

## **UPR22 Malawi**

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### **Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Netherlands thanks Malawi for its report. We welcome the fact that Malawi recently passed the Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Act, which raises the legal age of marriage to 18 and aims to increase gender equality. However, the new law also contains several discriminatory provisions that stigmatize LGBT people and hamper the fight against HIV/Aids.

Therefore the Netherlands recommends the government of Malawi:

1. to repeal the provisions in the Criminal Code that criminalize consensual same-sex conduct, and any other legislation which discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, and to bring its legislation in line with Malawi's obligations under international human rights law.
2. to develop and implement a comprehensive National Action Plan to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriages.

Thank you Mr. President