

## **Universal Periodic Review 25 – Trinidad and Tobago**

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

Thank you Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks Trinidad and Tobago for its comprehensive report.

The Netherlands welcomes the ongoing parliamentary debate on equal rights and non-discrimination of the LGBTI community. However, since discrimination based on sexual orientation remains prevalent, there is room for improvement for the fulfilment of rights of LGBTI persons.

The Netherlands recommends Trinidad and Tobago:

1. to repeal articles 13 and 16 of the Law on Sexual Offences of 1986, penalizing sexual relations between consenting individuals of the same sex. Despite the fact that laws criminalizing same sex activity are not enforced, a formal withdrawal of the law is highly recommended.

2. to establish an official moratorium on executions and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at abolition of the death penalty, so as to bring the legislation into conformity with the de facto situation.

Thank you, Mr. President.