**Universal Periodic Review 44– Bangladesh**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

The Kingdom of the Netherlands recognizes the continuous efforts made by Bangladesh in hosting over one million Rohingya refugees from Myanmar.

Building on our constructive, long-standing relationship and shared basic values and principles, further measures by Bangladesh are welcomed to ensure an open society with the presence of a vibrant civil society.

We do however note with concern the increase in intimidation and trials against media personnel, human rights defenders and civil society activists.

The Netherlands recommends to:

1. Repeal Section 377 of the Bangladesh Penal Code and other discriminatory laws to protect LGBTQI+ communities.

2. Repeal the 2018 Digital Security Act and amend the Cyber Security Act in line with the relevant international human right treaties.

We wish Bangladesh success in it’s review.

Thank you, President.