



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

# Human rights report 2019

*International human rights policy: activities and results*

Human rights report 2019 | Human rights report 2019 | Human rights report 2019 | Human rights report 2019 | Human rights report 2019 | Human rights report 2019



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# Foreword

The Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation and I are pleased to present this report on the Netherlands' worldwide human rights efforts in 2019 and the results achieved.

Towards the end of 2019 we saw the first signs of a virus that, over the next few months, would spread like wildfire across the world. The COVID-19 crisis has served as a litmus test, bringing social issues, including human rights, into sharper focus. People in a vulnerable position, such as journalists, LGBTI people, and women and girls, have faced noticeably greater hardships over the past few months. In the current climate it is only too clear that governments around the world need to continue their efforts to protect human rights.

It is the task of every government to work during this crisis to protect the right of its citizens to good health and decent living conditions. In doing so they must also protect and promote freedoms such as the right to information, freedom of expression and the right to privacy. After all, universal human rights and guarantees associated with the rule of law must also be upheld at times when societies are under pressure and face dilemmas. This is certainly true in the Netherlands, but the standards are an important guide for foreign policy as well. The free media and whistleblowing doctors, for example, play an important role in ensuring that information about an imminent pandemic is brought to light in good time. With human rights as their guiding principles, governments can not only guarantee individual freedoms, but also make more effective policy, based on clear frameworks and the exchange of knowledge and opinions. Because effective policy and public support go hand in hand.

This report provides a multifaceted picture of the government's efforts, pragmatically seeking the most effective way to increase respect for human rights, as I outlined in the [speech](#) I gave in Leiden on International Human Rights Day 2019. In practical terms, our commitment means that the Netherlands helps foster the creation of conditions and instruments that enable a country's people to take action themselves. The report therefore also outlines the efforts of the many stakeholders with which the Netherlands collaborates.

As in previous years, the human rights principles enshrined in international law and the associated multilateral institutions came under pressure in 2019. Authoritative publications by CIVICUS, Freedom House, World Justice

Project, International Service for Human Rights and Human Rights Watch show that there has been a downward trend for several years now. International political support for human rights cannot always be taken for granted. Journalists are being intimidated, threatened and even murdered. Human rights defenders are also being subjected to intimidation and violence. Independent, critical voices are being muted, even here in Europe. The same is true of civil society. Demonstrations and expressions of dissatisfaction are frequently harshly suppressed. Some governments seem increasingly disinclined to listen to those with dissenting voices. They consider themselves above the law, dismissing human rights – universal rights – as a Western invention, little more than an option, or even a hindrance to effective policy. Some have even used the COVID-19 crisis as an opportunity to restrict human rights and the rule of law beyond a level permissible by international standards.

There were also some positive signs last year. The revolution in Sudan and the peaceful transition in Algeria show that democratic change is still possible in countries that have long been subjected to authoritarian rule. Furthermore, in a growing number of countries, it is no longer a crime for adults of the same sex to love each other. And in a growing number of countries, people can officially change their gender identity if it differs from their birth certificate. Thanks in part to Dutch efforts, international progress has been made in collecting evidence of international crimes and prosecuting suspects. We have also taken major steps towards an EU system of sanctions targeting human rights violations. And many governments are working hard to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Achieving concrete social, economic and environmental goals means governments can simultaneously accomplish many of their human rights aims in these areas.

These positive developments provide us with support and motivation as we continue building a stronger and more effective foreign human rights policy – a process we began in 2017. Now and in the future, the Netherlands and its partners will stand up for human rights as a vital prerequisite for stability and development. After all, human rights are a necessary condition for freedom of thought, legal security, creativity, innovation and economic prosperity.

Over the past few weeks, many thousands of people have taken to the streets to demonstrate against racism. Together they have highlighted a number of deep wounds in our societies. They have raised their voices in protest against human rights violations. The unanimous endorsement of the importance of our universal rights strengthens this government's commitment to promoting human rights, both in the Netherlands and worldwide.

**Stef Blok**

Minister of Foreign Affairs

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# Introduction

*“All [Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo] wanted to do was to report the truth because they thought it was best for their country and the world”*

These words were spoken by Wa Lone’s brother, Thura Aung, who represented these two imprisoned journalists from Myanmar at the UNESCO World Press Freedom Conference in Addis Ababa (3 May 2019), where they won the 2019 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize. Four days later, both journalists were freed.

This statement reminds us that human rights should not be seen as personal aspirations but as a social good and a right. This transcends merely respecting freedom; it also relates to the stability and consensus required to improve how a country is structured. This example also illustrates the efforts of the international community to draw attention to situations in which human rights are under threat, and shows that international pressure can be effective.

But international pressure takes effort. Commitment levels are affected by geopolitical trends. In 2019, resistance to a multilateral approach persisted, with a number of countries focusing on a national or bilateral approach. More often than not, these were the same countries that are distancing themselves from the norm-based international order which has been built up over many years. However, we have also recently seen a number of initiatives to promote multilateralism, such as the Alliance for Multilateralism launched by Germany and France. In line with the motion submitted by MPs Lilianne Ploumen and Bram van Ojik (Parliamentary Paper 35 300 V, no. 34), the Netherlands wholeheartedly supported this initiative. The Netherlands has always regarded human rights as an issue that has an international and multilateral dimension. Not only are human rights a universal norm (as recognised in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and elaborated in many international instruments since then); violations are also a legitimate subject of international concern. In 2019 it again proved possible to mobilise international attention for human rights and to formulate joint statements.

## The picture in 2019: concerns and positive developments

People in many countries around the world experienced various negative developments. Governments sometimes attempted to silence journalists who criticised their actions. Journalists often paid the price with threats, attacks, arbitrary arrest and detention, and, in the worst cases,

forced disappearances or murder. According to Reporters without Borders (RSF), 941 journalists have been murdered in the past ten years. Around the world, believers, non-believers and dissenters have been disadvantaged, discriminated against and persecuted.

In 2019 the deaths of 304 human rights defenders were reported. Freedom of association, assembly and expression were severely restricted in over a hundred countries. Pressure on a free, open and secure internet further increased in 2019. Internet freedom declined worldwide, and social media was used to both monitor and influence populations through propaganda and misinformation.

But there were also positive developments. In many countries, civil society initiatives identified abuses, called governments to account, helped victims and, more generally, mobilised support in the pursuit of human rights. In some countries, such as in Sudan, protests led to the undermining of long-standing dictatorships.

Campaigns to free political prisoners also bore fruit. In a number of cases, human rights violators were held to account in a court of law. International organisations not only executed their mandates independently and drew attention to abuses, but also provided input aimed at improving government policy.

Other positive developments include the decriminalisation of homosexuality in Botswana and the extension of the mandate of the Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity in the UN Human Rights Council.

## Dutch policy

In its foreign policy, the Kingdom of the Netherlands has committed itself to promoting the international legal order. Respect for human rights is part of this. In the view of the Netherlands, standing up for human rights worldwide is not only an expression of solidarity and shared responsibility; it also serves the interests of the Netherlands itself and of order and security around the world. After all, respect for human rights elsewhere increases security, stability, prosperity and sustainable development at home.

A wide range of instruments are deployed as part of human rights policy. In the first decades following the end of the Second World War the focus was on setting standards. Various forums were used to establish treaties and guideli-

nes which are still applied today. This was followed by the development of supervisory mechanisms and finally by technical assistance to countries looking to improve their level of compliance. Voicing reservations about and making appraisals of other countries' policies, both in public and behind the scenes, is another of these instruments. However, it is ultimately up to the citizens of a country to shape their own society. Along with civil society organisations, they can benefit from having partners abroad and draw political support from international classifications and appraisals. In recent years, the Netherlands has focused on collaboration and projects to support our international partners in their efforts by sharing resources such as knowledge, logistics, processes, material support, institutional strengthening and manpower.

Offering strong pushback against negative trends and the narrative that goes with them, and amplifying positive developments will require unflagging efforts on our part and effective use of all the human rights instruments available to us. Against the backdrop of many challenges and negative developments, in 2017 the government decided to intensify Dutch human rights policy and introduce a clearer focus in its deployment (see Human rights report 2017, dated 28 May 2018 and the letter to parliament of 30 October 2018 on the intensification of human rights policy, Parliamentary Paper 32 735 V, no. 227).

Along with its financial and policy elements, this approach has also been shaped by the decision to devote more human resources worldwide to promoting equal rights for LGBTI people, the position of journalists, the freedom of religion and belief, and to strengthening civil society (letter to parliament of 8 October 2018 on the expansion and strengthening of diplomatic representation, Parliamentary Paper 32 734 V, no. 32). The current six human rights policy priorities – freedom of expression and internet freedom, freedom of religion and belief, equal rights for women and girls, human rights defenders, equal rights for LGBTI people, and promoting the international legal order and tackling impunity – remain at the forefront of Dutch foreign human rights policy.

Human rights policy is carried out against a backdrop of global, regional and local factors that each have their own dynamics and shape the conditions for progress or setbacks. In parallel with specific human rights policies, the government thus continues to address other major contemporary challenges within the context of international cooperation. The government takes a comprehensive perspective, informed by the human-security based approach of the Integrated International Security Strategy and the human-rights based approach of the Policy Document on Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation (BHOS), in combination with international human rights policy. Given the

important role of human rights in BHOS policy, this subject is examined in a separate chapter to the thematic chapters, which also deals with human rights aspects of security policy. The government has received an advisory report from the Advisory Council on International Affairs on the nexus between human rights policy and BHOS policy, based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); a response is being prepared.

### Finance

The Human Rights Fund is available for financing the six priority areas.

The Human Rights Fund was given an extra €36.2 million in 2018; €7.4 million of this amount was budgeted for 2018, and €9.6 million in subsequent years. Part of the extra money is being spent centrally, from The Hague, and part of it through the diplomatic missions. A new round of grants from the Human Rights Fund was launched on 1 April 2019 for the portion that is to be allocated centrally, leading to the commitment of €23 million for projects submitted within the framework of the prioritised policy themes. An additional €1.5 million has been made available for the period 2019-2021 under the Human Rights Small-scale Activities Fund to provide funding for projects with a budget of €100,000 to €200,000.

In geographical terms the focus is on countries where the need is greatest and where the Netherlands can make a difference. This is done through multilateral organisations and civil society organisations. In accordance with the motion submitted by MPs Sven Koopmans and Martijn van Helvert (Parliamentary Paper 32 735 V, no. 217), the policy has been tightened and, with a few relevant exceptions, new projects are no longer being implemented in OECD countries where the rule of law is fully functioning. One such exception is the support given to projects carried out via organisations that are based in OECD countries but have a global reach. Examples include the Protecting Belief Fund and the Dignity for all: LGBTI Assistance Program, based in Washington. This is highlighted in the explanatory notes to the financial annexe as well as in the letter to parliament dated 14 November 2019 containing answers to questions raised in the budget debate (answer to question 2 put by Mr Koopmans).

### Government-wide policy

Dutch efforts were again supported and propagated by the entire government in 2019. For example, in his speech at the opening of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 24 September, His Majesty the King outlined the country's commitment in clear terms: he defended, among other things, freedom of religion and belief, and equal rights for lesbian, gay and transgender people and other minority communities. Members of the government also showed

their commitment, raising human rights issues both in bilateral meetings and in multilateral forums and public appearances. Examples include Prime Minister Mark Rutte's appearance at a meeting on the glorification of terrorism in relation to freedom of expression, held in the margins of the opening of the UNGA, following the attacks in Christchurch, New Zealand on 15 March 2019; the speech by Minister of Foreign Affairs Stef Blok at Leiden University on International Human Rights Day; the speeches by Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Sigrid Kaag at the Human Rights Council and at the summit marking the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development; the contribution by Minister of Social Affairs and Employment Wouter Koolmees to a conference in Leiden celebrating 100 years of the ILO, in which he stressed the importance of safe working conditions; the kick-off by Minister of Education Ingrid van Engelshoven, alongside Utrecht's Mayor Jan van Zanen and the Human Rights Ambassador, to the campaign to end violence against women (Orange the World); and the initiative launched by Minister Van Engelshoven at the Grote Kerk in Dordrecht on 14 March 2019 on the occasion of the Pink Ode to the Synod of Dort. This event was held in response to the publication of a Dutch version of the Nashville Statement, and was aimed at drawing attention to the importance of equal rights for and social acceptance of LGBTI people, especially in religious or ideological circles. As usual, human rights formed an integral part of the discussions held by Minister Blok and Minister Kaag during their numerous bilateral contacts; the same was true of the Prime Minister during his working visits to countries such as Vietnam and Indonesia. On the domestic front, the year was marked by the launch of a new National Action Plan on Human Rights by Raymond Knops, Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, on 12 December.

