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United Nations
in Geneva

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Note Verbale No 120

Geneva, 19 March

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and has the honour to submit its response to communication UA GBR 4/2026 further to the letter dated 14 January 2026 from the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



Special Procedures Branch

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights



Frederica Donati
Special Procedures Branch
OHCHR
By email: ohchr-registry@un.org

DECS Reference: MIN/1454165/26

4 March 2026

Dear Ms Donati,

Thank you for your letter dated 14 January in regards to [REDACTED]. Your letter was transferred to the Home Office, and I am replying as the Security Minister.

You write specifically about your concerns regarding [REDACTED] welfare and fears of re foulment, following the UK court's decision to extradite the individual. We value the work of the Special Rapporteur and welcome the opportunity to respond on matters concerning trafficking in persons and the protection of victims.

The UK has an established system to identify, protect and support victims of modern slavery and human trafficking, including those who may have been exploited through forced criminality. The UK has legal obligations under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and as a signatory to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (ECAT). These obligations are met through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), the UK's system for identifying victims of modern slavery and facilitating access to support. Through the NRM, trained specialists within the competent authorities consider each case individually and determine what support may be required.

The principle of non-punishment is embedded in the UK's legal and policy framework through the consideration of duress, the public interest test and the section 45 statutory defence in the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The latter provides a defence against prosecution where an individual was compelled to commit a crime as a result of their exploitation. The statutory defence does not apply to the most serious offences. Its application is supported through UK legislation, statutory guidance, and operational practice across the criminal justice system.

In addition, I would like to reassure you that all extradition requests to the UK must meet the safeguards set out in the Extradition Act 2003 which contains a suite of protections and safeguards that are available to all individuals subject to an extradition request from any country. In all UK extradition proceedings, UK courts consider all relevant evidence and legal protections when determining whether extradition would be compatible with a person's rights under the Human Rights Act 1998.

The Government does not and cannot intervene in this independent process and operational decision making. On that basis, it would not be appropriate to comment on this individual case or matters which are reserved for independent agencies.

I would like to thank you for your communication on this matter and to assure you that protecting the fundamental rights and freedoms of all requested persons continues to be subject to comprehensive consideration by UK courts of law when considering extradition. Furthermore, the UK Government remains absolutely committed to fulfilling its obligations under domestic and international law and to ensuring that victims of modern slavery receive the support they need.

Thank you again for your letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Jarvis', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Dan Jarvis MBE MP
Security Minister
Cabinet Office and Home Office