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9 January 2015

Frances Raday  
Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Issue of  
discrimination against women in law and in practice

OHCHR  
Palais des Nations  
1211 Geneva 10

*Dear Chairperson-Rapporteur,*

Thank you for your letter of 11 November in relation to the practice note on Sharia Succession Rules published by The Law Society last March.

The UK Government is grateful to the Working Group for its interest in this matter. As you will know, the Law Society is an independent body and does not represent UK Government Policy.

The Law Society withdrew the practice note on 24 November. The announcement was accompanied by the following statement by The Law Society President, Andrew Caplen:

"Our practice note was intended to support members to better serve their clients as far as is allowed by the law of England and Wales. We reviewed the note in the light of criticism. We have withdrawn the note and we are sorry."

The full announcement is available at <http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/news/press-releases/law-society-withdraws-sharia-succession-principles-practice-note/>.

*With best wishes,*

**Karen Pierce CMG**  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN and Other International  
Organisations, Geneva