**Universal Periodic Review 37 – Georgia**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands** **– 26 January 2021**

Thank you President,

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

The Netherlands commends Georgia on the ratification of the Istanbul convention and its efforts to address domestic violence. With regard to the protection of the human rights of minorities, important progress was made with the adoption of new legislation. Further implementation is key to enhance social inclusion in Georgian society.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands recommends Georgia:

1. to guarantee the independence of the judiciary by reforming the system of appointment of judges, ensuring justification of decisions and merit-based appointments in line with the reforms under the Association Agreement with the EU;
2. to take measures that enable the safe and peaceful gatherings of LGBTQI activists and counter violence, hatred and discriminatory attitudes and behavior against LGBTQI persons, including by ensuring accountability.

The Netherlands wishes Georgia every success with the follow-up of all recommendations it receives during this third UPR cycle.