**Universal Periodic Review 41– United Kingdom**

***Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands***

Mr. President,

The Netherlands **commends** the United Kingdom on ratifying the Istanbul Convention and **welcomes** the introduction of same sex marriage and civil partnership in Northern Ireland, thereby ensuring that the same rights are granted to same-sex couples throughout the country.

We are, however, **concerned** about the legal implications for refugees stemming from the Migration and Economic Development Partnership (MEDP) with Rwanda.

In line with the European Convention of Human Rights, further measures would be welcomed to ensure safe passage and resettlement for asylum seekers within the UK.

The Netherlands **recommends** the United Kingdom to:

1. Revoke parts of the Migration and Economic Development Partnership (MEDP) which do not comply with the 1951 Refugee Convention, in particular the principle of non-refoulement.
2. Reform the Gender Recognition Act in all parts of the United Kingdom, bringing it in line with international human rights standards, including in regard to legal self-determination of one’s gender without the imposition of medical requirements.

The Netherlands wishes the government of the United Kingdom every success with the follow-up and implementation of all accepted recommendations

Thank you, Mister President.