



Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Annual Report on Human Rights Violations by the United Kingdom

Septembre 2024 – Septembre 2025

Deputy for International and Legal Affairs

In the Name of God

**Annual Report on Human Rights
Violations by the United Kingdom**

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“In compliance with Note 3 of the Law entitled ‘Disclosure of Human Rights Violations by the United States and the United Kingdom in Today’s World,’ adopted by the Islamic Consultative Assembly on April 22, 2012, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is obligated to compile an annual report on human rights violations in the United States and to publish it on November 4th.”

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Message from the Dr. Kazem Gharibabadi, Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs

Today, the distortion of human rights discourse, diverting it from its humanitarian foundation and transforming it into an instrument of power and coercion in intergovernmental relations, constitutes one of the gravest threats facing the concept of human rights. Such instrumentalization risks depriving this noble human endeavor of its natural, institutionalized, and universally accepted course.

The historical record of Western countries, particularly the United Kingdom, which portray themselves as the guardians of human rights principles across the globe, and consistently employ human rights as a pretext and lever of pressure to interfere in the internal affairs of other nations, demonstrates their selective and politicized interpretation of human rights. Given these realities, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution has continuously emphasized the importance of exposing human rights violations committed by those very governments that, under the guise of defending human rights, interfere in the domestic affairs of others. In this regard, evidence points to the growing direct and indirect involvement of British

officials and institutions in gross and systematic violations of human rights, both within and beyond the country's borders.

The present report, with reference to the latest official reports of various United Nations-affiliated human rights bodies as well as other credible and accessible international sources, seeks to highlight and draw attention to a selection of these violations, particularly in areas such as women's rights, immigrants, and institutionalized racism in the United Kingdom, covering the period from September 2024 to September 2025. It is self-evident that this document does not encompass all human rights violations perpetrated by the British Government; rather, it aims to present only the most substantiated and prominent cases.

Abstract

In compliance with Note 3 of the Law on the Disclosure of Human Rights Violations by the United States and the United Kingdom in Today's World, adopted by the Islamic Consultative Assembly on April 22, 2012, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is obligated to compile an annual report on human rights violations in the United States and the United Kingdom. Pursuant to this legal obligation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has endeavored in the present report to highlight and draw attention to a selection of verified cases of human rights violations committed by the United Kingdom, both domestically and internationally, based on the most recent official reports of United Nations human rights organizations, as well as other credible and accessible international sources focusing particularly on areas such as peaceful assemblies, immigrants, racism, police violence, and freedom of expression, covering the one-year period ending in September 2025.

It must be emphasized that the cases cited herein do not represent an exhaustive account of all human rights violations perpetrated by the United Kingdom. Rather, the report aims to highlight the most substantiated and prominent cases, supported by available statistics and reports. According to this report, the United Kingdom's action and conduct, both domestically and internationally, have been subject to criticism by United Nations human rights bodies and human rights advocates.

This report covers events that occurred from September 2024 to September 2025. It is therefore recommended that it be read in conjunction with the reports from previous years to provide the reader with a comprehensive understanding of the overall trend of human rights violations in the United Kingdom.

Part I:

Domestic Human Rights Violations

1. Violation of the right to life

According to official statistics for 2024–2025, two deaths were caused by direct police shootings, 17 individuals were killed while in custody, and 50 deaths were attributed to indirect police actions. Of the 17 individuals who died in custody, 14 were men, 3 were women, and 2 were Black.¹

One of the key issues that have sparked human rights protests is the impunity of police officers. In particular, killings of Black detainees for racially motivated reasons are often overlooked within the judicial system. On October 2, 2024, a group of Black rights activists gathered in central London to protest the failure to prosecute a white British police officer who had fatally shot an unarmed Black man in his car. Although the officer was charged by the prosecutor, more than two years after the incident the case remains unresolved.

1. Independent Office for Police Conduct (2025), Death During or Following Police Contact, Statistics for England and Wales 2024/2025, Retrieved from: <https://www.policeconduct.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Annual-deaths-statistics-report-England-and-Wales-2024-25.pdf>

2. Violation of the right to peaceful assemblies

The Government and officials of the United Kingdom have suppressed the right to peaceful assembly. Senior government authorities have criminalized environmental and racial justice movements, and public demonstrations supporting Palestine. The Public Order Act 2023¹ further threatens peaceful assemblies.

