**Universal Periodic Review 29 – the Republic of Serbia**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks the Republic of Serbia for its report and presentation.

The Netherlands welcomes the comprehensive process of reform Serbia has embarked upon in its effort to become a member of the European Union. This effort has included, amongst other matters, some positive steps towards ensuring that LGBTI-persons can express themselves freely.

1. The Netherlands recommends the Republic of Serbia to ensure full implementation of the media laws that were adopted in 2014, as part of the necessary steps that need to be taken to improve media freedom and the protection of journalists.

1. We also recommend Serbia to take all necessary steps to **prevent impunity** for serious crimes under international law and to further increase efforts to shed light on the fate of missing persons.

This latter recommendation includes strengthening national judicial processes. As well as the full and effective cooperation with the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals, as a successor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

We wish Serbia all the best during its UPR review.

Thank you.