**Universal Periodic Review 40 – Lithuania**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

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

The Netherlands commends the Lithuanian Government for its firm support for dissidents of the Russian and Belarussian opposition, for offering them a ‘safe haven’, and for supporting human rights defenders in general.

The Netherlands **recommends** Lithuania:

1. To ratify without delay the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention).

2. To adopt legislation that recognises different forms of partnerships and that grants same-sex couples the same rights as heterosexual couples.

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

Thank you.