#### *Bilateral*

The members of the government raised specific human rights issues in almost all discussions with their counterparts. For example, with Indonesia about the Papuan people, with Saudi Arabia about imprisoned women's rights activists and journalists, with Poland about the rule of law, with Iran about imprisoned activist Nasrin Sotoudeh and freedom of religion, with Pakistan about blasphemy issues, with Mexico about women's rights, with South Africa about protecting farmers' land rights, with China about the position of the Uyghurs and with all EU member states about the need for a common EU human rights policy instrument.

Bilaterally, the embassies naturally play an essential role in the implementation of human rights policy. Indeed, two-thirds of the Human Rights Fund is spent through local partners of the embassies. The embassies are uniquely placed to assess the feasibility and enhance the effectiveness

of human rights initiatives in the local context. In 2019, eight embassies awarded a total of nine Human Rights Tulips to human rights defenders.

The Human Rights Ambassador also plays a key role in Dutch bilateral policy. In the first eight months of 2019 this position was filled by Mariët Schuurman; the role was then taken over by Bahia Tahzib-Lie. The ambassador is best positioned to express the Netherlands' concerns about specific human rights situations and explore opportunities for cooperation with other countries. Countries visited by the ambassador in 2019 include Niger, Afghanistan, Egypt, Cuba, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Pakistan. At multilateral level, she visited Brussels, Geneva, New York and Warsaw. She also participated in an event marking the International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT) in Berlin, in conferences on women's rights and in the OSCE's Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM).

In September 2019, in accordance with the wishes of the House of Representatives, Jos Douma was appointed Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion and Belief, thus expanding the available instruments. His function and tasks are outlined in chapter 2.

#### *Multilateral*

In 2019, multilateral institutions such as the UN, the EU (see the separate text box below), the Council of Europe and the OSCE again proved vital in the implementation of human rights policy. The UN Human Rights Council and the General Assembly's Third Committee are also important forums for the Kingdom of the Netherlands when it comes to achieving results in its priority areas. The Netherlands is working to enhance the effectiveness and legitimacy of these forums, for instance by ensuring that civil society organisations have input, and by actively supporting the work of the special rapporteurs and independent experts. In 2019 the Kingdom of the Netherlands welcomed the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief and the Special Rapporteur on racism. The Kingdom also presented its national report on compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to the treaty-based body in Geneva.

#### **UN Human Rights Council**

In October 2019, the Kingdom of the Netherlands was elected, for the fourth time, to the UN Human Rights Council. From 1 January 2020 for the next three years, the country will participate in discussions determining the issues on which the Council will make decisions and how UN instruments will be further developed. Here too, the Netherlands will be able to promote its six priority areas. In accordance with the motion submitted by MP Sjoerd Sjoerdsma (Parliamentary Paper 35 300 V, no. 33), this includes press freedom, the rights of LGBTI people and the



protection of religious minorities, including non-believers and dissenting voices.

The strength and credibility of the Human Rights Council depend to a large extent on its composition. With membership comes the responsibility to respect and promote human rights at home and a willingness to report on the situation in this regard. However, individual members apply different standards. To improve the quality of Council membership, the Kingdom of the Netherlands would like candidate members to be required to present themselves to the UNGA, in accordance with the model used to elect the UN Secretary-General. The Kingdom of the Netherlands also wants departing Council members to account for their contribution to the promotion of human rights worldwide and in their own countries. It is also important that more countries become candidates for membership of the Human Rights Council. Approximately 90 countries have never been members of the Council, primarily small island states and developing countries. At the end of 2018 the Netherlands and the United Kingdom set up a contact group to promote the importance of membership widely to other countries. Under the auspices of the contact group, during its current membership the Netherlands will seek to invite at least three countries to stand for election to the Council. This approach also reflects the implementation of the Ploumen/Van Ojik motion (Parliamentary Paper 35 300 V, no. 35).

Country-specific mechanisms are also important. One element of the Netherlands' efforts is to prevent disproportionate attention being paid in the UN to just one country. This applies to the UN Human Rights Council's agenda item 7, which relates to Israel. This does not alter the government's view that there should be room in the UN to voice justified criticism of the actions of member states.

The Netherlands supports the efforts of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to initiate discussions of human rights abuses. In 2019 both foreign minister Stef Blok and foreign trade and development cooperation minister Sigrid Kaag discussed the country's cooperation with the High Commissioner. The talks covered the efforts made by the Netherlands to put human rights on the agenda, including dossiers such as the trial of ISIS fighters; the situation in Yemen and Venezuela; the SDGs; partnerships with and opportunities for civil society; and our shared agenda on equal rights for women and girls, and LGBTI people. The Netherlands is one of the largest donors to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

## EU, Council of Europe, OSCE, bilateral partnerships and alternative coalitions

In 2019 the European Union once again proved to be an essential channel for the Netherlands in its efforts to achieve its human rights policy objectives. Despite internal differences of opinion, the EU managed to take a clear stance in the UN Human Rights Council against human rights violations, and to actively contribute to Council resolutions important to the Netherlands. The EU perspective is further explained in a text box below.

The Council of Europe also provided opportunities to promote Dutch human rights priorities, including in the dialogue between the Committee of Ministers and Commissioner for Human Rights Dunja Mijatović, in which, among other issues, the Netherlands stressed the importance of freedom of expression, combating domestic violence and violence against women, and the role of human rights defenders. The Netherlands used the forum of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to join with like-minded countries in drawing attention to freedom of religion and belief, freedom of expression (both online and offline), protecting human rights defenders, and violations of LGBTI people's human rights. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) again provided a valuable forum for Dutch efforts to promote freedom of the press and safety for journalists. The Netherlands also began preparing for the annual UNESCO conference in support of press freedom. The planned 22-24 April 2020 date proved impossible due to the COVID-19 crisis and the conference will now be held in The Hague in the autumn.

Both the Netherlands and the EU are keen to consolidate existing bilateral partnerships, such as those with the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada and Latin American countries. At the same time, we recognise the importance of being open to new partnerships. The Netherlands has already taken steps in this direction, as witness its involvement in the Freedom Online Coalition, the International Contact Group on Freedom of Religion or Belief and the Equal Rights Coalition (LGBTI rights). In 2019 the Netherlands forged new partnerships with organisations such as the US-initiated International Religious Freedom Alliance and the Media Freedom Coalition – marked by a conference in London – with the Netherlands joining the executive group. In addition to engaging in this kind of intergovernmental cooperation, the Netherlands also aims to strengthen the involvement of partners in business, cities and academia. Innovation and strategic partnerships are the only way to anchor human rights in all sectors of society.

## Results

The Netherlands' more focused efforts are already leading to visible results. In 2019 the Netherlands succeeded in helping

to safeguard privacy in the fight against online hate speech, strengthening the capacity and reach of independent media, encouraging dialogue on sensitive issues associated with religion, taking a leading role in the drafting and ratification of the Human Rights Council resolution on child marriage, enhancing the visibility and legitimacy of human rights defenders and civil society organisations, and supporting LGBTI interest groups in the battle for equal rights. The Netherlands also promoted the investigation and prosecution of international crimes carried out in Iraq, Yemen, Myanmar, Syria and other countries, and joined initiatives to keep situations in specific countries, such as Eritrea and China (and particularly Xinjiang), on the international agenda. In relation to the latter country, the Netherlands endorsed a joint letter with a number of other countries to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as a joint statement to the UNGA's Third Committee.

### Reader's guide

This report gives an overview of the government's main international human rights activities and their results in 2019. It has a thematic, result-oriented focus on the six priorities of the Netherlands' international human rights policy: freedom of expression and internet freedom, freedom of religion and belief, equal rights for women and girls, human rights defenders, equal rights for LGBTI people, and the international legal order and the fight against impunity.

The Netherlands' work in multilateral organisations (the UN, EU, Council of Europe, OSCE and international courts and tribunals), as well as in specific regions and countries, is informed by this thematic focus. Inspiring examples of bilateral and multilateral activities and results are set out in the report by policy theme. It also includes the efforts of the Human Rights Ambassador. The report explains in both the main text and the annexe how parliamentary motions and related undertakings have been incorporated.

Given the particular commitment to human rights and the rule of law in the EU, a separate section on this body has been included. There are also separate sections containing examples of projects and addressing the work of the Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion and Belief, the World Press Freedom Conference and human rights and business. The thematic priorities are followed by a chapter on the human rights dimensions of two specific areas of Dutch foreign policy: BHOS policy, in light of the human rights approach enshrined in the BHOS policy document 'Investing in Global Prospects', and security policy. In accordance with the undertaking given to the House of Representatives during the meeting of November 2016 between the foreign minister and the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, the report

includes an annexe with an extensive overview of expenditure on human rights projects, broken down by policy priority and by country. Besides cataloguing spending from the Human Rights Fund, the overview includes other sources of funding for human rights projects, including both the foreign affairs budget and the foreign trade and development cooperation (BHOS) budget.

## European Union

### *Human rights*

In April 2019, former Irish Deputy Prime Minister Eamon Gilmore took over from Stavros Lambrinidis as EU Special Representative for Human Rights (EUSR). The Netherlands welcomes the amendment to the new EUSR's mandate putting greater emphasis on humanitarian law and international criminal law, which underlines the EU's political, diplomatic and financial support for the International Criminal Court. The EUSR also actively called for more African countries to join the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (so far this organisation only has nine members).

Gilmore's first term as EUSR saw the relaunch of the human rights dialogue with the US; this dialogue had not taken place since 2015. Although the discussions confirmed policy differences in a number of areas, including views on the death penalty and women's sexual and reproductive health rights, it also identified opportunities for enhanced cooperation. Examples include a focus on political prisoners, support for human rights defenders, the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action - the UN blueprint for women's rights signed by 189 member states in 1995 - cooperation in third countries and child labour. The discussions provided an opportunity as well to harmonise the EU and US stances towards third countries including China, Cuba, Ethiopia, Iran, Myanmar, Sudan and Venezuela. The EUSR also led human rights dialogues on behalf of the EU with the African Union, Belarus, Brazil, Colombia, the Gambia, Myanmar, South Africa and a delegation from Taiwan.

During the High-Level Segment of the 74th UN General Assembly, the EUSR represented the EU at the meetings on 'The Global Call to Protect Religious Freedom', 'Ending Hate Speech against LGBT People in Social and Traditional Media', 'Violence against Women' and 'Freedom of Expression versus Incitement to Hatred'. His choice of themes illustrates the close interconnection between the EU's human rights policy and Dutch human rights priorities. The EU has for example great added value in the fight against the death penalty. The Netherlands itself continues to defend its principled position against the death penalty as part of its six thematic priorities, such as equal rights for LGBTI people, freedom of expression and freedom of religion and belief. The EU's added value is due to strength in numbers; a joint condemnation of human rights violations from the EU has a greater impact than statements by individual countries.

The Netherlands for this reason actively intervenes to promote the EU's pursuit of the most ambitious possible aims in UN human rights forums, the Council of Europe and the OSCE. Major manifestations of the EU's role are the annual Council conclusions on EU priorities in UN human rights forums, the EU's statements under agenda item 4 of the Human Rights Council on human rights situations that most require the Council's attention, and the EU interventions at the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meetings, at the weekly meetings of the OSCE Permanent Council and in the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. Thanks in part to Dutch efforts, the worrying human rights situations in China, Egypt, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Venezuela and other countries were consistently and robustly addressed at the UN in 2019. The EU was also the driving force behind Human Rights Council resolutions on, for example, Iran, Myanmar, North Korea, Syria and freedom of religion and belief.

