioritising the needs of individuals. UK Government engaged with a range of stakeholders, advocates and community representatives to inform the structure of the Advocacy Support Fund. Successful organisations will be announced by Summer 2025.

35. In response to feedback from, and in consultation with stakeholders, in 2021 and 2022, the UK Government re-designed the claim forms to make them more accessible and easier to complete. The claim forms now have a Crystal Mark from the Plain English Company demonstrating the government's commitment to ensuring the scheme is accessible and as easy to use as possible.

36. In July 2024 the Scheme introduced a new single named caseworker process, in direct response to stakeholder feedback. This change has streamlined the process, improving

consistency, increasing transparency, and removing duplication that led to avoidable delay. The majority of claims are now processed in less than six weeks, including all essential eligibility checks, together with a Preliminary Assessment to make an initial payment of £10,000 wherever possible.

37. In June 2025, the UK Government appointed Rev'd Clive Foster as the Windrush Commissioner to drive through lasting cultural changes across government. The Commissioner operates independently from the UK Government and will act as a trusted voice for families and communities, driving improvements and promoting lasting change.

38. As of end of May 2025, over £112 million had been paid across 3,334 claims, with over 92% of claims having received a final decision. Over 18,300 people have been issued with documentation confirming their status or British citizenship, with 9,380 people granted full citizenship.

39. The UK Government continues to engage with community representatives and victims to ensure their voices are heard.

Wales

40. The Welsh Government has supported the National Windrush Day in Wales since 2018 with small grant funding to encourage community groups and organisations to hold events to commemorate Windrush and recognise the important legacy of the Windrush Generation.

41. In 2024 the Welsh Government awarded £64,500 to support 36 applicants to deliver Windrush celebration events. In 2025 the same level of funding was made available to deliver similar celebration activity across Wales. A National Windrush Day event was held in the Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament in June 2024 and attended by the First Minister.

42. In August 2025, the Welsh Government awarded funding to a third sector organisation to deliver a Windrush Cymru Elders Volunteer Befriending and Support Project designed to help with social isolation and mental health until 2027.

III. Conclusion

43. The Government of the United Kingdom welcomes this opportunity to provide an update to the Committee. We note the Committee's other recommendations, and we look forward to providing an overview of our progress in the combined twenty seventh to thirtieth periodic reports by 6 April 2028.