The United Kingdom has also misused counterterrorism laws by labeling the “Palestine Action” protest movement as a terrorist organization. As United Nations experts have emphasized, “According to international standards, protest activities that cause damage to property but lack intent to kill or injure individuals should not be considered terrorism.”²

While there is no universally binding definition of terrorism under international law, international standards based on best practices confine the term to criminal acts intended to cause death, serious bodily harm, or hostage-taking with the purpose of intimidating a population or compelling a government or international organization to act or refrain from acting. The United Kingdom itself supported this interpretation in the voting session for UN Security Council Resolution 1566 in the year 2004, affirming that mere property damage, without endangering human life, is insufficient to constitute terrorism.

The British Government has criminalized any action associated with “Palestine Action,” including membership, calls for public support, organizing meetings in its support,

1. Public Order Act 2023

2. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/07/un-experts-urge-united-kingdom-not-misuse-terrorism-laws-against-protest> - last visited: 29 September 2025

and wearing or carrying related symbols in public. United Nations experts have warned that disproportionate penalties, up to 14 years of imprisonment, are being imposed for such charges.¹

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, has also warned against the United Kingdom's overly broad interpretation of its domestic counterterrorism laws, noting that: "The UK's domestic counterterrorism legislation provides an excessively expansive definition of terrorism, encompassing serious property damage; but According to international human rights standards, acts of terrorism must be limited to criminal actions carried out with the intent to cause death or serious injury or to take hostages, for the purpose of intimidating a population or coercing a government to take or refrain from a specific action. This law exploits the severity and transboundary impact of terrorism to criminalize a broader range of conduct."²

Such disproportionate and unnecessary decision has curtailed the rights of individuals associated with or supportive of "Palestine Action," many of whom have not engaged in any criminal activity but have merely exercised their rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and association which are in contradiction with the UK's obligations under the international human rights law. This decision equates expression and other protected conducts

1. *ibid*

2. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/07/uk-palestine-action-ban-disturbing-misuse-uk-counter-terrorism-legislation> - last visited: 29 September 2025

with terrorism, and, as such, may readily result in further adverse consequences for the lawful exercise of these rights by numerous individuals.

The UN High Commissioner has therefore urged the British Government to rescind its decision to ban Palestine Action, to halt any further investigations or prosecutions of protesters arrested under this prohibition, and to review and amend its counterterrorism legislation, including the definition of terrorism itself, to ensure its full compliance with international human rights norms and standards.¹

More recently, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) requested that staff members opposing the government's support for Israel resign from their positions.² In the summer of 2025, over 300 FCDO employees signed a letter accusing the ministry of complicity in Israeli war crimes in Gaza. Senior officials subsequently called on these employees to resign.

This letter is the fourth communication by Foreign Office staff opposing the Gaza war since October 2023. Dated May 16, these employees, affiliated with British embassies worldwide, questioned and condemned the continued sale of British arms to Israel and Israel's "blatant disregard for international law."

The letter stated: "We, the employees, express our concern in July 2024 regarding Israel's violations of international humanitarian law and the potential complicity of the UK

1. *ibid*

2. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/jun/10/foreign-office-staff-told-to-consider-resigning-after-challenging-uk-policy-on-gaza> - last visited: 29 September 2025

Government therein. During this period, Israel's contempt for international norms has since become even more visible and alarming." The letter goes on to cite two particular crimes by the Zionist regime against the Gaza Strip — namely, the killing of 15 humanitarian aid workers in March 2025 and the suspension of all humanitarian aid to Gaza, stating: "These actions have led numerous experts and humanitarian organizations to accuse Israel of employing starvation as a method of warfare."

The authors further noted that arms exports to Israel continued and that Israel's Foreign Minister visited London in April 2025 despite ongoing violations of international law; these facts indicate that the UK Government's stance had contributed to the weakening of global norms.