The Dutch priority area 'human rights defenders' also frequently featured on the EU agenda. The Finnish Presidency played a leading role here, for example by including a meeting with human rights defenders on the agenda of the informal Foreign Affairs Council meeting in Helsinki in August. The Netherlands supported this move by Finland. The way is clear to step up EU engagement in 2020 and beyond, thus ensuring that support for human rights defenders is clearly situated within the broader context of preserving and strengthening civil society space. The importance of civil society and support for human rights defenders was also emphasised, partly at the Netherlands' initiative, in Council conclusions supporting democracy beyond the EU's borders, with the Union stressing its continued commitment to democracy in a rapidly changing world.<sup>1</sup>

In December the Council underscored once more the central position of human rights in the EU's foreign policy. Presided over by newly appointed High Representative Josep Borrell, on 9 December the Foreign Affairs Council at the Netherlands' request discussed human rights at length. High Representative Borrell highlighted the Union's

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/10/14/democracy-eu-adopts-conclusions/>.

global impact on human rights and the considerable efforts still to be made. He announced the launch in 2020 of a new Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy, which includes enhanced support for human rights defenders and a stronger commitment to gender equality. The Netherlands took the opportunity to set out the results of the seventh edition of the Istanbul Process, the international conference to promote tolerance in the field of freedom of religion and belief, which had been held in The Hague in November. In accordance with the motion submitted by MPs Bram van Ojik and Lilianne Ploumen (Parliamentary Paper 35300 V no. 20), the Netherlands also called for increased support for peaceful protest movements.

As a denouement, the Council took a position on the EU global human rights sanctions regime initiated by the Netherlands. The considerable political efforts by the Netherlands throughout the year yielded a broad consensus on establishing this regime. This led High Representative Borrell to announce that the European External Action Service (EEAS) will initiate the necessary legislative process (see the motions submitted by MPs Pieter Omtzigt et al. (Parliamentary Paper 22 112 V, no. 2529) and by MP Sjoerd Sjoerdsma (Parliamentary Paper 35300 V, no. 32)). The government is continuing to work actively towards the regime's rapid inauguration and to this end is in frequent contact with EU member states and the EEAS.

The EU's commitment to promoting human rights also extends to trade and development cooperation. For example, respect for human rights plays an important role in the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP), a conditional trading scheme that gives EU tariff preferences to developing countries. In cases of serious and systematic violations of labour and human rights, the EU may, temporarily, withdraw trade benefits. On 12 February 2019, the EU initiated a withdrawal procedure against Cambodia under its 'Everything But Arms' (EBA) trade scheme due to serious violations of political and civil rights. The eventual decision to withdraw highlights the tensions in the system between stimulating economic growth through trade benefits and promoting human rights through conditionalities. Although the European Commission tries to cushion the socioeconomic impact of the withdrawal of benefits motivated by human rights violations, it inevitably has consequences. The Netherlands and like-minded member states have also been pressing for an EU Action Plan on Business and Human Rights based on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, building on the Agenda for Action on Business and Human Rights initiated by Finland.

#### *Rule of law*

The government's constitutional duty to promote the development of the international legal order, within the EU and elsewhere, requires an active and ambitious approach and commitment to the rule of law as part of the EU's fundamental values. In response to recently emerging problems pertaining to the rule of law in a number of member states, the government favours strengthening the EU's rule of law instruments. Besides the use of existing instruments such as the Article 7 procedure, the 2014 Framework for the Rule of Law and case law of the European Court of Justice, the government therefore welcomes the Commission's initiative, announced in 2019, to establish an annual review cycle on the rule of law. This reflects the great importance of early identification of certain developments that could jeopardise the principles on which the democratic rule of law is based. A constructive dialogue should make it possible to find solutions and thus prevent escalation. The Netherlands has already sent its written submission to the Commission for the first annual report. It shared this submission with both houses of the States General on 20 May 2020. The government is looking forward to discussing the report in the General Affairs Council later this year under German Presidency.

The Netherlands is also making financial resources available to Dutch embassies in the member states concerned to support civil society organisations that help uphold the rule of law. Our focus is on people-to-people and profession-to-profession contacts, raising public awareness of the importance of democracy and the rule of law, and supporting initiatives in support of investigative and high-quality journalism. Our increased efforts in support of democracy and the rule of law in the member states concerned reflect a tailored approach rather than major financial commitments. So far, the extra resources have proved sufficient to meet the local demand for support.

In this connection, the government also welcomes the new EU Justice, Rights and Values Fund as part of the multiannual financial framework for 2021-2027. The government believes that this Fund and its two funding programmes have the potential to help strengthen and defend EU values, promote respect for the rule of law and safeguard the open, democratic and inclusive societies we favour.

# 1 Freedom of expression and internet freedom

## 1.1 Freedom of expression and safety for journalists

### Introduction

A free and diverse media landscape is essential in any democratic society. Free media can research and share information with the general public, enabling citizens to make informed choices, to assess and control their individual situations and thus take an active role in society. A free press and active civil society play an essential role in guaranteeing the public's right to information, thus ensuring that governments and institutions can be held to account. The promotion of press freedom and media diversity are therefore crucial to safeguarding freedom of expression.

Journalists, who play an indispensable role of in safeguarding freedom of expression, are under pressure around the world, with governments at times attempting to silence journalists who scrutinise their actions too closely. Journalists may be the victims of threats, attacks, detention and even disappearances or murder. According to Reporters without Borders (RSF), 941 journalists have been murdered over the past 10 years. The number of journalists imprisoned for doing their job, for simply covering the news, continues to rise every year. At the beginning of December 2019, 389 journalists were under arrest worldwide. Almost half of these imprisoned journalists (186 of the 389) were being held in three countries: China, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.<sup>2</sup>

Journalists need a safe environment in which to do their work. Ensuring this necessitates protecting journalists and fighting impunity for acts of violence against them. Freedom of expression and the safety of journalists are a priority area in Dutch human rights policy. In 2019 the government's enhanced policy focus on this priority, which it initiated in 2017, took shape with an increase in its policy and financial commitments. For example, the government has financed additional UNESCO projects focusing on the safety of journalists, the Netherlands will host the annual World Press

Freedom Conference in 2020 and it is a member of the core group of countries on the Human Rights Council in Geneva that initiates decision-making processes on freedom of expression.

### Activities and results

#### Bilateral

The Netherlands has frequently highlighted the importance of freedom of expression in its bilateral relations. In July 2019, foreign minister Stef Blok addressed the Media Freedom Conference in London. He stressed the importance of a free press and identified good journalism as a component of good governance. 'Where there is debate, democracy flourishes. Where views clash, the truth emerges. In all this, journalists play a central role,' he stated. The conference launched the Media Freedom Coalition, which the Netherlands joined. The Media Freedom Coalition is a partnership of countries working together to advocate for freedom of the media, enhance journalists' safety and hold to account those who threaten their safety. All members of the Coalition have signed the Global Pledge on Media Freedom,<sup>3</sup> which commits them to taking concerted action to defend both media freedom and the safety of journalists worldwide. The Netherlands has taken on an active role within the Executive Group, contributing ideas to the Coalition's strategy.

Likewise, the Human Rights Ambassador discusses freedom of expression with government officials and local journalists during visits to other countries. During a visit to Pakistan in October 2019, the Ambassador stressed the broad scope of freedom of expression both online and offline, and the importance of journalists' safety. She expressed particular concern about the online harassment of female journalists. She also met with journalists.

At bilateral level, embassies were also active on this issue. In Colombia, journalists and media organisations self-censor for fear of retaliation for the subjects they report on: businesses, armed groups, corrupt local politicians or the

<sup>2</sup> [https://rsf.org/sites/default/files/rsf\\_2019\\_en.pdf](https://rsf.org/sites/default/files/rsf_2019_en.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/global-pledge-on-media-freedom/global-pledge-on-media-freedom>.



Foreign minister Stef Blok at the Media Freedom Conference

police. Colombia has witnessed a significant increase in the number of threats against journalists. The Netherlands supports the Foundation for Press Freedom (FLIP) which founded the League Against Silence. This independent media initiative reports stories left untold by traditional media due to self-censorship and generates collaboration between various media, enabling them to investigate and jointly publish reports and thus reduce their level of risk. In 2019, for example, the League carried out research into sexual harassment in the women's national football team and published the results. This initiative is unique in Latin America and represents an important step in the fight against censorship.

#### Multilateral

Multilaterally, too, the Netherlands champions freedom of expression and voices its opposition to violence against journalists. For example, the Netherlands and Canada issued a joint statement in the Human Rights Council expressing their concern about violations of freedom of expression, in particular the discrimination and violence experienced by female journalists during their work, both online and offline.<sup>4</sup> Every year, the Netherlands also actively promotes strong UN resolutions on the safety of journalists.

#### UNESCO

As a UN organisation, UNESCO's mandate includes freedom of the media, access to information and the safety of journalists. UNESCO has the lead role in the UN Plan of

Action on the Safety of Journalists and works with governments worldwide in this domain. Through the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), UNESCO finances projects on media development, journalists' safety, access to information and gender inequality in the media. Through the IPDC, in 2019 the Netherlands contributed to UNESCO's work in Mali, Burundi, the Palestinian Territories and Yemen. As a result of UNESCO's efforts in these countries, national reporting on journalists' safety and on impunity for crimes against them has improved, and the capacity of organisations responsible for reporting crimes against journalists has been strengthened. Thanks in part to Dutch contributions, the IPDC has been able to increase public access to information in Indonesia, Mongolia, Rwanda and Latin America.

At the High-Level Political Forum in New York in July, the Netherlands and UNESCO organised a meeting on SDG 16, and specifically on goal 16.10: ensuring public access to information. The Netherlands stressed that good legislation does not automatically lead to access to information. This often requires an internet connection, for example, while approximately half the world's population does not currently have internet access, due in part to a gender gap. In keeping with the SDG motto 'Leave no one behind', the Netherlands is striving to promote universal, permanent access to information, both online and offline.

#### OSCE

The Netherlands also plays an active role in the OSCE; it is, for example, a member of the Group of Friends on Safety of Journalists. In collaboration with the Group of Friends, the

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/40th-hrc-joint-statement-freedom-expression.pdf>

Netherlands organised an event during the Human Dimension Implementation Meetings (HDIM) on digital safety for journalists. Special emphasis was placed on sharing best practices and making practical recommendations for further action. At the plenary session, the Human Rights Ambassador read out a national statement on the importance of freedom of expression, both online and offline, and on the safety of journalists, particularly female journalists online.

### Council of Europe

The Human Rights Fund has contributed financially to the Council of Europe's platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists. This platform was set up to bring infringements of media freedom and threats to journalists' safety to light more quickly and to take action to protect them. It is worth noting that in 2019 the Netherlands itself was the subject of two alerts by the platform: one in relation to a bill making it an offence to travel to areas under the control of terrorist groups, and the other concerning an NOS reporter being held hostage.

As part of the monitoring by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe of the implementation of European Court of Human Rights judgments, the Netherlands intervened in the case *Oya Ataman v. Turkey* concerning a violation of the right to freedom of assembly and freedom of peaceful demonstration, involving the prosecution of demonstrators and the use of excessive force to break up

peaceful demonstrations. The Netherlands called on Turkey to bring its legislation into line with the Court's ruling, and warned of the pernicious effect on a democratic society of violently dispersing peaceful demonstrations or subjecting participants to criminal prosecution.

### Partners

#### Free Press Unlimited

Through a strategic partnership with the Dutch organisation Free Press Unlimited (FPU), the Netherlands is working to create a safe working environment for journalists. The partnership embraces a holistic and inclusive concept of safety, addressing journalists' physical, psychosocial, digital and legal safety. Safety concerns are often context-specific, so all programmes and solutions are based on the specific needs of the organisations and people concerned.

The Justice & Safety programme was set up in September 2018 in accordance with a motion submitted by MP Sjoerd Sjoerdsma (Parliamentary Paper 34775 V, no. 26). It established an emergency fund protecting journalists worldwide. The programme includes the Legal Defense Fund, which provides support to journalists who have been charged or arrested but cannot afford to pay for legal aid. Since its inception, the Fund has provided assistance to 173 media professionals. With the support of the Dutch embassy, for example, FPU helped a Tanzanian journalist who was indicted for leading organised crime and corruption



Meeting on access to information at the High-Level Political Forum in New York

activities. The charges were allegedly brought against him because he had published documents which did not always reflect well on the government.

The programme is also working on a project to provide journalists with affordable accident and evacuation insurance. A pilot project was set up in Central America to insure 90 journalists from the region. The programme focuses particularly on the safety of female journalists in response to the specific threats they face. To this end FPU is developing a special training programme tackling these threats, in line with the motion submitted by MPs Bram van Ojik and Lilianne Ploumen on the protection of female journalists (Parliamentary Paper 32735 V, no. 264).

