

**27<sup>th</sup> session of the Universal Periodic Review  
(1-12 May 2017)**

**Review of the Netherlands**

**Statement by Ireland**

**10 May 2017**

Mr President

Ireland welcomes the delegation of the Netherlands and thanks it for its national report and presentation.

We commend the Netherlands for its consistent support for UN human rights mechanisms, including regular financial support to OHCHR. We appreciate the consultative process engaged in during preparation of its national report and encourage the Netherlands to deepen further its engagement with civil society in relation to follow-up on the results of this review.

While we appreciate that each of the 4 constituent countries of the Netherlands is autonomous in implementation of human rights obligations, we strongly urge that all necessary measures are taken to eliminate differences in the standard of human rights protection across the State as soon as possible.

We welcome that the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights achieved A-status since the last review. We **recommend** that a national institution for human rights, compliant with the Paris Principles should cover all parts of the Netherlands, whether through extension of the mandate of the existing Netherlands Institute for Human Rights; or establishment of similar but separate institutions in the Caribbean territories.

In line with the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, we **recommend** that the Netherlands intensify its efforts in relation to children's rights including particularly the Caribbean countries forming part of the State, including to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings, including the family, care and education settings; to develop and implement public awareness programmes on the rights of the child; to reduce the rate of school drop-out and intensify efforts to eradicate child labour; to raise the minimum age of recruitment in the military to 18 years and ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure without reservations.

Finally, we urge the Netherlands take further efforts to protect LGBTI persons from violence and discrimination including through increasing protection from and appropriate prosecution of hate crime; and to consider moving to a system of self-declaration of gender identity in the process of recognition of the gender of transsexual persons.

Thank you