Mid-Term Report of the URP of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (4th cycle)

The status of the Human Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bi+, Transgender and Intersex people in the Netherlands

Submission to the United Nations Human Rights Council by:

- Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie van Homoseksualiteit – COC Nederland
- Expertisecentrum seksediversiteit – NNID
- Transgender Netwerk
- Stichting Bi+ Nederland
- Stichting Colored Qollective

Amsterdam, January 2026

1. Methodology

This Mid-Term Report has been prepared by five Dutch civil society organizations working to advance the rights of lesbian, gay, bi+, transgender and intersex (LGBTI+) people. The report focuses on the implementation of UPR recommendations related to LGBTI+ rights that were accepted by the Netherlands during the fourth review cycle. It is based on the organizations' ongoing monitoring, advocacy experience, and direct engagement with LGBTI+ communities. While this report was not developed within the framework of a National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRF), it aims to provide a civil society perspective on progress made and persisting challenges in the realization of human rights in the Netherlands.

2. Executive summary of key developments and UPR implementation

The Netherlands has taken a number of important steps to increase the safety and well-being of LGBTI+ people. For example, hate crime legislation was adopted in 2025, and since 2022, discrimination of gay and bi+ men in blood donation has been abolished. In 2023, the first article of the Dutch Constitution was amended to explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender. This means that the rights of LGBTI+ people are now better anchored in Dutch law.

At the same time, legal gender recognition, multiple parenthood, and a ban on non-consensual unnecessary medical treatments on intersex children are still not regulated by law. There is also still no legal ban on so-called "conversion therapy".

Discrimination and violence against LGBTI+ people are increasing in the Netherlands, and the number of convictions is low. Acceptance of LGBTI+ people seems to be decreasing among youth. Good integration of human rights, including rights of LGBTI+ people, in education is crucial to reverse this trend: currently, the core objectives for education are being revised, however, they have not yet been implemented in legislation.

3. Follow-up to UPR recommendations received

UPR recommendation	Position	Status of implementation	Description of activities undertaken, results, challenges
147.98 End racism, Islamophobia, antisemitism and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex minorities	Partially supported	**Not implemented**	The LGBT Monitor 2022 by the Netherlands Institute for Social Research finds that transgender people are less likely to be employed (38 percent) than cisgender people (59 percent). The 2024 LGBTQIA+ Monitor also confirms that transgender, non-binary, and bi+ individuals continue

and ethnic minorities in the labour market, and in access to education and housing (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)			to report lower well-being, including job security, relative to their cisgender peers. The EU LGBTIQ Survey conducted by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights reveals that 13% of lesbian and non-binary respondents in the Netherlands faced employment discrimination, while an alarming 61% of intersex individuals experienced workplace discrimination; among intersex people, 15% endured physical or sexual assault and 74% reported harassment in the past year. These findings highlight the need for targeted legal and policy interventions to safeguard employment equality and combat gender-diverse discrimination in Dutch workplaces.
147.99 Combat the proliferation of hate speech, mainly against migrants and the LGBTIQ+ community (Cuba)	Supported	**Partly implemented**	After the House of Representatives had previously supported the bill, the entire Senate voted in 2025 to approve the bill for hate crime legislation. In addition, the prohibited discrimination ground of 'hetero- or homosexual orientation' will be replaced in the Criminal Code by the inclusive term 'sexual orientation.' However, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics are still not included in legislation banning insulting of groups.
147.222 Take all necessary measures to protect LGBTIQ persons from threats and any form of violence, including hate crimes (Argentina)	Supported	**Partly implemented**	See above.
147.223 Strengthen efforts to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI+) persons from violence or threats of violence	Supported	**Not implemented**	The number of reports of discrimination and violence against the LGBTI+ community rose last year from 3,257 (2023) to 4,467 (2024), an increase of 37 percent. The year before, there was also a significant increase, by 23 percent: from 2,654 (2022) to 3,257 cases (2023). This is evident from a

(United States of America)			report by the police and anti-discrimination facilities. One of the most common forms of violence experienced by intersex persons in the Netherlands are unnecessary medical treatments performed on intersex children without their prior and informed consent. These intrusive and irreversible treatments are still common practice within the Netherlands and although pressure and multiple motions in parliament, no legislative steps to ban these unnecessary non-consensual medical treatments on intersex children have been taken.
147.141 Strengthen the provision of adequate sexual and reproductive health-care services (Mauritius)	Supported	**Partly implemented**	The HIV prevention pill PrEP has been made available to more people since 1 August 2024. However, there are still some unnecessary barriers to the provision of PrEP. For example, paying for the medication yourself could be a problem for people with a low income. Interest groups advocate that all PrEP care and medication be reimbursed and excluded from the deductible. GPs should also be better equipped to provide PrEP care and municipal health services should be given sufficient capacity. At the same time, interest groups are concerned about the latest figures on the HIV epidemic in the Netherlands. The number of new HIV diagnoses did not decrease for the first time in 2023, and the share of young people with a new diagnosis has actually increased in recent years.
147.146 Comprehensively integrate human rights education in the national school curriculum, including children's rights and age-appropriate education on sexual and reproductive	Supported	**In the process of being implemented**	The current core objectives for education are being updated and core objectives for "citizenship" are being developed, including on the topic of sexual and gender diversity. The core objectives have been presented in concept in March 2024. Final versions of new core objectives were published in April 2025.