In 2019 FPU assisted 101 journalists from its Reporters Respond emergency fund, established by FPU in 2011 with Dutch support. It helps media professionals deal with violence, intimidation and threats, both online and offline, to resume their work as soon as possible. In the past year the fund contributed to travel costs, living expenses, digital or physical security and psychological help. For example, FPU supported a journalist from the Democratic Republic of the Congo who had faced protracted threats and whose publications had been confiscated. Dutch journalists working abroad are also eligible for support from both programmes.

The Human Rights Ambassador gave a keynote speech at the Free Press Live Awards and presented the ‘most resilient journalist award’ to photo journalist Ali Arkady (Iraq).

### RNW

Another partner that the Netherlands works closely with is Radio Netherlands Worldwide (RNW) Media, an organisation building digital communities for social change. RNW Media is active in a dozen countries. It is committed to a world in which young people can exercise their rights, claim their rightful place in society and thus shape a better future. It uses digital platforms – websites, WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other social media channels – to bring young people together. – With 44 million website page views and 2 billion social media impressions, these platforms give young people access to information and offer them a safe place for constructive dialogue. RNW Media has two global programmes: ‘Love Matters’ dealing with sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and ‘Citizens’ Voice’ dealing with democracy and good governance.

In 2019, the Habari DRC team set up a campaign dealing with sexual intimidation in universities across the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The campaign organised various online activities, such as the publication of articles and video testimonials, as well as offline debates involving approximately 250 students, policymakers and human rights activists. The campaign resonated with many young women and gave them the opportunity to speak out. As a result of these



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activities, Habari DRC was invited to work with the Ministry of Gender and Justice to contribute to a new policy on sexual harassment at universities.

The Human Rights Ambassador spoke at an event entitled 'Access Denied: Click to Claim your Civic Space' organised by RNW Media in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the importance of digital rights and safety for journalists and human rights defenders.

### **ARTICLE 19 and IFEX**

The Netherlands also works with ARTICLE 19 and the global NGO network IFEX, two organisations that aim to influence national and international policy. IFEX advocates internationally for the protection of journalists. In 2019 it collected information from various member organisations, enabling it to contribute to various international reports on journalists' safety and impunity for violence against them. It also successfully encouraged several UN member states to co-sponsor the resolution on the safety of journalists and advised them to address the concerns of IFEX members in the text of the resolution. These efforts dovetailed with Dutch efforts to produce a strongly-worded resolution.

## World Press Freedom Conference 2020

In autumn 2020, UNESCO and the Kingdom of the Netherlands will co-host the annual World Press Freedom Conference (WPFC).<sup>5</sup> It will take place in the World Forum in The Hague, international city of peace and justice. The conference will bring together journalists, media organisations, policymakers and NGOs. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it is unfortunately likely that the majority of the conference participants will be unable to travel to The Hague. In order to do justice to the importance of the subject, the Conference will take place in an innovative format, with a large digital component enabling global online participation.

The theme of WPFC 2020 is 'Journalism without Fear or Favour'.<sup>6</sup> WPFC seeks above all to promote the importance of standing up for a free and independent media and of protecting journalism from new and tenacious forms of control. With the independence and freedom of the media still under attack in many countries, this issue is now more timely than ever. The aim of the conference is to ensure that journalists can work freely and independently, now and in the future. Three topics are central:

1. Editorial independence and media in the service of power
2. Diversity and inclusion in the media
3. Independent journalism and media in the digital age

WPFC 2020 puts these issues on the global agenda. It inspires, informs, mobilises and calls on all stakeholders – governments, journalists and the media, the legal and judicial sector, internet companies, civil society, academic institutions and young people – to contribute to positive change.

The conference will take place in The Hague, a city expressly committed to international peace and justice, and will include the WPFC's first-ever legal forum. This primarily online forum will allow judges, prosecutors and lawyers to exchange ideas and best practices on specific issues related to the protection of freedom of expression in general and freedom of the press in particular, based on their global, regional and national experiences.

Because of the unforeseeable developments surrounding COVID-19, the organisers are still considering whether to hold a ministerial meeting in the margins of the conference, either virtually or in-person, to be hosted by Mr Blok, on the safety of journalists and impunity for violence against them. If this meeting goes ahead, participating countries will be invited to endorse a commitment document aimed at enhancing journalists' safety.

<sup>5</sup> The conference was originally scheduled to take place on 22-24 April 2020 but had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 epidemic.

<sup>6</sup> Phrase coined by Adolph S. Ochs, founder of the New York Times. When he bought the newspaper in 1896 his stated goal was for the newspaper to 'give the news impartially... regardless of party, sect, or interests involved'. He laid this goal down in a statement of principles. Since then the expression has become synonymous with an independent and impartial press.

## 1.2 Internet freedom

### Introduction

In 2019 pressure on the model of an open, free and secure internet continued to grow. Internet freedom declined worldwide and social media were used to both monitor and influence domestic populations through propaganda and spurious reporting.<sup>7</sup> Censorship, internet shutdowns, hacking and online espionage were typical of the methods used to hinder human rights defenders and civil society in their work.<sup>8</sup> The Netherlands supports an open, free and secure internet. The protection and promotion of human rights online is anchored within Dutch human rights policy and international cyber policy (Parliamentary Paper 26643 V, no. 447). The Netherlands regards security and freedom, both online and offline, not as conflicting, but as complementary interests. Universal human rights apply both offline and online; protecting these rights in the latter domain demands particular emphasis on freedom of expression, freedom to gather information, privacy and the protection of personal data.

### Artificial Intelligence and human rights

In October, the government presented its vision on artificial intelligence to the House of Representatives.<sup>9</sup> This Artificial Intelligence (AI) strategy encompasses three tracks: capitalising on social and economic opportunities, creating the right prerequisites, and strengthening the foundations. The protection of public values and human rights is central to the third track. For example, the prohibition of discrimination can be infringed due to bias in underlying data, bias in an algorithm or errors in classification. This could, for example, lead to unjustified differentiation between men and women.

Privacy may be infringed if the processing of personal data does not meet the requirements of fairness and transparency as set out in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Privacy issues play a role in areas such as facial recognition technology, big data and techniques which use secondary data to gather personal data. The Netherlands promotes its AI strategy in the EU, the Council of Europe

and UNESCO. For example, human rights and public values are central to the AI strategy being developed by the European Commission. The Netherlands is also working on a human rights impact assessment for AI and system principles for non-discrimination. This policy is very much in line with the Commission's AI strategy.

### Activities and results

#### Bilateral

##### Network shutdowns

In 2019 the Netherlands focused particularly on 'network shutdowns', a collective term to describe measures taken by governments to restrict access to and the functionality of the internet. Measures include shutting down parts of the internet, making websites and social media such as Facebook inaccessible or blocking messaging apps such as WhatsApp.

Because of the disruptive impact of these actions, the government has drawn up an instruction for Dutch embassies outlining the possible steps that missions can take in the event of a network shutdown in their country. Steps include approaching local and international actors such as governments, businesses and NGOs, and using possible press lines on shutdowns. This instruction was later shared with countries in the Freedom Online Coalition,<sup>10</sup> enabling joint action in the event of a shutdown.

#### Multilateral

##### Freedom Online Coalition

The Freedom Online Coalition was founded at the Netherlands' initiative in 2011. Members work together closely to advance respect for human rights on the internet worldwide. Switzerland joined the Coalition in 2019, bringing the total number of members to 31.

On 17 May 2019 the Freedom Online Coalition published a joint statement on 'Defending Civic Space Online'.<sup>11</sup> The statement expressed the Coalition's concern about shrinking online space for civil society and human rights defenders. It called on all stakeholders – governments, the private sector, international organisations and civil society organisations – to formulate a joint approach to remedy undue restriction of civic space by governments and businesses. It also called on governments to avoid using counterterrorism, national security, cybercrime and cybersecurity as a pretext to restrict human rights online.

<sup>7</sup> Every year, Freedom House publishes the Freedom on the Net Report. The 2019 report can be found here: <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-net/2019/crisis-social-media>.

<sup>8</sup> See Global Analysis 2019, Front Line Defenders, p. 22, [https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/sites/default/files/global\\_analysis\\_2019\\_web.pdf](https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/sites/default/files/global_analysis_2019_web.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> On 8 October 2019, the Strategic Action Plan for Artificial Intelligence (SAPAI) (Parliamentary Papers 26 643 and 32 761, no. 640), the letter 'Waarborgen tegen risico's van data-analyses door de overheid' ('Guarantees against the risks of data analyses by government') (Parliamentary Papers 26 643 and 32 761, no. 641) and the letter 'AI, public values and human rights' (26 643 and 32 761, no. 642) were presented to the House of Representatives.

<sup>10</sup> See under Multilateral.

<sup>11</sup> <https://freedomonlinecoalition.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/FOC-Joint-Statement-on-Defending-Civic-Space-Online.pdf>.

## Thailand - Concerns about new cyber legislation

In February 2019 Thailand adopted controversial cyber security legislation. The legislation grants the government and security services considerable power to guarantee online safety, without clearly demarcating this power or ensuring that individuals' [see MT entry for 'burger'] fundamental rights would continue to be protected. This puts a potential strain on freedom of expression.

With the support of the Human Rights Fund, the [BZ often uses 'lokaal' to mean 'in the country concerned'] Thai Manushya Foundation organised an expert meeting which led to a report presenting an overview of the risks posed by this legislation and made a number of specific recommendations. This was the first report of its kind in South-East Asia. Political parties have indicated that they will look into ways of using the recommendations to amend the statute.

### United Nations

In June 2019, the Netherlands issued a statement in the Human Rights Council drawing special attention to freedom of expression online. The Netherlands called on the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association to initiate discussions with the tech industry and reiterated its endorsement of the statement by the Freedom Online Coalition launched that week.

### RightsCon

In 2019 the Netherlands was well represented at the annual RightsCon summit in Tunisia. With robust panel contributions, the Netherlands confirmed its leading position in the field of human rights online. Topics of discussion included the future of international standards in cyberspace, ongoing negotiations in various UN forums and the work of the Freedom Online Coalition. The Netherlands also organised a workshop on the security challenges associated with financing human rights projects and on collaboration with human rights defenders.

### Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace

The Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace (GCSC) is a multi-stakeholder partnership involving governments, industry, civil society and academia. The GCSC was launched in 2017 during the Munich Security Conference, with the Netherlands committing to funding for three years. The Commission presented its final report<sup>12</sup>

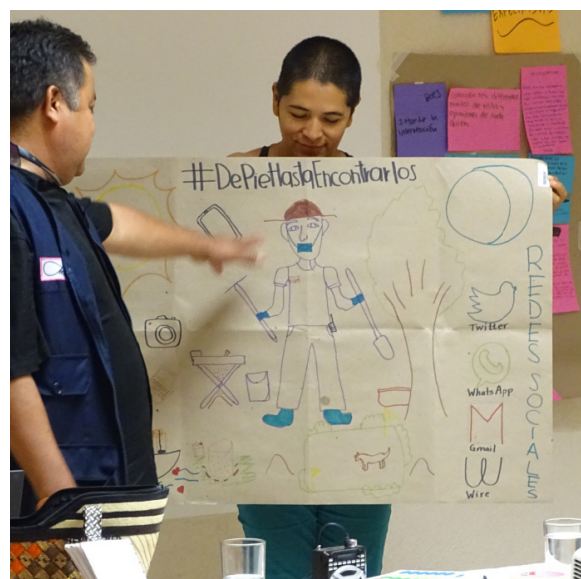
outlining a number of internet norms during the Paris Peace Forum in November 2019.

One important norm relates to the protection of the public core of the internet. This public core forms the backbone of the internet. In his speech accepting the report during the Paris Peace Forum, Mr Blok emphasised the importance of states respecting their commitment to protect online human rights.

### Christchurch Call

On 15 March 2019 the world was witness to a 17-minute livestream broadcast of a terrorist attack against two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand. 51 people were killed and 50 injured and the livestream was viewed some 4,000 times before being removed. Despite the measures taken to remove it, the video went viral on other sites and remains available on the web. The Christchurch attack demonstrated how difficult it is to keep terrorist material off the internet. In response, New Zealand and France launched the Christchurch Call: a call by states and businesses to work together to combat terrorist content online through effective legislation and new industry norms and standards. These standards must be consistent with the principles of an open, free and secure internet without compromising fundamental freedoms and human rights, including freedom of expression.