In response, Oliver Robbins, Permanent Under-Secretary, and Nick Dyer, the Foreign Office's second-most senior official, wrote to the signatories: "If you fully disagree with any aspect of the Government's actions or policies, your final recourse is to resign."

3. Immigrants

The Illegal Migration Act (2023) and the Nationality and Borders Act (2022) still remain on the British Government's agenda. These laws authorize offshore processing and maritime pushbacks of migrants, fail to establish safe and legal pathways for entry into the UK, and criminalize those seeking asylum through irregular routes.

A pattern of systemic harm is evident within the United Kingdom's immigration policies: families forced to live for

extended periods in unsafe, overcrowded, and inadequate conditions, often with insufficient food and limited or no access to medical care, education, or social support.

In this regard, More than 150 lawyers as well as human rights and refugee organizations have reported coming under pressure to remain silent following serious threats from far-right and anti-immigrant protesters. Two refugee organizations have closed their offices due to security threats. These groups have called for an end to media narratives that fuel tensions and hatred against immigrants.¹

Recent statements by British political figures and local officials, fully rejecting the accommodation of asylum seekers in specific areas, are cause for serious concern. Proposals to exclude those fleeing such distressing conditions, alongside the risk of normalizing exclusionary policies, constitute a violation of fundamental human rights.

There is insufficient public information on how many individuals have been granted asylum or related protection in the United Kingdom since the most recent comprehensive statistics date back to 1979. Moreover, these figures reflect only the outcomes of initial decisions, do not account for appeals, which result in an increased number of individuals ultimately granted asylum-related residence.

The Government does not regularly publish data distinguishing asylum applicants based on their mode of entry. However, case-based statistics suggest that approximately one-third of asylum seekers in 2024 entered the UK on visas. It remains unclear how many overstayed

1. The Guardian

their visas or still held valid residence permits at the time of their asylum application. More precise and systematic data would assist in clarifying this matter.

Furthermore, we lack clear information regarding the duration of asylum applications. Although data exist regarding the proportion of cases receiving an initial decision within six months and the number of pending applications, it is currently impossible to calculate the average processing time from claim to final resolution for an asylum application. There is also no precise information on how many applicants are awaiting appeal decisions, as publication of these statistics has ceased. Additionally, little is known about the fate of rejected asylum seekers.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there are approximately 515,700 refugees residing in the UK while Government data show that, as of June 2024, there were 224,742 “pending” asylum cases within the UK Asylum system including appeals and post-decision reviews, out of which 87,000 were awaiting an initial decision.

The majority of applicants, roughly 67 %, have waited over a year for a decision on their asylum status, and some have waited significantly longer. Nearly one in every twenty individuals have been waiting for over ten years. During this time, most asylum seekers are not permitted to working, cannot choose their place of residence live, and rely on government cash assistance of £7 per day to cover food, healthcare, and clothing.

In addition, many asylum seekers are held in immigration detention centers, where conditions can be highly challenging. In the year ending March 2025, 20,919 individuals were detained under immigration authority, a 10% increase compared to the previous year.

Refugees residing in the UK face various barriers to employment, including:

- Employment gaps in their resumes due to lengthy asylum process
- Non-recognition of academic qualifications
- Public misconceptions and discrimination

As a result, refugees are nearly three times more likely to be unemployed than UK-born citizens, despite their often high educational and professional qualifications. For example, 45 % hold at least a high school diploma or higher, and 77 % have a minimum of three years of work experience.¹

A 2024 report by the Commission on the Integration of Refugees shows that if asylum applications were processed within six months, enabling earlier access to employment, and if refugees and asylum seekers received adequate employment support and free English language classes upon arrival, the UK economy would gain an estimated £1.2 billion in net economic benefits within five years.

4. Cuts in public services budget

Despite the importance of ensuring adequate funding for public services, the United Kingdom government has, in recent years and particularly in 2025 reduced allocations to public services in order to increase military spending.

1. <https://breaking-barriers.co.uk/our-impact/refugee-asylum-facts/> - last visited: 29 September 2025

A report by the Children and Families Truth Commission, concerning human rights violations against families within the UK child protection system, was based on a survey of 600 families who had experience with the system. It found that 93% of respondents did not receive the support they had requested.

