**Universal Periodic Review 35 – Kuwait**

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

Thank you, Madam President,

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

The Netherlands positively notes the amended law of military service, through which first steps are being made towards a more equal treatment for Bidoun with regards to military service.

However, the Netherlands remains concerned about the protection and promotion of all human rights for all individuals, particularly those belonging to vulnerable groups. We therefore **recommend** Kuwait:

1. To guarantee personal autonomy and individual rights, as enshrined in the Constitution, by a prohibition of discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, as well as by allowing a medical gender change to be reflected in a person's identity documents.
2. To take action to ensure that the rights of stateless individuals (Bidoun), domestic migrant workers and foreign female workers are protected and stateless children have access to education and health care.

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

Thank you, Madam President.