The Netherlands endorsed the Call at the time of its launch and stressed the importance of this initiative at the UN General Assembly in New York.



Human rights defenders identify their communication tools during a training course by Digital Defenders Partnership in Valles, Mexico.

<sup>12</sup> [www.cyberstability.org](http://www.cyberstability.org).

## Examples of projects

### *Digital Defenders Partnership*

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the Digital Defenders Partnership's biggest donor. This project (managed by the Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation (Hivos)) focuses on the digital security of human rights defenders and NGOs. Human rights defenders experiencing online threats also risk falling victim to defamation campaigns, legal charges or even physical attacks. To counter these, the Digital Defenders Partnership works closely with other NGOs such as Media Legal Defence Initiative, Virtualroad.org and Front Line Defenders to ensure greater security for human right defenders. In 2019 Digital Defenders Partnership and its strategic partners were able to offer support to over 8,000 individuals and 1,261 organisations.

This included material support, help in providing a safe digital working environment and developing tools so that individuals and organisations can protect themselves online.

Digital Defenders Partnership supports a team of seven Digital Integrity Fellows who in 2019 provided intensive training to 20 NGOs in the implementation of digital security measures.

The Digital Defenders Partnership also produced several resources, including a renewed and improved Digital First Aid Kit offering human rights defenders an online tool to protect themselves against digital attacks. It published a digital safety manual for diplomats and embassy staff instructing these people, who are in close contact with human rights defenders, how to do so safely in the online environment.

### *Online intimidation of female journalists*

As part of Human Rights Day 2019, the Dutch embassy in Belgium and Huis De Buren, a Flemish-Dutch cultural and debating centre, organised a meeting to draw attention to the online intimidation of female journalists. The event included a showing of the documentary *A Dark Place* and a panel discussion on this growing international problem.

## 2 Freedom of religion and belief

### Introduction

Around the world, believers, non-believers and dissenters have been disadvantaged, discriminated against and persecuted. Research carried out by the renowned Pew Research Center shows that government restrictions on freedom of religion and belief increased in the period 2007-2017.<sup>13</sup> Likewise, in 2017 atheists, agnostics and people who do not identify with any religion faced intimidation, violence and death threats by governments and others.<sup>14</sup>

This worrying development impelled the Netherlands in 2018, in accordance with the motion submitted by MPs Joël Voordewind et al. (Parliamentary Papers 33 694 V, no. 13 and 34 775 V, no. 29), to deepen its commitment to the right to freedom of religion and belief. We focus particularly on combating discrimination and persecution of vulnerable groups (Parliamentary Paper 32 735 V, no. 227).

Dutch efforts in defence of freedom of religion and belief are aimed at protecting the right of everyone to make their own religious or ideological choices (Parliamentary Paper 32 735V, no. 198). This includes the choice to convert to a different religion or to live without any religious or ideological conviction. The Netherlands makes no distinction between different religions or between theistic, non-theistic and atheistic beliefs. The Netherlands will therefore make equally great efforts to improve the situation of oppressed Christian minorities and of Muslims, Bahá'ís, non-believers or other groups vulnerable to persecution.

The Netherlands also makes a special effort to defend the rights of persons within religious communities vulnerable to human rights violations such as women, children and LGBTI people. It is unacceptable to the Netherlands that

these groups should be discriminated against or otherwise oppressed on the grounds of religious or traditional values.

The process we began in 2017 of enhancing our policy focus on freedom of religion and belief was given further shape in 2019 with an increased policy and financial commitment. Of the total € 36.2 million budget increase set aside in the current term of office, approximately € 11 million has been earmarked for projects related to freedom of religion and belief. This includes multiyear financial support pledged to the NGO Freedom House for its project Protecting Belief: a Rapid Response Fund for Religious Freedom and, in accordance with the amendment submitted by MP Kees van der Staaij (Parliamentary Paper 35 300 V, no. 13), € 750,000 to finance psychological and mental healthcare for both believers and non-believers persecuted for religious reasons.

These increased efforts include a number of new projects within the framework of the Human Rights Fund and, crucially, the organisation of the 'No Tolerance for Intolerance' conference in The Hague as the seventh meeting of the Istanbul Process. Furthermore, in September 2019 the Netherlands appointed a Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion and Belief responsible for putting the rights of believers and non-believers on the international agenda.

<sup>13</sup> Pew Research Center, 'How religious restrictions around the world have changed over a decade', 16 July 2019, <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/07/16/how-religious-restrictions-around-the-world-have-changed-over-a-decade/>.

<sup>14</sup> Pew Research Center, 'Religiously unaffiliated people face harassment in a growing number of countries', 12 Augustus 2019, <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/08/12/religiously-unaffiliated-people-face-harassment-in-a-growing-number-of-countries/>.

## Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion and Belief

In September 2019, in accordance with the motion submitted by MPs Martijn van Helvert et al., Jos Douma became the first Dutch Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion and Belief (Parliamentary Paper 35 000 V. no. 26). Since taking office, the Special Envoy has focused, firstly, on promoting the policy priority of freedom of religion and belief, including the right to apostasy or to change faith; secondly, on deepening and broadening knowledge within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and thirdly, on exchanging knowledge and building networks with stakeholders at home and abroad.

The Special Envoy participated in several conferences and seminars in Brussels, the Vatican City, Budapest and elsewhere. In September the Special Envoy and the Human Rights Ambassador attended the OSCE's Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw. At the meeting Mr Douma read out a statement on behalf of the EU about national minorities, and the Ambassador made a statement on behalf of the EU about freedom of religion and belief. The Special Envoy also established links with his EU counterparts. The United Kingdom, Sweden, Norway, France, Germany, Denmark, Hungary, Finland, Poland, Latvia and the Czech Republic all have either special envoys or ambassadors for religion and belief or for interreligious processes.

The Special Envoy chaired and moderated the No Tolerance for Intolerance conference held by the Netherlands in The Hague in November as part of the Istanbul Process. He then hosted the International Contact Group on Freedom of Religion or Belief, facilitated by the Netherlands in The Hague. This informal body was established in 2015 to strengthen cooperation between like-minded countries in the field of freedom of religion and belief. The Netherlands has been an active participant in the group since its inception. Finally, he hosted the Transatlantic Policy Network on Religion and Diplomacy, in which diplomats and scholars deepen their common understanding of the interaction between religion and international developments. The Netherlands has been an active participant in the Network for a number of years and uses the insights gained to help shape its foreign policy.

One of the Special Envoy's major responsibilities is interaction with experts, interest groups and representatives of various faith and belief groups in the Netherlands and abroad. In 2019 he met with several Christian organisations and with representatives from the Dutch Humanist Association and the Bahá'í, Falun Gong and Ahmadyya Muslim communities. He also met with the Armenian Patriarch of Cilicia (Beirut), the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople and the Higher Presidential Committee of Churches Affairs in Palestine, and met with the Parliamentary Permanent Committee on Foreign Affairs to discuss his mandate.

Plans for 2020 include numerous country visits to, for example, India, Nigeria, China, Afghanistan, Algeria and Qatar. Many of these commitments were made in response to parliamentary questions or proposals from embassies and organisations, while others were made at the envoy's initiative. Travel restrictions due to the COVID crisis has led to postponements of several planned visits. The Special Envoy will continue to invest in the international network defending freedom of religion and belief. One contribution is the International Religious Freedom Alliance, established as a US initiative in February 2020.

Lastly, Parliament has been promised a report on the resources available to the Special Envoy to enable him to carry out his work (budget debate, 14 November 2019). The Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion and Belief has broad drawing rights, including on the budget of the Multilateral Organisations and Human Rights Department. His travel programme is partly funded from regional budgets.

## Activities and results

### Bilateral

#### Ministerial visits and diplomatic meetings

In July 2019 Mr Blok and the Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion and Belief took part in the second ministerial conference organised by the US in Washington to promote religious tolerance. Participants included over 1,000 civil society representatives, including religious leaders, and delegates of more than 100 governments. In remarks to the conference, Mr Blok emphasised the right to freedom of religion and belief, including the right not to believe, as a universal right.

The Netherlands also raised this issue in its bilateral contacts. In a meeting with his Chinese counterpart in June, Mr Blok expressed his concerns about freedom of religion and belief in China, especially for the Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities in Xinjiang. During his visit to Beijing in July, Prime Minister Rutte also touched on the legal position of religious and cultural minorities with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

Through the EU, the Netherlands has also specifically expressed concerns about the religious freedom of Jehovah's Witnesses in Russia, as well as about Russia's treatment of religious minorities in illegally annexed Crimea.

The Netherlands has expressed its concern as well about the fate of the Bahá'í minority in Yemen, where they are detained and oppressed by the Houthis.

Finally, through the Human Rights Fund the Ministry supports new projects by civil society organisations promoting freedom of religion and belief. Dutch embassies supported several projects in 2019, offering financial assistance, providing a safe environment or by participating in meetings to promote freedom of religion, based on principles of equality, non-discrimination and universality. For example, in accordance with the motion by MP Kees van der Staaij (32735, no. 257), the Netherlands supports various projects in the Middle East. One such project is aimed at promoting freedom of religion and belief and social cohesion in Iraq, Lebanon and the Palestinian Territories. Other projects are under way in Egypt and Iraq. Furthermore, the Netherlands Representative Office in Ramallah was able in 2019 to help Christians in Gaza who were not allowed to leave the area to celebrate Easter and Christmas in places such as Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Due in part to Dutch efforts this group obtained exit permits. Dutch missions have also played an important role in lifting the taboo on discussing the freedom of religion and belief. In the past year, the embassy in Indonesia regularly facilitated meetings on religious tolerance and other human rights issues. In this way, the Netherlands offered a safe space where human rights defenders, NGOs and diplomats could exchange knowledge and ideas.



Freedom of Religion and Belief Festival organised by partner organisation HAKI in Mombasa on 18 June 2019





*The Special Envoy for Religion and Belief at the No Tolerance for Intolerance conference, 18-19 November 2019*

*Prosecution and the death penalty on the grounds of blasphemy and apostasy*

In accordance with the motion by MPs Joël Voordewind et al. (Parliamentary Papers 32 735 V, no. 256 and 32 735 V, no. 255), in both its bilateral contacts and multilateral forums the Netherlands makes an effort wherever possible to draw attention to the need for global abolition of blasphemy laws and of the death penalty. For example, the Human Rights Ambassador raised the issue of prosecution and execution on the grounds of blasphemy and apostasy during her visit to Pakistan in October (see the government response to the private member's initiative by MP Sjoerd Sjoerdsma: 'Free to not believe', Parliamentary Paper 35 264 V, no. 3). Mr Blok also specifically highlighted the issue of the prosecution and execution of atheists in his opening speech at the No Tolerance for Intolerance conference on 18 November. These measures implemented the motion by MP Voordewind (Parliamentary Paper 32 735 V, no. 255) and the private member's initiative by MP Sjoerdsma ('Free to not believe', Parliamentary Paper 35 264). [noot vertaler: bewuste herhaling van delen van de eerste en tweede zin?]

*Multilateral*

*Istanbul Process Meeting 'No Tolerance for Intolerance'*

The seventh meeting of the Istanbul Process took place in The Hague on 18 and 19 November 2019, attended by over 200 delegates from more than 60 countries. The Istanbul Process is the dialogue mechanism for the implementation

of UN Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18 on 'Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief'. In accordance with the recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, the focus of the meeting was on dialogue and the exchange of practical examples to promote tolerance. Civil society and NGOs were given ample opportunity to present their projects and initiatives. A final report and website are being developed to consolidate the progress made at the conference and make its results accessible. The aim is to present the report and website to members and observers of the Human Rights Council in the summer of 2020.

*United Nations*

The EU's annual resolution promoting freedom of religion or belief was adopted by the UN Human Rights Council in March and by the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly in November, as was the resolution by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation which aims to combat intolerance, discrimination, incitement and violence against persons on the basis of their religion or belief. The Netherlands has been ensuring a good balance between the two resolutions, so that they are adopted simultaneously and by consensus.

Furthermore, in its national statement at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva in September, the Netherlands

advocated active protection of the right to freedom of religion and belief, including the right to apostasy and change of faith. The Netherlands will continue to use its membership of the UN Human Rights Council to promote these aims.

The Netherlands has also lent its support to the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Dr Ahmed Shaheed, by endorsing the renewal of his mandate and involving him in Dutch efforts on this field.