According to internal government plans, several UK ministries are preparing for budget cuts of up to 11%. These reductions, requested by the Treasury, are aimed at financing an increase in defense expenditure.

This decision has particularly affected local government, as well as the cultural, judicial, and social sectors, raising serious concerns about the mounting pressure on public services. The policy, which continues the austerity trend of the 2010s, effectively undermines citizens' right to essential services.

Through the allocating of additional resources to defense, vital sectors such as culture, the environment, energy, and social welfare, already under significant strain, will face further shortages. This situation restricts equitable access to public services, imposes additional financial burdens on society, and in practice prioritizes military spending over the economic and social rights of individuals.

5. Police Violence

Police Violence against Women¹

Statistical data indicate a rising number of stop-and-search incidents involving women across the United Kingdom. An analysis of Home Office data shows that in the year ending

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/law/2025/apr/13/rising-number-of-uk-women-stopped-and-searched-by-police> - last visited: 29 September 2025

March 2024, thousands more searches were conducted on women compared to the same period the previous year.. A total of 59,549 searches of women were conducted, representing a 7% increase from the previous year.

The rise in searches targeting women is in contrast with the “consistent evidence” that officers uncover “very few” items during such searches, and rarely lead to further action. The Data also reveals a 10% increase in arrests of women following a stop and search, compared to a 2 % increase for men.

The police have argued argue that stop and search is a key tool in combating crime, particularly the rise in knife-related offenses. Research published in the Journal of Criminology suggest that more frequent use of stop-and-search in London’s high-crime areas may contribute to a reduction in knife attacks.

Home Office data further indicated that police forces in England reported 747,396 incidents involving the use of force in the year ending March 2024, marking a 13% increase from the previous year. Use of force constitutes actions such as handcuffing, use of batons, tasers, firearms, bodily or limb restraint, incapacitant sprays, and other coercive measures. Women were the targets in 18% of these incidents, while Black women accounted for about 9%, despite comprising only 4% of the population according to the latest census

Police Violence against Black People¹

The police conduct more patrols in areas with higher proportions of Black people, ethnic minorities, and

1. *ibid*

marginalized groups. As a result, these communities face greater likelihoods of being stopped, searched, and subjected to the use of force.

Shana Darchville, one of the victims, recounted in an interview an incident in which police stopped her while driving in North London in March 2023. The 40-year-old woman shared her story with StopWatch, explaining that a police car pulled in front of her and activated its siren, but she continued driving, unaware that she was being signaled to stop.

Darchville stated that officers ran toward her car and behaved “aggressively.” She recalled that one officer forcibly opened the door, shocking her 11-year-old son, who was also in the car. She said the police told her she was stopped because there had been numerous car thefts in the area.

Darchville stated that she felt racially discriminated, noting that she had been stopped once before. “I was driving a Mercedes. When they see Black people and Black women in an expensive car, they stop you for no reason,” she said.

6. Racism and Racial Discrimination

In July and August, the United Kingdom experienced widespread far-right, racist, and Islamophobic violence targeting migrants, Muslims, and ethnic minorities, with attacks on mosques and asylum-seekers’ accommodations.. In Rotherham, asylum seekers were trapped inside their residence as rioters smashed windows and set the building on fire.

This violence was fueled by online misinformation, which falsely blamed migrants, Muslims, and ethnic minorities rather than political leaders for the country's economic problems. In response to the racist riots, many took to the streets in anti-racism protests to express solidarity with the affected communities. Politicians and media outlets have contributed to fostering a hostile environment toward ethnic and racial minorities through the reproduction of anti-immigrant, xenophobic, and Islamophobic narratives.¹

7. Violation of the right to health

The National Health Service (NHS) has failed to uphold the fundamental right of citizens to have timely access to healthcare. The most striking manifestation of this crisis is the long waiting times for hospital treatments. The emergency care system across UK hospitals is also in a critical state.

In April 2025, there were approximately 396,900 emergency admissions through all emergency departments, an average of 13,200 per day. In addition, there were 132,300 other urgent admissions that same month not made through the emergency departments (approximately 4,400 per day).

