

**Universal Periodic Review 18 – New Zealand
Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Mr. President,

The Netherlands would like to thank the Government of New Zealand for this informative presentation of the national report, which we believe is both comprehensive and transparent.

We welcome New Zealand's efforts and leadership to further enhance the promotion and protection of the civil and political rights of its people, and in particular the rights of LGBT people and same sex couples. In this respect, we would like to compliment New Zealand with the Marriage Amendment Act 2013 which ensures that all people regardless of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity have the opportunity to marry.

Although New Zealand laws meet international standards in a wide number of areas there still appear to be some gaps in the promotion and fulfilment of human rights. The right to education and the right to work are still not fully realised for Maori people and people with disabilities. In addition, violence against women is equally widespread, especially in the Pacific community. Lastly, child poverty and child abuse rates are still one of the highest among OECD countries, especially in marginalized groups.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands therefore recommends New Zealand:

1. to take further measures to ensure full and consistent protection of human rights in domestic law and policies, taking into account recommendations made by UN human right bodies and the New Zealand Human Rights Commission.
2. to further strengthen actions to ensure that economic and social rights of vulnerable persons are protected, that women's rights and gender equality,

including the gender pay gap, are further addressed, and that the government takes specific policy measures to prevent child poverty and child abuse.

Thank you, Mr President.