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Item 6: Universal Periodic Review Netherlands

Oral statement delivered by: Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23)

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Mr President,

APG23 welcomes the engagement by the Kingdom of Netherlands in the 4th cycle of the UPR process, as well as its progress in implementing and respecting human rights within its territories. We commend especially the establishment of a national programme against discrimination and racism and a National Coordinator against Discrimination and Racism.

APG23 has been present in the Netherlands since 2006, running different projects and initiatives, specifically in Boxtel.

Based on these experiences, we want to draw attention to some situations. First, migrant workers often find themselves in a situation of precariousness and risk of exploitation: low wages, temporary contracts and extenuating work shifts characterise their working conditions. For these reasons, we firmly ask the government to increase the protection of rights of migrant workers, especially through overcoming the Flexibility and Security Act, and to adopt greater protections in the event of dismissal or loss of employment.

Second, concerning the right to life, we noticed the rising trend in the use of euthanasia in the Netherlands, and have doubts on the effectiveness of the commissions tasked with monitoring the practice. APG23 recommends to the government to investigate possible abuse of access to euthanasia with independent, accurate and sufficiently detailed data collection and to adopt measures to better protect the right to life.

We appreciate the national effort reflected in the 2018 anti-trafficking plan that aims to identify the victims and implement local actions. Yet more improvements are needed, even considering the gender imbalances that lie behind it. In addition to sexual exploitation, human trafficking also takes place in economic social areas where victims are subject to employment under deplorable conditions. APG23 recommends the Government to welcome the European Parliament's resolution on sexual exploitation and prostitution, and adopt the Nordic legal model, as other European countries already did.

Thank you!