Despite this level of patient demand, in April 2025, 39.8% of patients in major hospital emergency departments waited more than four hours for admission. Even more concerning, approximately 137,200 patients waited over twelve hours from their arrival to admission, an average of 4,600 patients per day.

1. <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2025/country-chapters/united-kingdom> - last visited: 29 September 2025

8. Freedom of Expression

During the reporting period, the Government of the United Kingdom and other public authorities engaged in a range of actions that unjustly restricted the right to freedom of expression, particularly with respect to speech concerning Gaza and Palestine. These actions included the use of the country's highly criticized counter-terrorism programme, revocation of visas, and disciplinary measures against individuals, that had a disproportionately negative impact on Muslim youth and children.

In March, the Government issued a revised definition of "extremism," intended for use by public bodies to assess whether individuals or groups should be designated as "extremist." The stated purpose was to deny them access to public funding, platforms, and other forms of "legitimacy".

In May, the Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill failed to become law following the dissolution of Parliament ahead of the general election. This bill, had it passed, could have rendered expressions of human rights and ethical concerns in public procurement or investment decisions potentially unlawful, thereby stifling calls for boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS).¹

London-Based Persian-Language Media

Despite its claims of upholding freedom of expression, the United Kingdom has become a safe haven for media outlets that, supporting terrorists and terrorist organizations, promote and incite terrorism, violence, hate speech, and

1. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/europe-and-central-asia/western-central-and-south-eastern-europe/united-kingdom/report-united-kingdom/> - last visited: 29 September 2025

human rights violations. The UK's failure to address and prevent the activities of such actors, and its continued facilitation of their operations, amounts to a serious breach of its international obligations.

Operating from British territory, these media outlets have contributed to transforming peaceful demonstrations in other countries into violence and unrest through the dissemination of instructions on the manufacture and use of explosive devices. Persian-language media based in the UK—including BBC Persian and Iran International have broadcasted content that in practice, incite and encourage peaceful protesters to adopt violent tactics.

9. Misuse of Artificial Intelligence¹

Artificial Intelligence against Asylum-seekers

On 22 July 2025, the United Kingdom announced plans to employ AI-based facial-recognition technology to determine whether an asylum seeker is under eighteen years of age which poses a significant threat to child asylum seekers. According to Angela Eagle, the Minister of State for Border Security and Asylum, the decision was based on the grounds that this experimental technology would probably be the most affordable option.

The use of unproven technology for deciding whether a child should receive the critical protections to which they are legally entitled is inhumane and unacceptable.

Facial-age-estimation have not undergone independent testing in real-world conditions and are prone to substantial

1. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/07/31/uk-plans-ai-experiment-on-children-seeking-asylum> - last visited: 29 September 2025

margins of error for algorithms that struggle to distinguish a 17-year-old from a 19-year-old.

AI facial-scanning was never designed for refugee children and carries the risk of catastrophic and life-altering errors. The algorithms, which analyze facial features such as the distance between nostrils and skin texture, cannot account for children whose appearance has aged prematurely due to trauma and violence. Nor can they comprehend how malnutrition, dehydration, sleep deprivation, or prolonged exposure to saltwater during dangerous sea crossings may drastically alter a child's face.

The inability of these AI systems to explain or reproduce their outcomes undermines the child's right to appeal or seek redress in cases of misclassification and introduces new risks to privacy and non-discrimination. The UK government has repeatedly and unlawfully exposed child asylum seekers to conditions of exploitation by misclassifying them as adults.

The Government's plan to tender contracts for this technology in 2026 must be suspended. Instead, it should implement the recommendations of the Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration to reform the flawed age-assessment processes. Such processes must comply with international standards, be used only as a last resort to remove serious doubts about an individual's claimed age and decisions must be made by professionals trained in child protection and trauma.

Artificial Intelligence against Marginalized Groups

Persons with disabilities, individuals living in poverty, and those suffering from serious illnesses have been trapped in a bureaucratic limbo of digital exclusion arising from the unrestrained expansion of technologies within the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Reports indicate that the DWP's experimental and widespread use of AI and digital technologies in welfare systems such as Universal Credit (UC) and Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and other social security schemes has produced a social-security system inaccessible for individuals already marginalized and at risk of poverty in the UK.

