**Universal Periodic Review 47 – Norway**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands delivered by H.E. Mr. Paul Bekkers, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Vice-President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks Norway for the presentation of its national report and the progress made since the last UPR cycle.

We commend the Norwegian Government for its efforts in combatting sexual abuse and domestic violence with the “safety for all” action plan as well as efforts related to the Independent Schools Act.

In practice, however, barriers to establish new schools remain. The recent addition to the Independent Schools Act, gives a de facto veto power to counties and municipalities.

Therefore, we recommend Norway to :

1. Revise the Independent Schools Act to ensure the right to establish new schools, without any obstructions by local authorities.

2. Adopt a legal definition of rape in the Penal Code, which places the absence of consent at its centre.

We wish Norway every success with the implementation and follow-up of all recommendations.

Thank you.