**Universal Periodic Review 37 – Nauru**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands** **– 27 January 2021**

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

We commend the government of Nauru for amending its laws to decriminalize sexual activity with consent between adults of the same sex, as well as for establishing a National Action Plan for Women.

We remain concerned about the human rights situation in Nauru, especially with regard to violence against women and acts that limit freedom of press and media and freedom of expression. High visa fees for international journalists limit their access to Nauru, for example. This makes reporting on human rights challenging

The Netherlands therefore **recommends** Nauru to

1. Protect and uphold the right to free and independent media in Nauru, including by removing prohibitively high foreign journalist visa fees to enable foreign journalists to visit the country.
2. Implement effective measures against domestic violence, including strengthening domestic violence laws and improving the handling of domestic violence cases by investing in training for local and national authorities to assist victims of domestic violence.

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

Thank you.