Many beneficiaries relying on social security lack access to digital devices or the internet or internet-enabled devices. Affordability issues, combined with language barriers and prolonged waiting times for telephone services, this has led to digital exclusion from DWP systems.

The use of digital technologies, coupled with further reductions in the UK social security budget following years of austerity, has created a perfect storm that exacerbates existing flaws and generates new problems related to these emerging technologies. These challenges are compounded by years of austerity-driven budget cuts, creating a "perfect storm" in which existing flaws are magnified and new, technology-related problems emerge.

Automated systems and AI-powered assessments in social security decision-making pose a significant risk of error

due to biased or discriminatory algorithms, which can have severe consequences for applicants.

Digital exclusion can arise from living conditions, educational level, health status, and income, complex factors that automated social security systems do not always fully capture. The extensive collection of digital data has also resulted in an all-encompassing social security system that impacts claimants' rights to privacy, data protection, and human dignity.

While the use of large volumes of data to determine eligibility for state support is not new, the scale, scope, and speed of data processing today are unprecedented and may bring unintended consequences and new human rights risks.

The DWP's experimentation with technology endangers human rights and reduces vulnerable individuals to mere data points. The success of a claim may depend on whether a claimant regularly falls within a data cluster or meets predefined criteria rather than on their actual eligibility. In this regard, technology oversimplifies the complex realities of people's lives and demeans their needs, particularly when claimants are unable to access support from a social worker.

UK authorities must commission an independent and impartial review of the social security system and the digital systems employed by the DWP, and discontinue any system that violates human rights. There is an urgent need for legislation regulating AI to ensure it does not result in human rights violations. Digital systems must be transparent, explainable, and non-mandatory.

Violation of Privacy

Official data indicates that the United Kingdom, and particularly London, has one of the highest concentrations of surveillance cameras in the world. The extensive deployment of such cameras stems from the UK's policy of mass surveillance, which, rather than employing targeted control and oversight, monitors citizens' communications and personal data collected randomly, without any suspicion or evidence of criminal or unlawful activity.

The UK government enacted the Investigatory Powers Act in 2016 and is now pursuing amendments for its expansion. Many human rights activists and private technology companies have criticized both the original Act and the proposed amendments as strategies to increase government control domestically and internationally. With the current trajectory of the law and the forthcoming reforms, the concept of personal privacy for UK citizens is at risk of being completely eroded. Furthermore, individuals' data are collected, then analyzed, and processed in specific ways that can ultimately lead to intrusion and harassment.

Earlier this year, the United Kingdom instructed technology and communication companies, including Apple, to grant government access to encrypted data. In response, the online community jointly filed petitions in British courts, arguing that such measures constitute violations of human rights and pose threats to privacy. According to media activists, this move endangers the security and privacy of millions of UK citizens, places undue pressure on the technology sector, and establishes a dangerous precedent for cyber security.

10. Violence against Women and Girls

According to a report¹ submitted on June 20, 2025 by Reem Alsalem, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and Girls, an estimated 1.6 million women aged over 16 in England and Wales experienced domestic violence in 2024 including physical and psychological abuse, coercive control, sexual violence, economic abuse.

Violence against women and children intensifies in custody cases. Coercive control often persists post-separation, and allegations of “parental alienation” are employed to discredit victims, sometimes leading to forced contact between children and abusive parents.

Although the United Kingdom’s Sexual Offenses Act provides for life imprisonment for rape, the conviction rate remains only 1.6%, and the average delay in adjudication is 333 days. Shortages of resources and personnel further reduce the effectiveness of legal enforcement. Operation Soteria has led to an increase in rape reports, however obstacles such as underreporting and limited services in rural areas remain unresolved.

While the Modern Slavery Act and the Nationality and Borders Act have established a framework for combating human trafficking, support for victims remains limited. The Illegal Migration Act has heightened the risk of deportation for victims and the lack of precise data on trafficking for sexual exploitation complicated prevention efforts. Additionally, inconsistent enforcement and underreporting of workplace violence present significant obstacles to

1. <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/59/47/Add.1>

the implementation of the Equality Act and the Worker Protection Act.

