**Universal Periodic Review 46 – Republic of North Macedonia**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks the delegation of the Republic of North Macedonia for the presentation of its national report.

We commend the Republic of North Macedonia’s Government for the fact that the national Anti-Discrimination Commission now functions in its full capacity and that several Prides were organised and held in a peaceful manner and with public support and presence of officials.

The Netherlands has concerns about the increasing pressures of the anti-gender movements, which resulted in lack of further introduction of comprehensive sexual education in public schools, as well as non-adoption of relevant legislation on legal gender recognition and gender equality.

While there is a generally favorable media environment, the recent changes to media legislation reintroducing government funding to private broadcasters can lead to undue political pressure and increased clientelism with the media.

The Netherlands recommends:

1. to adopt and implement relevant legislation on legal gender recognition and gender equality

2. to reconsider the recent changes to media legislation that reintroduce government funding to private broadcasters, in order to ensure a functioning, transparent media industry without undue political pressure

The Netherlands wishes the Republic of North Macedonia success with the follow-up of all recommendations it receives during this fourth UPR cycle.

Thank you, President.