



# General Assembly

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## Eightieth session

Item 116 (c) of the preliminary list\*

**Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other  
elections: election of members of the Human Rights Council**

### **Note verbale dated 13 June 2025 from the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations has the honour to refer to the candidature of the United Kingdom to the Human Rights Council for the term 2026–2028, at the elections to be held in October 2025 in New York.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution [60/251](#), the Government of the United Kingdom has the honour to transmit herewith the voluntary pledges and commitments of the United Kingdom for the above-mentioned candidature (see annex).

In this regard, the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom would be grateful to the President of the General Assembly if the present note and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Assembly, under item 116 (c) of the preliminary list.

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\* [A/80/50](#).



**Annex to the note verbale dated 13 June 2025 from the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

**Candidature of the United Kingdom to the Human Rights Council, 2026–2028**

**Voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to General Assembly resolution [60/251](#)**

**The United Kingdom pledges to defend civic space and fundamental freedoms**

1. We will support civil society organizations and human rights defenders, giving a voice to those otherwise silenced.
2. We will promote freedom of expression, including free media, and protect journalists and media workers from harm.

**The United Kingdom pledges to uphold the rule of law**

3. We will remain committed to supporting a strong and independent United Nations human rights system and promoting compliance with international human rights law.
4. We will work to strengthen scrutiny and accountability for human rights crises around the world.
5. We will promote the realization of Sustainable Development Goal 16, with a focus on access to justice, in particular for those belonging to marginalized groups.

**The United Kingdom pledges to champion equal rights for all**

6. We will continue to stand up for the rights of women and girls, as well as those of LGBT+ and other marginalized groups.
7. We will tackle gender-based violence, including sexual violence in conflict, all forms of domestic violence and harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation, child, early and forced marriage, and trafficking in women and girls.
8. We will promote women's economic empowerment, driving the full participation of women in economic, political and public life.
9. We will defend freedom of religion or belief for all, in line with article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**The United Kingdom pledges to respond to shared global challenges by prioritizing human rights and governance principles**

10. We will tackle modern slavery and human rights abuses in global supply chains.
11. We will uphold human rights at work, consistent with international labour standards.
12. We will ensure that human rights and governance principles are embedded in the use of new technologies.
13. We will address the human rights impacts of the climate and nature emergency.