**Universal Periodic Review 29 – Barbados**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks Barbados for its insightful introduction today.

We welcome the measures taken by Barbados to combat gender-based violence, in line with previous UPR recommendations. These measures include the adoption of the amended Domestic Violence act and the Sexual Offences Act in 2016.

We remain concerned, however, about the prevalence of gender-based violence. In particular, domestic violence and sexual abuse. Gender based violence is still underreported and there seems to be a lack of shelters for women who are victims of this type of violence.

We therefore recommend Barbados to:

1. Firstly, step up efforts to combat gender-based violence and provide adequate redress and protection to women who are victim of such violence, for example by establishing shelters, issuing and enforcing protection orders and enhancing cooperation with NGO’s that provide assistance and rehabilitation to victims.
2. Secondly and in line with the recommendations made in 2013, we recommend Barbados to enact legislation ensuring protection from discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity in the areas of employment, healthcare and education.

As stated by the CEDAW-committee, comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation is key to ensuring that all rights of all persons, including marginalized groups, in Barbados are protected.

We wish Barbados all the success during this UPR.

Thank you, Mr. President.