

**39th session of the Human Rights Council – Item 6 – UPR Outcomes Azerbaijan
Statement by COC Nederland - Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie
van Homoseksualiteit. Joined by International Lesbian and Gay Association**

Delivered by Cavid Nabiye

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Azerbaijani LGBT community we welcome all recommendations made by States, and in particular the 8 recommendations addressing violence, discrimination, and ill-treatment on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Mr. President,

This statement is too short to address all human rights violations against LGBT people in Azerbaijan, but the facts, such as the mass arrests and cases of torture that took place only in the past year, and that were clearly raised by three UN Experts and civil society, show us that LGBT people in Azerbaijan are living in constant danger and fear.

We call on Azerbaijan to commit to human rights for *all*, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people as equal citizens. The state must do everything in its power to combat violence and discrimination that is committed by both non-state and state actors. The arbitrary arrests, ill-treatment and torture must stop. Instead of arresting people, the government should set up mechanisms to address and break down the stigma around the LGBT community, initiate public awareness campaigns, educate law enforcement officers, teachers, health care workers, public servants, and guarantee the principles of non-discrimination in employment, health care, education and justice.

We, as civil society, are ready to collaborate with our government regarding the implementation of the recommendations, to ensure that no one is left behind.

I thank you, Mr. President!