**Universal Periodic Review 35 – Guyana**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands – (29 January 2020)**

Thank you, Madam President,

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

The Netherlands commends steps taken by the government of Guyana to fight gender based discrimination and sexual violence. We note, however, that more efforts are needed to address the pervasive patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes that lie at the heart of this issue.

Further to our recommendations in the previous UPR cycles, we are concerned that Guyana has seen no significant improvements in the position of the LGBTI community. They continue to face discrimination and violence.

The Netherlands recommends Guyana to:

1. Revise the legal framework to decriminalize homosexuality and combat all forms of discrimination and violence against LGBTI persons.
2. Revise the Health and Family Life Education program by aligning it with the updated United Nations international technical guidance on sexuality education and by training teachers and service providers to deliver it accordingly.

The Netherlands wishes Guyana success with the follow-up of all recommendations it receives during this third UPR cycle.

Thank you Madam President