**Universal Periodic Review 43 – Montenegro**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands** - 1 min 25

The Kingdom of the Netherlands commends the Montenegrin Government for its recent, timely action to address incidents of hate speech and homophobia and encourages the government to take further action to increase social acceptance of LGBTQI+ persons.

Additionally, we encourage the effective follow-up of the recommendations of the new Ad Hoc Commission for monitoring violence against the media, especially those with regards to attacks on journalists.

The Netherlands recommends:

1. Streamline the revision of media legislation with the media strategy 2022-2027, through inclusive dialogue with media as well as civil society, and in line with European standards.
2. Amend all by-laws of the ‘Law on Life Partnership of Persons of the Same Sex’, to include social care and health care standards, and take further measures to ensure full implementation of the newly adopted law.
3. Provide free legal assistance to victims of gender based violence by specialized lawyers and include NGOs in the system for free legal aid funded by the state.

We wish Montenegro a sucessful review. Thank you, President.