**Universal Periodic Review 43 – Barbados**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

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

The Netherlands commends the Barbadian Government for adopting an Employment Bill, which *inter alia* forbids employment discrimination on the basis of gender or sexual orientation.

The Netherlands notes, however, that despite the Government’s recognition of gender-based violence as a “public health emergency”, cases of domestic abuse increased during the covid-19 pandemic.

In relation to the rights of women and girls, and LGBTQI+ persons, the Kingdom of the Netherlands recommends the following to Barbados:

1. Adopt legislation to guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health services for all segments of the population without restrictions in terms of age, marital status and third-party authorization requirements;
2. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
3. Repeal legislative provisions that criminalise consensual same-sex sexual relations, and establish legislation and policies to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The Netherlands wishes Barbados every success with the implementation and follow-up of all accepted recommendations it receives during this fourth UPR cycle.

Thank you, President.