**Universal Periodic Review 36 – Croatia**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands** **– 10 November 2020**

Madam President,

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

We welcome Croatia’s ratification of the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

However, we are alarmed by the fact that journalists in Croatia are exposed to attacks, assaults and death threats, especially when investigating war crimes, organized crime or corruption. Particularly worrying are *Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation*, the inefficient police investigations and the lack of success in bringing perpetrators of violence against journalists to justice. Additionally, the adequate protection of the rights of minorities in Croatia remains an issue.

The Netherlands **recommends** Croatia to:

1. Promptly investigate and prosecute all forms of attacks and threats against journalists, and to ensure full accountability.
2. Protect the rights of the Serbian minority, including by eradicating public statements of ethnic intolerance, combatting discrimination, and protecting economic, social and cultural rights, including equal use of language and script.

The Netherlands wishes Croatia success with the implementation of the recommendations it receives during this third UPR cycle.

Thank you, Madam President.