The Netherlands is also urging countries such as Algeria, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to implement the Universal Periodic Review recommendations on freedom of religion and belief.<sup>15</sup>

During the UN General Assembly Third Committee's interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur in October, the Netherlands drew special attention to the problem of blasphemy legislation.

#### *European Union*

The EU Guidelines on the Promotion and Protection of Freedom of Religion or Belief provides an excellent basis for improving EU coordination and consistency in this field, which the Netherlands has been advocating.<sup>16</sup> An example is the intervention by our Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion and Belief at a conference in Brussels in October 2019. He publicly spoke out there on behalf of the

Netherlands in favour of renewing and strengthening the mandate of the EU's Special Envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion or belief, in accordance with the motion by MPs Machiel de Graaf and Pieter Omtzigt (Parliamentary Paper 35 078 V, no. 22). The Netherlands also emphasised the importance of properly embedding the mandate within EU institutions and of close coordination with EU Special Representative for Human Rights Eamon Gilmore. At the time of writing, it is still unclear whether there is sufficient support for a new mandate for an EU Special Envoy.

#### *OSCE*

The Netherlands plays a leading role in voicing the EU's position on freedom of religion and belief in the OSCE. For example, it took the lead in drafting EU statements at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, as well as in the statements relating to freedom of religion and belief at the OSCE's weekly Permanent Council meetings. The Netherlands also advised the EU on freedom of religion and belief during the Human Dimension negotiations on a decision on upholding the principles of tolerance and non-discrimination in the run-up to the OSCE Ministerial Council in Bratislava in December 2019. In the event, the participating countries could not reach a consensus on the final text and the decision was not adopted.

Mr Blok with other speakers at the No Tolerance for Intolerance conference on 18-19 November 2019



Mr Blok with other speakers at the No Tolerance for Intolerance conference on 18-19 November 2019

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.upr-info.org/database/>.

<sup>16</sup> [https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/137585.pdf](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/137585.pdf).

## Examples of projects

The Dutch embassy in Sudan supported a conference organised by the Sudanese Human Rights Initiative on 28 September on freedom of religion and belief. It also supported workshops for lawyers, journalists and human rights defenders working for freedom of religion and belief in Sudan.

In Myanmar, a human rights defender was awarded the local 2019 Human Rights Tulip for his work on religious tolerance. Support from the embassies in Slovenia and Albania resulted in an international conference on interreligious dialogue between Christians and Muslims in Slovenia in May and a regional conference on religious freedom in the region in Albania in June.

In 2019 the Human Rights Fund started supporting Voices for Inclusion, a multiyear project by ARTICLE 19 combating religious intolerance in Myanmar and Malaysia. This project brings together local actors, young people in particular, to promote classic rights such as freedom of religion and belief, freedom of expression and non-discrimination, as proposed in the motion by MPs Kees van der Staaij et al (35 000 V, no. 36).

Finally, in accordance with the pledge made to the House of Representatives, the ministry has set aside 18 June as a day dedicated to the right of freedom of religion and belief. Every year on this day the Netherlands and its embassies will highlight the theme by organising activities around this policy priority. For example, the embassy in Kenya supported a peace march and town-hall meeting in Mombasa attended by 150 people.

The embassy in Tbilisi joined forces with a local NGO to organise, for the third time, a regional seminar on freedom of religion and interreligious dialogue. The seminar took place in Yerevan for the second time and was co-opened by Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan. His speech made a great impression due to its emphasis on the human right to believe and not to believe.

# 3 Equal rights for women and girls

## Introduction

Equal rights for all women and girls is a priority in Dutch human rights policy. Gender equality and empowerment for all women and girls are indispensable for sustainable, social and economic development.

Dutch efforts focus in particular on strengthening female leadership, political participation and economic self-reliance, combating violence against women and girls, protecting them in conflict situations and enhancing women's role in conflict prevention and peace processes. Thanks in part to Dutch efforts in multilateral forums, there have been positive results in retaining and bolstering progressive human rights language in resolutions and conclusions promoting gender equality.

Women and girls around the world still face discrimination and violence. One in three women in the world encounters physical or sexual violence at some point in their lives. Women and girls are also gravely underrepresented in politics and are often economically vulnerable. That is why the Netherlands supports women's rights organisations worldwide that stand up for equal rights and opportunities and freedom of choice for women. In this way the Netherlands helps improve the lives of millions of women and their partners, children and communities. This also contributes to stability and more equal economic, political and social opportunities for women.



Launching the Orange the World campaign with (from l. to r.) the Human Rights Ambassador, the Mayor of Utrecht and the Minister of Education, Culture and Science

## Activities and results

### Bilateral

#### *Orange the World*

In 2019 the Netherlands again responded to the call from UN Women to halt violence against women and girls by joining the international Orange the World (16 Days of Activism) campaign. More than 140 Dutch municipalities participated in the campaign, which was launched by the Minister of Education, Culture and Science, the Human Rights Ambassador and the mayor of Utrecht. In the Netherlands more than 100 public buildings, including Utrecht City Hall and the Eye film museum in Amsterdam, were lit up for 16 days with the campaign colour orange.<sup>17</sup>

This year, more than 40 Dutch embassies and consulates used the Orange the World campaign to draw attention to violence against women around the world. The embassies in Harare, Dhaka, Rome and New Delhi were lit up in orange and panel discussions were organised with key stakeholders.

#### *Funding Leadership and Opportunities for Women*

For the four years up to 2019, Funding Leadership and Opportunities for Women (FLOW) has been one of the Dutch tools focusing on female political leadership, women's economic participation and combating violence against women. Several programmes in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Nigeria and other countries have shown that decisive improvements require changes in norms and values alongside amendments to legislation. As part of FLOW's programme 'Engaging women as agents of change', women are trained in economic and leadership skills and then supported in further disseminating their knowledge within their communities. Because FLOW will be terminated at the end of 2020, in 2019 the programme focused on ensuring sustainable results of completed and ongoing programmes.

#### *Leading from the South*

Another programme funded by the Netherlands is Leading from the South (Lfs). In 2019 Lfs helped 240 women's organisations upscale their strategies for women's political, social and economic empowerment. One example is the South African organisation Rape Crisis Cape Town Trust, which supports the establishment of sexual abuse courts and holds the government to account for developing support structures for survivors of sexual violence. It also organises social media and other campaigns to increase civic awareness and involvement.

#### *National Action Plan (NAP) on Resolution 1325*

Through the Women, Peace and Security grant programme, the Netherlands finances eight Dutch consortia working with local organisations on the theme of women, peace and security in Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Libya, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

In 2019 the Netherlands also contributed to the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) in Mali to support women's participation in peacebuilding. In addition, in 2019 the Netherlands supported a programme run by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and Peace Track Initiative (PTI) aimed at strengthening women's participation in the peace process in Yemen.

### Multilateral

#### *United Nations*

Thanks in part to efforts by the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the EU, consensus was reached on the conclusions at the 63rd Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) focusing on social services, public services and infrastructure. The whole text's human rights approach was strengthened and progressive paragraphs were added dealing with issues such as violence against women and girls, human rights defenders, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

In the June session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, the Netherlands successfully guided the resolution on child, early and forced marriage to passage with a text that was ultimately adopted by acclamation. Two others texts dealing with discrimination against women and with violence against women and girls were adopted by consensus as well. Dutch efforts also contributed to the retention of formulations that had been agreed with difficulty about the 'bodily autonomy' of women and girls, the right to sexual and reproductive health, and access to abortion ('safe abortion where not against national law'); these terms can be seen as new 'agreed language'.

As part of the 25-year review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), development minister Sigrid Kaag announced Dutch commitments to this agenda at the ICPD25 Summit in Nairobi in November 2019. These commitments included a € 492 million annual budget for women's rights, gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). With the participation of heads of state and government, ministers, civil society organisations and young people from every region of the world, the summit reflected the broad support for these issues and their importance for sustainable development.

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.ad.nl/utrecht/stadhuis-in-utrecht-kleurt-oranje-om-aandacht-te-vragen-voorgeweld-tegen-vrouwen-a7a3b0a1/>.



*Strategic partnership with Count Me In! in Pakistan*

At the Beijing+25 Regional Review Meeting in Geneva, the Human Rights Ambassador made a statement on behalf of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and civil society. She also gave a speech at the Women Human Rights Defenders side event on cooperation for strengthening Beijing+25 commitments organised by the Netherlands and civil society.

In the autumn of 2019 an open selection process was initiated to identify a suitable Dutch candidate for the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Corinne Dettmeijer-Vermeulen was selected as the candidate. The government is conducting an innovative digital campaign in the run-up to the CEDAW election, which has been postponed until September 2020 due to the COVID-19 crisis.

#### *Women, peace and security agenda*

In 2019, the year following the Dutch membership of the UN Security Council, the Netherlands continued to promote the theme of Women, Peace and Security (WPS) in multilateral forums. In doing so, the Netherlands committed itself to the full and meaningful participation of women and girls in conflict prevention and peace processes, to increasing the participation of both civilian and uniformed women in peace missions, and to the importance of gender mainstreaming.

Dutch support for women's participation in missions included financial backing for research into barriers to participation in missions conducted by the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF) and of the Elsie Initiative launched by Canada. Behind the scenes, the Netherlands also pressed for the inclusion of the role of human rights defenders and sexual and reproductive rights in a UN Security Council resolution on the implementation of the WPS agenda introduced by South Africa in October.

#### *Dealing with sexual violence in conflict situations*

The Netherlands used its membership of the UN Security Council to highlight the preventive role of sanctions against sexual violence in conflict. Examples included adding specific criteria to existing sanctions regimes against South Sudan, Libya and Somalia. Funding for a newly developed training course for UN Sanctions Committees experts on sexual and gender-based violence in conflict situations and for a handbook gave substance to this commitment in 2019. These efforts are expected to result in sanctions with a more targeted focus on sexual violence in conflict.

The Netherlands remains committed to accountability for sexual violence in conflict. In 2019 we supported the United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. The Netherlands also stressed the importance of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and of access to such services by survivors of sexual violence in conflict.

The Netherlands also invests in the capacity of UN peace missions to prevent sexual violence. It collaborates with Spain to finance the four-yearly training course 'A Comprehensive Approach to Gender in Operations' and the UN Women's Female Military Officers Course. Both courses address the protection of civilians, aiming specifically to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse.

#### *EU*

The Netherlands played a part in safeguarding consensus within the EU on gender equality and sexual and reproductive health rights, issues which are the subject of a strong pushback campaign by countries including the US and Brazil. Securing this consensus is important, as these gains are under pressure inside the EU as well. Gender equality and SRHR have been included in the Council's agreement on the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI). This text is expected to be adopted in 2020, after which SRHR will, for the first time, be included in a binding EU document. In November 2019 the EU adopted the Council conclusions on the progress report on the implementation in 2018 of Gender Action Plan II. These conclusions include unequivocal references to the EU's role in promoting gender equality, women's rights and SRHR in its foreign policy. The conclusions also urge member states and the European Commission to invest more in SRHR.

#### *Council of Europe*

The Netherlands pressed in the Council of Europe for retaining agreed language on gender equality. As a member of the Gender Equality Commission (GEC), the Netherlands endeavoured to ensure that different perspectives were reflected in the discussion on the position of sex workers, including the views of sex workers themselves. On 27 March 2019 the Committee of Ministers adopted a recommendation addressed to the 47 member states on preventing and combating sexism. Partly in conjunction with other EU countries, the Netherlands also consistently advocated in the Committee of Ministers for the ratification of the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. On 20 September 2019 Dunja Mijatovic, the Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner, visited the Netherlands, giving the Peter Baehr Lecture in Utrecht a. In her lecture she emphasised, among other things, that the ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention by the European Union and other signatories requires ongoing attention.

## Examples of projects

In Senegal, Dutch support has enabled girls and women to come together to break the taboo on discussing the problem of child marriage and teenage pregnancies and to encourage girls to stay on at school. Previous experiences with this innovative approach show that after a number of years more girls do indeed finish school and marry at a later age.