Certain groups, including Black women and girls, women with disabilities, female immigrants, Muslims, political activists, athletes, elderly women, and female prisoners face disproportionately higher levels of violence and discrimination. The UK's "No Recourse to Public Funds" policy has pushed migrant women into, women with disabilities face barriers to accessing justice, and Muslim women are subjected to hate crimes.

11. Violation of children's right

Although children constitute 20% of the population, they account for 40% of all sexual offences. According to the Crime Survey for England and Wales, conducted by the Office for National Statistics, approximately 7.5% of adults reported having been sexually abused before the age of sixteen. The risk of child sexual abuse continues to rise, exacerbated by the evolution of online environments and the spread of digital technologies. Estimates suggest that up to 840,000 offenders pose varying levels of sexual threat to children, while around 400,000 online searches per month in the UK involve child sexual abuse material.

12. Prison Conditions

Over 2,000 individuals remain incarcerated in the United Kingdom under Indeterminate Sentences for Public Protection (IPP), without a fixed release date. Such detention amounts to psychological torture, resulting in hopelessness,

worthlessness, and in some cases suicidal ideation among prisoners. Such sentences if disproportionate to the gravity of the offence, become arbitrary and unjust, resembling state hostage-taking.¹

On the other hand, newly released data indicate that, over the past year, 262 prisoners were mistakenly released from British prisons, the highest figure ever recorded. This represents a 128% increase compared with the previous 12 months, during which 115 cases were reported, thereby raising grave concerns over the inefficiency of the UK judicial system.²

Speaking of foreign prisoners, the case of Mr. Richard John, an Iranian-Christian national sentenced to life imprisonment in the United Kingdom, is particularly noteworthy. In hopes of securing release and repatriation, he renounced his British citizenship. Nevertheless, the Parole Board of the UK Ministry of Justice have repeatedly denied his requests for parole or deportation. He has served twenty years without a single day of leave, and requests for medical treatment and transfer to a secure specialized hospital have also been rejected. He remains in substandard conditions and has been denied adequate access to essential medical and healthcare services.

Given his living condition in the prison, formal appeal by his mother as well as the acceptance by institutions in Iran to provide him with medical care, there appears to be no reason for the refusal for his transfer. Mr. John's is in critical

1. The Times

2. The Daily Express

physical condition, suffering from multiple chronic illnesses, including gastrointestinal disorders, back pain, impaired mobility, swallowing difficulties, persistent coughing, general weakness, and other ailments requiring immediate medical attention. His health has noticeably declined.

He has filed complaints regarding prison authorities' conduct, expressing dissatisfaction with the lack of medical care, and inhumane treatment, poor hygiene, and inadequate sanitary facilities, describing the situation as "torturous." Despite repeated requests, no proper treatment or hospitalization has been provided.

Part II:

Human Rights Violations Abroad

1. Business Practices

Export of Hazardous Materials and Waste

The export of low-quality fuel to West Africa has raised significant concerns within the sphere of British trade. It appears that major trading companies specializing in technical services and commodities are producing cheaper, more toxic blended petroleum products. These mixtures contain high levels of sulfur and other hazardous substances such as benzene and aromatic compounds, which exacerbate air pollution and have been proven to endanger human health.

Export of Banned Pesticides

The United Kingdom hosts the major sites for production of chemical substances, including toxic industrial chemicals and pesticides intended for global export. Some of these chemicals are not authorized for use within the UK or the European Union. For instance, the UK's Syngenta factory produces the highly toxic pesticide Paraquat, marketed internationally under the trade name Gramoxone. Paraquat

was banned by the European Union in 2007. Research indicates that prolonged exposure to Paraquat is associated with lung diseases and Parkinson's disease.

Access to Justice

Victims seeking redress under UK law for harm caused by British businesses operating abroad face numerous obstacles. Legal action in such cases is rare, as parent companies and their subsidiaries are often treated as separate legal entities. Moreover, enforcement agencies frequently lack the expertise or resources required to investigate crimes involving toxic chemicals and exported waste.

