

Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands

64

UPR 19 - Equatorial Guinea

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands commends the government of Equatorial Guinea on the importance it gives to human rights. We especially welcome the efforts undertaken by the government to ensure that women can easily access the labor market which resulted in the fact that the women of Equatorial Guinea are well represented in the various economic sectors. Yet, the situation of women need to be further improved.

Mr. President,

We are concerned about the level of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in Equatorial Guinea. Despite the fact that discrimination against LGBT is punishable by law, same sex relations are still not socially accepted. As a result, LGBT persons still lack true equal rights.

Therefore, the Kingdom of the Netherlands recommends the government of Equatorial Guinea:

Firstly, to strengthen efforts to empower women by amending legislation discriminating women in matters of polygamy, inheritance and child custody; and to put legislation in place regarding domestic violence, rape - including marital rape - and others forms of sexual and gender based violence.

Secondly, to initiate an awareness raising campaign on the importance of equal rights for LGBT persons, in order to foster a climate of true social acceptance in the spirit of the Constitution of Equatorial Guinea.

I thank you.