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

The Netherlands wishes to express its concern about Tajik laws curtailing the right of citizens to freedom of religion or belief and about continued reports of torture of Muslims, Jehovah’s Witnesses and Protestants, as well as the lack of accountability for these acts.

We welcome the decriminalization of consensual same-sex relations between adults, yet remain concerned about wide-spread hate crimes, discrimination and domestic, physical, psychological and sexual violence committed against members of the Tajik LGBTI community.

We therefore **recommend** the Tajik government to:

1. repeal all laws that negatively impact freedom of religion or belief, such as laws that penalize unauthorized religious activities, limit religious education as well as the right of minors and women to participate in religious activities.
2. Cease discrimination of LGBTI persons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity and actively work towards the eradication of societal homophobia and transphobia.

I thank you.