The Embassy in Ghana stimulated women's economic and political participation by offering training and knowledge acquisition to over 100 journalists, young people and community leaders, and with media coverage and activities in local communities. The embassies in Argentina, Saudi Arabia and Tanzania, and the Dutch Consulate General in Erbil (Kurdish Iraq) supported projects aimed at increasing the economic participation and independence of women. In Tanzania, for example, 20 female entrepreneurs participated in a six-month training course and were successfully coached in developing their business plans. In Lebanon and Egypt, too, the Netherlands supported projects to increase women's participation and influence in politics; in Brazil such projects focused specifically on indigenous women.

A three-year project in India that monitors improvements in the rights and position of female domestic workers – who frequently have to deal with sexual harassment, among other abuses – was successfully completed with support from the Dutch Embassy. In addition to online training modules on sexual harassment in the workplace, over 3,000 female domestic workers in the Delhi area received training, and in 11 districts local committees were set up to deal with complaints and to promote workers' interests. Furthermore, the first national call for action to promote the safety of domestic workers worldwide was presented.

In 2019 the Netherlands supported both online and offline projects aimed at combating violence against women in countries including Albania, Morocco, Mexico, Kuwait, Romania and Slovakia. In Serbia, Kosovo and Croatia, the Netherlands supported workshops and campaigns promoting equality for girls and women.

Sport is also proving to be a suitable way of promoting the visibility and participation of girls and women in public life. At the invitation of the embassy in Sudan, a Dutch professional footballer offered football clinics to girls, and the embassy in Egypt supported sports and leadership training for over 400 girls.



# 4 Human rights defenders and scope for civil society

## Introduction

Human rights defenders and civil society organisations are indispensable in the pursuit of human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals and in strengthening the social contract between citizens and government. Dutch human rights policy therefore prioritises support for human rights defenders and efforts to strengthen civil society.

A safe and open space in which human rights defenders and civil society organisations can make their voices heard, organise themselves and do their work is an essential prerequisite for the protection of human rights. However, in many parts of the world specific individuals and groups are still severely restricted and are the target of attacks and violence perpetrated by both state and non-state actors. In 2019, the deaths of 304 human rights defenders were reported to the international human rights defenders' memorial.<sup>18</sup> Over a hundred countries have severely curtailed the freedom of association, assembly and expression.<sup>19</sup>

Increasingly, new technologies and surveillance methods are used to monitor and intimidate human rights defenders and peaceful demonstrators. Once more in 2019 there was an increase in the number of deliberate disruptions to the internet and other forms of electronic communication. This not only hinders access to information, but also erects a barrier to other fundamental freedoms. In addition, a growing number of countries are limiting funding of civil society organisations and are introducing strict administrative and other controls that seriously complicate the functioning of legitimate organisations. The effect of these measures is not only felt by the organisations themselves; they also have a broader negative impact on human rights, the rule of law and democracy.

## Activities and results

### Bilateral

#### *Enhancing the safety of human rights defenders*

One aim of Dutch efforts is enhancing the safety of human rights defenders. Around the world many human rights defenders need various forms of emergency assistance. The Netherlands has been a donor to the Lifeline Embattled CSO Assistance Fund for many years. This fund offers emergency assistance to human rights defenders and organisations enabling them, for example, to take safety measures, build networks or set up creative communication and lobbying strategies to counter defamation campaigns. The EU's ProtectDefenders mechanism provides emergency support to human rights defenders by covering medical expenses, enabling temporary relocation or by funding legal assistance. The Netherlands also supports the Digital Defenders Partnership, which assists human rights defenders dealing with hacks, digital surveillance or data theft. ProtectDefenders and the Digital Defenders Partnership also offer human rights defenders training and coaching, helping them survive in a restrictive environment.

The Netherlands backs projects that offer all-round support to human rights defenders, integrating physical safety, digital security, organisational safety, mental wellbeing and other individual needs. Under the auspices of the Shelter City project run by Justice and Peace, 12 participating Dutch cities provided refuge to 26 human rights defenders from 23 countries. Guests of Shelter City are offered intensive guidance and training so that they can return to their work with renewed energy, better prepared to deal with the risks they face. In Latin America, the Netherlands supported Peace Brigades International. This organisation works with local partners (primarily women's organisations) to provide physical and other support to human rights defenders, aiming to reduce the risks of intimidation and violence while lobbying, observing court cases or engaging in other activities. Over 1,000 human rights defenders have been reached and helped through their participation in workshops on all aspects of security, particularly mental wellbeing and resilience. The Netherlands also supports a Peace Brigades International project that assists land rights defenders in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua in

<sup>18</sup> Frontline Defenders, Global Analysis <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/resource-publication/global-analysis-2019>.

<sup>19</sup> CIVICUS, State of Civil Society Report 2019.



*Peace Brigades International accompany the Poqomam population in Guatemala*

defending their right to common land, drinking water and a clean environment.

The Strategic Partnerships in the Dialogue and Dissent policy framework, which aims at strengthening local civil society organisations' lobbying and advocacy, increasingly focus on the safety of human rights defenders and civil society organisations. A conference with these strategic partners discussed digital security, possible responses to repressive measures, and options for action in the face of threats to local civil society organisations.

As part of its efforts to help human rights defenders and civil society organisations to improve their operations in restrictive environments and to increase their resilience, the Netherlands supports Civicus, an international alliance of civil society organisations and human rights defenders, and the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL).

The work of both partners includes research into the shrinking space for civil society and the legal measures which lead to this. Their findings are used by civil society, Dutch and other diplomats and international organisations.

#### *Increasing the legitimacy of human rights defenders*

Human rights defenders and civil society organisations are regularly subjected to defamation campaigns or legal charges that damage their reputation. The Netherlands is committed to increasing the legitimacy of human rights defenders and emphasising their important and valuable role.

On or around International Human Rights Day on 10 December, the Dutch embassies in Baghdad, Harare, Kyiv, Kabul, Kinshasa, San José, Tbilisi and Yangon presented a Human Rights Tulip to local human rights defenders. Human Rights Tulip winners receive financial support to

help them continue their work. The Tulip also offers the winners international recognition and visibility in the eyes of their family and local community, as well as local and national authorities.

On or around 10 December, around 50 embassies screened a film about human rights. The Netherlands collaborates with Movies that Matter, which uses film and real-life stories about human rights defenders to stimulate public debate on freedom, justice and equality. During the annual Movies that Matter festival in The Hague in March, the Human Rights Ambassador held talks with attending human rights defenders, who were invited to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for discussions with appropriate members of staff.

In the Philippines, the Netherlands is supporting a project in which film and other forms of art and culture are used to highlight human rights and the work of human rights defenders for a wide audience. The polarised public debate in the Philippines makes such positive messages all the more important. In South Sudan the embassy worked with like-minded countries to facilitate an exchange between human rights defenders and various government officials and politicians. This gave the officials and politicians a better understanding of human rights defenders' work and of the challenges they face.

Dutch diplomats attend trials of human rights defenders, thus conveying a message about the legitimacy of the work carried out by these activists and highlighting concerns about suspected false charges or unfair trials. Last year, embassy staff attended trials in Egypt, Israel and the Palestinian Territories, Kenya, Kuwait, Myanmar, Russia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Thailand and Zimbabwe. An embassy staff member was refused access to a trial in China, and discussions were held with authorities in Saudi Arabia about their refusal to permit diplomats to attend trials. In the DRC, the Netherlands supports an organisation that has provided legal support to 102 human rights defenders who had been charged in 18 cases. In almost all these cases the charges were dropped or the human rights defender was acquitted.

#### *Public support for human rights defenders*

In bilateral discussions the Netherlands consistently raises concerns about restrictions on freedom of assembly and association, and restrictions on space for civil society. Visiting members of government take every opportunity to include meetings with human rights defenders in their programme. The following is a list of just some of the bilateral talks and the topics raised by the Netherlands.

Prime Minister Mark Rutte held talks with human rights organisations during his visit to Indonesia in October 2019. In subsequent bilateral talks he emphasised the important role played by civil society organisations and the need for



Meeting with human rights defenders during Movies that Matter at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

authorities to remain in dialogue with them. Foreign minister Stef Blok met human rights defenders during his visits to Albania, China, Mexico and Malaysia, and in the margins of the OSCE ministerial meeting in Bratislava where the freedom of association was the main topic of discussion. Development minister Sigrid Kaag met with human rights defenders during her visit to Turkey and raised Dutch concerns about the protection of human rights and the rule of law in discussions with her Turkish counterpart. During her visit to Egypt the Human Rights Ambassador raised the treatment of political prisoners, discussed the country's restrictive NGO legislation and emphasised the importance of the freedom of expression. In Cuba the Human Rights Ambassador discussed the arbitrary arrest of human rights defenders and the serious curtailment of space for civil society organisations. In Russia the Netherlands expressed its concern about changes to so-called 'foreign agents' legislation. In her opening speech at the Asma Jahangir conference in Pakistan the Human Rights Ambassador talked about the importance of protecting human rights defenders and spoke to many defenders who were present.

In a great many countries the Netherlands expresses its concern about cases against individual human rights defenders and civil society organisations, particularly in situations where their safety is compromised. This is carried out jointly with EU partners or in bilateral talks, sometimes at political level. In accordance with the motion by MP

Mahir Alkaya, the Netherlands reminded governments of their responsibility to protect human rights defenders, even when the intimidation originates from non-state actors (Parliamentary Paper 34 952 V, no. 89).

#### *Multilateral*

Through its various multilateral channels and instruments the Netherlands promotes the safety of human rights defenders, highlights the responsibility of both state and non-state actors, and emphasises the essential role of human rights defenders and civil society.

The Netherlands, either on its own or with like-minded countries, has spoken out strongly in the Human Rights Council and in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly against reprisals against human rights defenders or civil society organisations as a result of their participation in UN processes. For the Netherlands it is crucial that the UN and civil society can work together freely without the fear of negative repercussions for human rights defenders. At the UN, the Netherlands has drawn explicit attention to the particular risks faced by female human rights defenders and the need for strong human rights safeguards in the use and development of new digital technologies.

In 2019 the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution recognising 'the contribution of environmental human rights defenders to the enjoyment of human rights,

environmental protection and sustainable development’ . Working with other EU member states, the Netherlands focused negotiations on highlighting the risks faced by environmentalists as a result of their work and on emphasising the responsibilities of companies and other non-state actors to help protect environmental activists. Thanks to Dutch efforts, the resolution included a specific reference to land rights. During the difficult negotiations on the resolution on ‘a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders’, the Netherlands and the EU pushed for the use of robust language on the protection of human rights defenders, with a specific focus on the most vulnerable groups.

Within the EU, the Netherlands is consistent in its calls for the use of pre-emptive measures to stop countries from restricting freedom of association and assembly. The Netherlands thus supported the inclusion of a passage in the Council Conclusions on Democracy stating that increasing restrictions on civil society form a growing challenge to democracy. Within the EU the Netherlands also advocates the consistent implementation of EU guidelines on human rights defenders around the world. The Dutch embassy in Beijing, for example, supported several EU statements about human rights defenders Wang Quanzhang, Yu Wensheng and Huang Qi. In Colombia, the Netherlands contributed to the EU campaign ‘#DefendamosLaVida’ through which the EU supports 40 human rights defenders whose work exposes them to serious risks.

The Netherlands also expressed concerns in statements to the OSCE Permanent Council. Furthermore, the country has frequent contact with civil society, in part to talk to organisations about their concerns about freedom of association and assembly. The Dutch Permanent Mission to the OSCE is also involved in the Democracy Defenders Initiative, which presents an annual award to an organisation or person who has carried out exceptional work and needs support.

## Supporting peaceful demonstrators

There were massive demonstrations in 2019 by citizens in Iraq, Chile, Lebanon, Hong Kong, Iran and other countries. In line with the motion by MPs Bram Van Ojik and Lillianne Ploumen (Parliamentary Paper 35 300 V, no. 20), the Netherlands' efforts, both through the EU and independently, are aimed at protecting freedom of association and the space for citizens and civil society to express their views, including their legitimate grievances against the government.

In the Foreign Affairs Council foreign minister Stef Blok called on all EU member states to support citizens who stand up for their human rights and to condemn the use of violence against peaceful demonstrators. The Netherlands has supported several EU statements, including those addressing the situations in Iraq, Albania, Colombia, Lebanon and Hong Kong. The Netherlands and other EU member states have issued joint démarches to a number of countries to communicate these statements directly to the authorities. In the UN, too, the Netherlands has condemned the use of disproportionate force against peaceful demonstrators, as in Sudan and Zimbabwe.

