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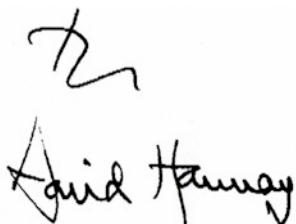
4 February 2009

Dear Foreign Secretary,

I am writing to you on behalf of the UN Association of the UK, of which I am Chair, to urge that the government play a full and active role in both the preparations for the UN Durban Review Conference on Racism and the conference itself.

Like many other organisations concerned with human rights, we were not entirely happy with the 2001 conference, which seemed to us to have excessively politicised some of the issues. But it did lead to some positive results in a number of countries.

We appreciate that some of the same problems that arose in 2001 are now coming up in the preparatory work for the review conference in April. But we feel strongly that it is important that the British government, together with our EU partners, engage fully and constructively in these preparations and in the conference itself. It is only by engaging in such a dialogue with other UN member states that we can hope to make progress towards the objective of full respect for the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



Lord Hannay of Chiswick
Chair, UNA-UK