



The Rt Hon. the Lord Goldsmith QC  
Chair, International Agreements Committee  
House of Lords  
London  
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Dear Peter,

I am writing to you as Chair of the International Agreements Committee to inform you that we have now published the fifth progress report on the UK's implementation of the Istanbul Convention. The report sets out the last remaining barriers to ratification, as well as all the work the Government has done to tackle violence against women and girls over the past year.

As you know, the landmark Domestic Abuse Act was passed in April, which included provisions relating to taking extra-territorial jurisdiction over certain violent and sexual offences, as required by Article 44 of the Convention. These provisions are currently in force in England, Wales and Scotland and this year's report has recorded these parts of the UK as compliant with Article 44. In addition, the Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings Act (Northern Ireland) 2021 creates a new domestic abuse offence for psychological violence in Northern Ireland, as required by Article 33. Northern Irish Ministers have confirmed that this new offence should be implemented by February 2022 (by which time they will also have brought into force the provisions of the Domestic Abuse Act relating to extra-territorial jurisdiction in Northern Ireland). Once this offence is implemented the UK as a whole will be compliant with Articles 33 and 44. With regards to provisions for migrant women, this year's report has recorded our compliance position as "under review", pending the outcome of the Support for Migrant Victims scheme. I understand that you wrote to Baroness Williams on 15 October with regards to this scheme and I can confirm that we will keep you updated with developments in this area.

When we are satisfied that we are compliant with the Convention then we will, in line with section 1(3) of the Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (Ratification of Convention) Act 2017, make a statement to Parliament confirming this and setting out the timetable for ratification.

This year's progress report confirms that the UK is on a clear path to compliance and that this Government remains committed to ratifying the Istanbul Convention as soon as possible.

**Rachel Maclean MP**  
**Minister for Safeguarding**

