

Universal Periodic Review 18 – Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Mr. President,

The Netherlands appreciates the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's participation in the UPR process and would like to thank the Macedonian delegation for the presentation of its comprehensive national rapport.

The Netherlands welcomes the government's efforts to promote and protect the civil and political rights of its people. We encourage the government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to strengthen its efforts to further enhance the promotion and protection of civil and political rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity.

The Netherlands attaches great value to the independence of the judiciary, which forms the basic pillar of democracy. We therefore encourage the government to further enhance the independence of the judiciary and ensure freedom of the media.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands recommends the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:

1. To include a specific prohibition of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in line with international standards in the anti-discrimination legislation, and to take appropriate measures to end impunity for violence and intimidation of the LGBT community.
2. To restart the dialogue with media representatives on the Roadmap for the implementation of the High Level Accession Dialogue priority activities to safeguard freedom of expression in the country and take steps as a matter of priority to investigate and prosecute past cases.

I thank you, Mr. President.