**Universal Periodic Review 14 – Czech**

**Intervention by the Netherlands**

Madam President,

The Government of the Netherlands commends the government of the Czech Republic for the substantive national report. The report clarifies the human rights situation and policies of the Czech Republic to a great extent. The Netherlands would like to thank the government of the Czech Republic for answering the preparatory questions concerning additional measures to tackle hate crimes and the mandate of the Gender Equality Unit.

We recognize that steps have been taken to improve the situation for Roma people. The national report shows this is a work in progress. Finally, the Netherlands recommends the Czech Republic to work towards the equal status of same sex couples, starting with legal recognition of same-sex couples.

Thank you, Madam President.