**Universal Periodic Review 42– Sri Lanka**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

The Kingdom of the Netherlands compliments Sri Lanka for acceding to the Op-CAT[[1]](#footnote-1), as well as steps made despite the difficult situation, including the setting up of a domestic Truth and Reconciliation mechanism.

However, there are areas for improvement. The Netherlands **recommends** to:

1. Implement Human Rights Council resolutions 30/1, 46/1 and 51/1 promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka.
2. Ensure that rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly are guaranteed and that everyone, including journalists and human rights defenders, is allowed to express their opinion without fear of repercussion through the disproportionate use of legal instruments or repressive actions.
3. Amend the Penal Code, particularly Sections 365 and 365A, to decriminalize consensual same-sex conduct and displays of affection, and repeal the “Vagrants Ordinance”.

We wish Sri Lanka a successful review.

1. Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)