**Universal Periodic Review 46 – Slovakia**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks the delegation of Slovakia for the presentation of its national report.

The Netherlands commends the Slovak Government on advances made in the protection of journalists, specifically by instituting a platform for improving the safety of investigative journalists. We remain concerned, however, by the threats, harassment and violence that Slovak journalists continue to face.

Further measures to protect journalists and to safeguard media freedom would therefore be welcomed.

Reflecting on our previous recommendation, we regret that to this date, insufficient legislative or policy steps have been taken to better promote and protect the rights of LGBTI+ persons, including through the legal recognition of same-sex couples.

The Netherlands, therefore, recommends Slovakia to:

1. Ensure the efficient protection of journalists focussing on the prevention of harassment, intimidation, threats, and violence against them, as well as the investigation of such acts in order to combat impunity

2. Adopt a comprehensive action plan to protect the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons based on a consultative and participatory process.

The Netherlands wishes Slovakia every success with the implementation and follow-up of all accepted recommendations.

Thank you, Mr. President