**Universal Periodic Review 19 – Costa Rica**

**Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands welcomes the progress Costa Rica has made in the field of protecting women against domestic violence by adopting a national response and prevention system. We also note with satisfaction that the Constitution of Costa Rica guarantees the right to equality and non-discrimination.

 The Netherlands wishes to raise its concern that despite criminalization of violence against women, threats to women’s safety persist. Furthermore, the LGBT-community still suffers discrimination.

Therefore, the Kingdom of the Netherlands recommends Costa Rica:

1. to further improve the application of the Act criminalizing violence against Women.

2. to design awareness raising policies and programs regarding prevention of discrimination of LGBT and to provide equal rights for LGBT. In practical terms this means providing better access to justice for people whose rights have been infringed because of their gender identity, gender expression or sexual orientation; secondly allowing cohabitation contracts to same sex couples in order to remove inequalities relating to inheritance, health care, social security etc.; and removing discriminatory provisions from the Criminal Code and other laws and regulations.

I thank you, Mr. President