

Advance unedited version

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

79th session

8 August – 2 September 2011

Statement on Dale Farm

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination meeting in its 79th session from 8 August to 2 September 2011 expresses its deep regret at the insistence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland authorities to proceed with the eviction of Gypsy and Traveller Families at the Dale Farm in Essex before identifying and providing culturally appropriate accommodation.

The Committee considered the combined eighteenth to twentieth report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 23 and 24 August 2011 during its current session. The issue of Dale Farm was extensively discussed with the delegation of the State party. The Committee will issue its concluding observations on all nine States parties considered at its 79th session, including the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on Friday, 2 September 2011.

The Committee also considered this issue under its Early Warning and Urgent Action Procedure.

Taking into account Articles 2 and 5 of the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) and the Committee's General Recommendation No 27 (2000) on Discrimination against Roma, the Committee calls on the State party to suspend the planned eviction which would disproportionately affect the lives of the Gypsy and Traveller families, particularly women, children and older people, and create hardship, until culturally appropriate accommodation is identified and provided. The Committee urges the State party to find a peaceful and appropriate solution which fully respects the rights of the families involved. Travellers and Gypsies already face considerable discrimination and hostility in wider society and the Committee is deeply concerned that this could be worsened by actions taken by authorities in the current situation and by some media reporting on the issues.

2127th meeting
1 September 2011