**Universal Periodic Review 39 – Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks the government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for its comprehensive report.

We welcome the efforts of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to advance women’s rights, including through the programmes of the Gender Affairs division and the amendment of the Sexual Offences Act that is in progress. However, we are concerned about spikes in gender-based and sexual violence. We also remain concerned about discrimination against LGBTI persons, including through the criminalization of consensual same-sex conduct.

The Netherlands therefore recommends Saint Vincent and the Grenadines:

1. Counter gender-based violence, including through the creation of an institution for victims of gender-based violence and sexual abuse, and by strengthening training for law enforcement personnel on gender-based violence and sexual abuse reporting.
2. Decriminalize consensual same-sex conduct, by abolishing section 148 of the Criminal Code.

We wish the delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines success with the implementation of all UPR recommendations.

I thank you.