**Universal Periodic Review 37 – Austria**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands** **– 20 January 2021**

Thank you President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks the delegation of Austria for the presentation of its national report. We commend Austria for lifting the ban on same-sex marriage and adopting marriage equality legislation.

We have concerns about the legal gaps at the federal and regional level in antidiscrimination legislation, in particular with respect to religion and belief and sexual orientation and gender identity. Concerns also remain with regard to the occurrence of domestic violence. We encourage Austria to continue to focus on prevention and persecution of these crimes, and protection of victims.

The Netherlands **recommends** Austria to:

1. Create a new National Action Plan "Protection against Violence for Women" which also considers women with disabilities, precarious residence permits and asylum seekers and women with mental illness.
2. Ensure equal protection from all forms of discrimination, including by harmonizing and strengthening the scope of anti-discrimination laws in particular with respect to religion and belief and sexual orientation and gender identity.

The Netherlands wishes Austria every success with the implementation of the recommendations it receives during this third UPR cycle.

I thank you