**Universal Periodic Review 38 – Paraguay**

**The Kingdom of the Netherlands**

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

The Netherlands commends Paraguay’s efforts undertaken to combat gender based violence.

We encourage Paraguay to continue efforts to improve gender equality and advance the rights of women and girls. We also encourage Paraguay to increase efforts to protect human rights defenders, including by proceeding to the adoption of the bill to create a mechanism for the protection of HRDs.

We remain concerned about persistent impunity for violence against and killings of journalists. Furthermore, we note the lack of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation with specific attention to vulnerable groups, including LGBTI persons.

The Netherlands **recommends** Paraguay:

1. To pursue prompt, thorough and transparent investigations into all crimes committed against journalists, ensuring prosecution of perpetrators and victims’ access to effective remedies.
2. To adopt legislation against all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

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

Thank you.