**Universal Periodic Review 39 – Trinidad and Tobago**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago for the presentation of its national report.

The Netherlands commends the Trinidadian Government with the harmonization of the minimum age for marriage to 18 years or older, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Building on the establishment of a gender-based violence unit by the police as a response to the ongoing problem of domestic violence, further measures would be welcomed to extend protections to same-sex couples accordingly.

The Netherlands **recommends** Trinidad and Tobago to:

1. Ensure full implementation of legislation ending discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation and conduct independent investigation into all acts of discrimination against LGBTI persons.

2. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, so as to bring the legislation into conformity with the de facto situation.

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

Thank you.