

**Universal Periodic Review 19 – Nicaragua  
Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands welcomes the progress made by the government of Nicaragua in reducing gender inequality, especially by stimulating political participation and providing access to education. However, concerns about gender-based violence and femicide remain after the reform of the Comprehensive Act against Violence towards Women (Act No. 779) in September 2013.

The Netherlands also expresses concerns about the violation of the sexual and reproductive rights of women in Nicaragua. Despite the recommendations made by many countries during the last UPR in 2009, all forms of abortion remain criminal offences.

Therefore, the Kingdom of the Netherlands recommends Nicaragua:

1. to expand the legislation in order to protect women against all forms of violence and to ensure that gender-based violence does not lead to impunity.
2. to decriminalize abortion in cases of incest and rape, and in cases in which the life or physical integrity of women and adolescents is endangered.

I thank you, Mr. President

*Maurits ter Kuile*