The UK does not ensure that foreign companies adhere to the same domestic standards. In its National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, it asserts that human rights obligations apply only within a state's territory or jurisdiction, and that there is no universal requirement for states to regulate the extraterritorial activities of business enterprises based within their jurisdiction.

Low-income communities are among the most vulnerable to exploitation. Despite assurances that budget cuts would not affect those in vulnerable positions, many individuals who were previously eligible for legal aid are now unable to afford legal representation or access legal advice.

2. Complicity in the Genocide in Gaza

The United Kingdom is not unfamiliar with the concept of genocide. Through its voluntary participation in Israel's genocide against the Palestinian people, it is enabling yet

another atrocity by sharing air bases, intelligence, and generously supplying weapons, under the guise of politics. Furthermore, by treating peaceful civil assemblies organized by the Palestine Action group as terrorist acts, the UK has also attempted to silence any pro-Palestine activity.

While the United Nations Commission of Inquiry has confirmed that genocide is transpiring in Gaza, the former UK Foreign Secretary notified the Parliament that the government had not come to the conclusion that Israel is acting with genocidal intent. This cautious phrasing has become a legal stratagem designed to obscure hundreds of cases of violations of international humanitarian law.

As disclosed during the recent court case brought by the Palestinian human rights organization Al-Haq against the UK government, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office¹ (FCDO) had, as of September 2024, assessed 413 alleged violations of international humanitarian law by Israel in Gaza. The FCDO concluded that in 411 of these cases there was “insufficient information to make a decision.” Only one incident, the attack on the World Central Kitchen convoy, which resulted in the death of seven humanitarian aid workers, including three British nationals, was identified as a potential violation.

This narrow, incident-focused approach dangerously downplays the scale of civilian suffering and appears to treat Palestinian lives as less deserving of protection under international law. It facilitates the UK’s continuous complicity through arms sales, including the F-35 fighter

1. Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

jet program, extensive military cooperation, and political support for Israel's relentless offensive.

With respect to Israel's hostile conduct - its military actions in Gaza - the British government has claimed that there are "no areas of very serious concern regarding Israel's compliance with international humanitarian law related to targeting civilians." The government further claims that it has "seen no evidence of the deliberate targeting of civilian women or children by Israel" (Paragraph 33 of the Al-Haq ruling), despite the statistics by UN Human Rights Office from November 2024 indicating that nearly 70% of the fatalities were women and children. It appears the UK government does not consider any adult male in Gaza as a potential civilian.

The United Kingdom bears a clear legal obligation to prevent, punish, and ensure non-complicity in acts of genocide. The UN Commission of Inquiry is the latest major international body to confirm the occurrence of genocide, joining Palestinian and international human rights organizations, the International Court of Justice, the International Association of Genocide Scholars, and many others.

In the face of substantial evidence, such superficial efforts by the British government to evade accountability for its role in mass killings, forced displacement, and the use of starvation on Gaza's population will ultimately fail.

Conclusion

Given the United Kingdom's claims regarding human rights and its selective accusations against other nations for its violation, this report has briefly examined the human rights situation within the UK itself. Despite the numerous criticisms directed at many of the human rights norms enshrined in international documents and treaties – including the argument that these standards are derived from the culture and civilization of a few Western countries representing less than 10 % of the world's population, and that many of these standards are incompatible with the culture, religion, and traditions of other nations, the very same countries - including the UK, despite extensive rhetoric in support of their self-defined human rights standards, in practice, act in a manner markedly inconsistent with their stated commitments.

In addition to domestic human rights violations, the UK contributes to the perpetuation of widespread human rights abuses internationally. During the first half of the year, it refused to suspend licenses for the export of arms and

other military equipment to Israel, including the equipment used in the Gaza conflict. Following warnings from UN Special Rapporteurs regarding the human rights violations of military equipment transfers to Israel, in September, the UK government announced a partial suspension of export licenses, citing the “clear risk” of violations of international humanitarian law by the Israeli military. However, the UK’s involvement in supplying the F-35 fighter jet program, a critical component of Israel’s military operations, remained exempt from this suspension. The UK government’s judicial review of its arms export licensing also failed to recognize Israel’s actions as constituting genocide, despite the ruling of the International Criminal Court!