health rights, and ensure that teachers are provided with adequate training in this area (Slovenia)			Legal adoption is expected by August 2026. Sexual and gender diversity is not yet a mandatory subject in university teacher training programs and first-degree teacher training programs. It is also not part of training programs for youth care workers.
147.217 Adopt measures to ensure the right to recognition of self-perceived gender identity, and facilitate the change of name and identity in personal documents (Mexico)	Supported	**Not implemented**	There has not been any progress concerning measures to improve the right to legal gender recognition. An expert letter, provided by a medical or mental health expert, is still a condition that infringes on the right to self-determination and sets a financial barrier. A legislative proposal from 2021 had been stalled in Parliament since October 2022, with a majority in Parliament requesting the government to retract the proposal, without calling for an alternative that would improve self-determination. In July 2025 after the majority in parliament repeated their request, the government retracted the proposal. In December 2025, MPs Marjolein Moorman (GL-PvdA) and Ines Kostić (PvdD) tabled a motion—backed by a majority of 77 vs 73 votes from parties including GL, PvdA, PvdD, D66, VVD, Volt, and 50PLUS—to restart debate. The bill remains stalled after the 2025 interim cabinet halted its review, and no new debate or vote is scheduled. Progress now awaits the next government. A legal source has stated that at least 25 trans youth were granted legal gender recognition these past four years, as courts anticipated upon legal improvements for gender recognition under 16. iWith the legislative improvements having been retracted it is unknown but plausible that courts will continue their verdicts in favor of gender recognition. Nonetheless, court procedures place a large obstacle on gaining legal gender recognition for youth who daily experience the negative

			consequences of a wrong gender marker.
147.218 Guarantee access to legal gender recognition for both intersex and transgender persons of all ages, without obstacles infringing the individual right to self-determination and financial barriers (Israel)	Supported	**Not implemented**	See above.
147.219 Take measures to reduce unnecessary forms of gender registration, by repealing the indication of gender on identity cards (Luxembourg)	Supported	**In the process of being implemented**	A legislative proposal for removal of the gender marker from identity cards has been sent to Parliament in September 2024. Parliament subsequently submitted their written questions regarding this proposal and is awaiting a response from the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Justice & Security before they can proceed with a plenary debate. It is not yet known if this proposal has enough support in Parliament. Unnecessary gender registration still hinders transgender and non-binary people in their daily lives. The recent European Court of Justice verdict in the case of Mousse v. SNCF should entice the government to develop more strict policies regarding gender registration by public and private entities. As of yet no official policy statement has followed on the matter of gender registration to follow up on the ECJ verdict.
147.220 Take measures to reduce unnecessary gender registration, by abolishing the indication of gender on identity cards (Greece)	Supported	**In the process of being implemented**	See above.
147.194 Enhance measures to consider a bill on crimes of sexual violence (Maldives)	Supported	**Implemented**	See above. In 2025, the Senate passed the bill to impose harsher penalties for hate crimes.

147.197 Strengthen the existing legal framework to adequately address and prevent sexual harassment (Malaysia)	Supported	**In the process of being implemented**	LGBTIQA+ people are relatively often confronted with sexual violence, according to research. More than half (52%) of bi+ women have experienced sexual violence at some point, for lesbian women this is more than a third (37%) compared to almost a quarter (22%) of heterosexual women. In 2025 important research has been conducted and published on the high prevalence of experiences with sexual violence among bi+ women. In order to strengthen the legal framework, the Senate approved a broad revision of legislation through the "Sexual Crimes Act" in 2024. This law makes it possible for victims to report rape and assault in more cases. Sexual harassment in public will also be punishable, both offline and online.
147.221 Consider optimizing law, policy and practice to lower rates of hate crime against LGBTI+ persons and promote a higher percentage of perpetrators being prosecuted and convicted (Malta)	Noted	**Partly implemented.**	See above: hate crime legislation has been approved, yet the number of reports of discrimination and violence against LGBTI+ people has risen sharply. Figures from the Dutch government show that approximately seven out of ten LGBTI+ people experience physical or verbal violence in their lives because of who they are. Although more than three thousand people now report or file a complaint, fewer than five perpetrators of LGBTI+ discrimination are convicted each year, to fines of an average of 40 hours of community service or a 400 euro fine. Interest groups advocate for more discrimination investigators in the police force. There are now a total of four discrimination investigators to tackle all discrimination cases in the Netherlands.