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Dear Caroline,

Thank you for your letter dated 1 December 2021, regarding the UK's State Report on the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (CERD).

The Government remains committed to fulfilling its commitment to submit the CERD State Report, and tackling inequalities remains one of the key objectives of our work. As my predecessor explained, and you noted in your letter, our priorities were shaped to ensure we have provided sufficient support to communities and local government to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are dedicated to fulfilling our international commitments relating to inequalities and racial discrimination. My officials are currently working on the CERD State Report, alongside other committed international reports and programmes of work.

The UK's combined twenty-fourth to twenty-sixth periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination will be submitted shortly. The CERD State Report is an invaluable opportunity for us to assess our work to combat racial inequality and discrimination since our last report in 2016 and I look forward to outlining our progress in the report.

Yours sincerely,

KEMI BADENOCH MP