

Universal Periodic Review 17 – Senegal

Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Mr. President,

The Netherlands compliments Senegal on its efforts to improve women's rights. With a view to reducing Female Genital Mutilation, the government has engaged in successful regional talks to stop FGM within local communities. However, abuse of women and girls often remains unpunished.

Secondly, we are pleased to see that Senegal has implemented programs to raise awareness on HIV and to combat AIDS. However, criminalisation of homosexuality makes LGBT's reluctant to participate in these programs.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands therefore recommends:

1. to enact legislation that penalizes cases of rape, abuse and incest, to raise awareness on these issues, and to actively pursue the punishment of those guilty of these crimes.
2. to change Article 319 of the Penal Code and to start a national dialogue on the acceptance of homosexuality.

I thank you.