**Universal Periodic Review 19 - Brunei**

**Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands welcomes the delegation of Brunei and thanks [Minister] … for the presentation of the national report.

The Netherlands wishes to commend Brunei for ensuring broad access to education and healthcare and especially on the fact that woman and men participate equally in education.

However, the Netherlands is concerned about several provisions in the Penal Code, specifically regarding sections that criminalize sexual relations between consenting adults.

The Netherlands is also concerned about the proposed amendment to the Penal Code introducing the death penalty for numerous offences and introducing specific methods of execution that would constitute torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment under international law.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands therefore recommends the government of Brunei:

1. To repeal or amend those sections of the Penal Code that prevent lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders having equal rights.
2. To withdraw the amendments to the Penal Code introducing the death penalty and to maintain the current *de facto* moratorium.

Thank you, Mr. President.