**Universal Periodic Review 25 – Hungary**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Netherlands thanks Hungary for its comprehensive report [and for addressing our advance questions].

The Netherlands recommends Hungary:

1. To ratify the Council of Europe convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence;
2. To amend the media law in line with previous recommendations to ensure that all media laws are in line with the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

Mr. President,

We welcome Hungary’s positive legislative changes to prohibit domestic violence and marital rape, but note there remains room for improvement. The criminal offence of “relationship-related violence”, as introduced in 2013, is limited in its coverage. It also requires in some cases a private motion – a statement of the victim to request the punishment of the perpetrator - as a prerequisite for the criminal procedure.

As for freedom of speech, we also point to the provision in paragraph 5, Article IX of the Constitution on ‘violating the dignity of the Hungarian nation’. The Council of Europe’s Venice Commission has previously warned that this may be used to ‘curtail criticism of Hungarian institutions and office holders’.

Some amendments have been made to the media laws, and we encourage Hungary to undertake further action towards free and transparent media laws.

Thank you, Mr. President