

Ending torture, seeking justice for survivors

SIX STEPS FOR THE UK TO TAKE TORTURE SERIOUSLY

Everyone deserves to live in safety, free from torture. However, in recent years the UK has chipped away at the framework designed to prevent torture, dropping its anti-torture strategy and introducing laws that put survivors of torture at risk or make it harder to hold those responsible for torture to account. This has led to criticism from the United Nations bodies that monitor the UK's compliance with international law.

The next Parliament must demonstrate that it prioritises our security and human dignity by taking torture seriously – following our six-step plan below would be a strong start.

These recommendations are the result of our three decades of experience pursuing justice and reparation for survivors of torture, developed in collaboration with the <u>Survivor Advisory Group</u> and the UK anti-torture movement.

1



Put torture prevention back on the agenda

by introducing a crossgovernment anti-torture strategy in consultation with survivors of torture.



Increase protections for Britons against human rights violations abroad by introducing the legal right to consular

assistance and an envoy for arbitrary detention.

2



Place survivors' voices at the centre of policy

by setting up an advisory panel that includes survivors of torture. 5



Bring justice for survivors and hold perpetrators of torture to account

by strengthening the UK's legal framework to prosecute those who commit torture abroad.

3



Show that the UK takes torture seriously in legislation

by repealing or amending laws that are incompatible with the UK's international obligations. 6

Ensure survivors of torture receive the compensation they deserve



by introducing laws and regulations that would confiscate money linked to those perpetrating human rights abuses and use that money for reparations.