Other measures taken by Dutch embassies include observing protests, maintaining close contact with civil society organisations and human rights lawyers involved in peaceful demonstrations, supporting partners so that they can lobby for a better legislative framework to protect peaceful demonstrators, and supporting a project offering psychosocial support and capacity building to peaceful demonstrators who are forced to flee their country due to harsh repression.

# 5 Equal rights for LGBTI people

## Introduction

*“The Kingdom of the Netherlands welcomes the fact that the rights of lesbian, gay and transgender people, and of other minority communities, are being laid down in law in more and more places around the world. We hope this trend continues. But ultimately, words must translate into action. The fight against discrimination, whether open or hidden, must continue on every continent.” - King Willem-Alexander speaking at the UN General Assembly in New York, 24 September 2019*

Everyone should be able to be themselves, irrespective of who they are or who they love. Promoting LGBTI rights is one of the priorities of Dutch human rights policy, and the government has enhanced its policy focus on this issue. The Netherlands is working in particular to abolish the criminalisation of sexual orientation and gender identity, combat discrimination and violence against LGBTI people and promote their social acceptance.

At the opening of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly on 24 September 2019, King Willem-Alexander highlighted the progress made in the field of equal rights for LGBTI people. Positive developments include the decriminalisation of homosexuality in Botswana and the renewal of the mandate of the UN Human Rights Council’s Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity. At the same time, further action is needed to prevent discrimination and violence against LGBTI people. A regrettable example of this in 2019 was the introduction of the death penalty for homosexuality in Brunei. As in previous years, the Netherlands has remained a tireless defender of equal rights for LGBTI people. The Netherlands has further strengthened its already high profile on this issue by playing an active role both bilaterally and multilaterally, lending support to civil society and collaborating with international organisations and industry.

## Activities and results

### Bilateral

Ministers and senior civil servants, including the Human Rights Ambassador, regularly raised the issue of equal rights for LGBTI people in bilateral meetings, for example in Cuba, Egypt, Kosovo and Pakistan. As part of the government’s

enhanced focus on human rights policy, the Ministry will use the Human Rights Fund over the next several years to support three new civil society projects to fight for equal rights for LGBTI people, for example by combating conversion therapy. In addition in 2019, Dutch embassies supported various projects of local LGBTI organisations by making financial contributions, providing a safe environment or participating in meetings. Several embassies also took part in Pride parades to raise the visibility and boost the safety of LGBTI people and to show political support for the LGBTI movement. The Shelter City initiative enabled temporary stays in the Netherlands by several LGBTI human rights defenders.

### Transgender

In 2019 the Netherlands focused particularly on the position of transgender people. For example, the 2019 annual visitors’ programme for LGBTI activists focused on trans activists from Latin America. Prior to Amsterdam Pride, these activists participated in a programme which enabled them to exchange knowledge and strengthen their regional networks. The position of transgender people in Latin America is worrying, despite some progress in legislation, and discrimination and violence against them are commonplace in many countries in the region. This focus on the position of transgender people was also central in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs activities in The Hague and Dutch embassies around the world on or around the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOT).

### Death penalty

The Netherlands drew explicit attention to the death penalty on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity by organising a session at the World Congress Against the Death Penalty in February 2019. This move was closely in line with the motion by MPs Joël Voordewind et al. that was adopted later (Parliamentary Paper 32 735 V, no. 255). The aim of the session was to put the death penalty on the grounds of sexual orientation on the agenda of the broader movement against capital punishment. The discussion also addressed decriminalisation and extrajudicial executions.

#### *Dutch Federation for the Integration of Homosexuality (COC)*

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has a strategic partnership with COC Netherlands. This partnership aims to support LGBTI organisations in countries like Vietnam, Ghana and Haiti, enabling them to become and remain active locally, campaigning for equal rights for LGBTI people. The partnership involves, among other things, supporting organisations that help fight court cases and bring about legislative changes on LGBTI issues. The COC also offers support to local LGBTI organisations and human rights defenders as part of this partnership, enabling them to stand up for their own rights in multilateral organisations such as the UN Human Rights Council, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the OSCE and the Organization of American States (OAS). The partnership allows the COC to reach around 120 LGBTI organisations in over 35 countries.<sup>20</sup>

#### *Private sector*

In line with its updating of and enhanced focus on human rights policy, the Netherlands has increased its emphasis on working with the business community on LGBTI issues. For a number of years the Netherlands has been a partner in the Global Equality Fund, a public-private partnership comprised of like-minded governments and the private sector dedicated to protecting and defending equal rights for LGBTI people. The Netherlands specifically finances this fund's mechanism for emergency support for LGBTI human rights defenders. As part of its enhanced focus on this policy area, the Netherlands has offered to host the annual partner conference in October 2020.

In a speech at the annual Workplace Pride conference, the Human Rights Ambassador called on the business community to emphasise equal rights for LGBTI people in its international operations. The ministry also collaborated with Workplace Pride in regional meetings in, for example, Singapore and Kyiv, bringing international and local companies together to combat discrimination against LGBTI people in the workplace.

#### *Multilateral*

The Netherlands continues to lead the way in promoting LGBTI rights in multilateral organisations. In the past year, the Netherlands has spoken out about the position and rights of LGBTI people within the EU, the UN, the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

#### *United Nations*

In 2019 the Netherlands advocated extending the mandate of the Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) in the UN Human Rights Council. Despite not being a member of the Human Rights Council at that time, the Netherlands joined with like-minded countries and civil

society organisations to canvass support for extending the mandate. The extension was finally adopted by a large majority in July 2019. Furthermore, at the end of 2019 the Netherlands made a new contribution to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), among other things to strengthen cooperation with industry in the field of equal rights for LGBTI people.

The Netherlands and Argentina are joint chairs of the UN LGBTI Core Group based in New York. Members of this core group of countries promote the position of LGBTI people in UN discussions. At a side event organised by the Netherlands and Argentina during the UN General Assembly's ministerial week, speakers like Luxembourg Prime Minister Xavier Bettel spoke openly about their personal experiences as LGBTI people. This was a powerful illustration at a high level that ultimately this topic concerns the wellbeing of individuals.

#### *Equal Rights Coalition*

The Equal Rights Coalition (ERC) of 42 countries continued in 2019 to fight for equal rights for LGBTI people, both publicly and behind the scenes. For example, in early 2019 it publicly expressed its concern about renewed reports of arrests of gay people in Chechnya<sup>21</sup> and in April about the reintroduction of the death penalty for homosexuality in Brunei.<sup>22</sup> Behind the scenes, the coalition took action in, for example, Haiti, Uganda and Tanzania. As highlighted in the previous human rights report (Parliamentary Paper 32 735 V, no. 198), these activities were kept out of the public eye, as quiet diplomacy has proven to be more effective in such cases.

In June 2019 the UK and Argentina took over the joint chair of the Equal Rights Coalition from Canada and Chile. The Netherlands continues to play an active role in the ERC, for example as co-chair of the working group on international diplomacy and as a member of the Executive Committee.

<sup>20</sup> <https://international.coc.nl/>.

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/diplomatieke-verklaringen/2019/01/24/diplomatieke-verklaring-over-de-equal-rights-coalition>.

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/diplomatieke-verklaringen/2019/04/15/verklaring-equal-rights-coalition-over-zorgelijke-situatie-in-brunei>.

## Examples of projects

The Dutch embassy in Malaysia invited 45 representatives of LGBTI organisations from the wider region to a four-day session to strengthen their network and to develop a strategy enabling them to continue their work effectively and safely.

In Brazil a Dutch project is underway which draws attention to the position of LGBTI prisoners. This group is subjected to mistreatment and violence, partly because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The project focuses on improving external monitoring and on strengthening policies protecting LGBTI prisoners.

In Kenya the Netherlands plays an important coordinating role for various LGBTI rights project donors. Regular consultation between like-minded countries, UN institutions and LGBTI organisations ensures concerted efforts by the diplomatic community that are supported by local LGBTI organisations. The importance of this coordination was illustrated during a court case on the decriminalisation of homosexuality ('same sex conduct'), when local organisations preferred Western countries to refrain from making public statements. The network ensured that this approach was quickly disseminated in the diplomatic community.



# 6 Promoting the international legal order / Tackling impunity

## Introduction

In the Integrated International Security Strategy, the government states that promoting the international legal order and an effective multilateral system are vital to the security of the Netherlands. The development of the international legal order is also enshrined in the Dutch constitution. A strong commitment to the rule of law and a climate of justice, with an adequate system of international standards with the requisite institutions, all provide the basis for peace and democracy and the safeguarding of human rights. From this perspective, and in the framework of its human rights policy, the Netherlands helps to promote the international legal order and tackle impunity.

## Results

### Bilateral

In December 2019 Canada and the Kingdom of the Netherlands welcomed the Gambia's application instituting proceedings at the International Court of Justice against Myanmar for its alleged violation of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Genocide Convention). In part in response to motions by MP Bram van Ojik (Parliamentary Paper 32 735 V, no. 238) and Sven Koopmans (Parliamentary Paper 32 735 V, no. 248), Canada and the Netherlands expressed their intention to jointly explore all options for supporting and assisting the Gambia in these efforts, in order to uphold international accountability and prevent impunity.

### Multilateral

#### Accountability

The Netherlands is closely involved in strengthening the International Criminal Court. Tangible progress was made at the December 2019 meeting of the States Parties (report in the letter to parliament of 30 January 2020 on the annual Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute, Parliamentary Paper 28 498, no. 46). The States Parties mandated independent experts to carry out a review of the Court's governance, the organisation and course of the administration of justice, and the organisation of the

Prosecutor's work. Furthermore, in 2019 the Netherlands was the focal point on universality within The Hague Working Group of the Court, working as such to persuade countries to accede to the Rome Statute. The government was therefore pleased with the island state Kiribati's accession to the Rome Statute on 26 November 2019, bringing the total number of States Parties to 123.

In 2019 the Netherlands was also the driving force behind initiatives such as the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 (IIIM), and the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM). Partly thanks to Dutch efforts, the IIIM is now embedded in the UN's regular budget and the IIMM has been further operationalised.

The Netherlands organised a meeting on cooperation between accountability mechanisms and civil society in collaboration with the IIIM for Syria, the IIMM for Myanmar and the ICC Registry. Encouraging cooperation and the sharing of information and evidence, as well as involving the communities concerned in the workings of the accountability mechanisms, is essential. That is why the Netherlands and Switzerland organise a twice-yearly meeting between the IIIM and Syrian NGOs on justice for victims. The Netherlands also pursues accountability for human rights violations with its support to the Special Jurisdiction for Peace in Colombia.

The Netherlands advocated for justice for the victims of the crimes committed by ISIS at a successful, high-profile meeting organised with Iraq during the UN General Assembly and chaired by Amal Clooney. In its contribution to the meeting the Netherlands emphasised the impact that ISIS has had and the large number of countries affected, necessitating the need for a joint effort to bring ISIS combatants to justice. The collection of evidence, for example by the evidence bank in Syria (IIIM) and the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for



Meeting in New York on justice for the victims of ISIS

Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL (UNITAD) in Iraq, is indispensable in these efforts. At the meeting the Netherlands urged countries to work together to establish an international tribunal to try ISIS leaders. The Netherlands also recognises the importance of national prosecutions complying with international human rights standards, and therefore continues its dialogue on trials with countries such as Iraq.

In 2019 the Netherlands allocated a total of € 2 million to the OHCHR to strengthen its permanent capacity to deal with issues of accountability. The funds are earmarked to support the various country-specific accountability mechanisms mandated by the UN Human Rights Council. Currently, most of the mechanisms investigating human rights abuses such as commissions of inquiry, fact-finding missions and, for example, the investigative mechanism for Myanmar, operate independently of each other. The OHCHR must be able to guarantee the quality and continuity of the various missions, yet it currently has too few and insufficiently qualified staff for this purpose. The Netherlands will ask other donors to provide similar support. As requested in the motion by MPs Bram van Ojik and Sadet Karabulut (Parliamentary Paper 32 735 V, no. 250), such national attempts to strengthen existing UN programmes to combat impunity, and specifically the capacity of the OHCHR, are implementing one of Special Rapporteur Agnes Callamard's recommendations in her report on the death of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. As for two of her other recommendations, there is currently little support for the establishment of new general UN mechanisms with a global reach. As officially putting such proposals on the agenda

could lead to their rejection, it is currently more advisable to ensure that the existing mandates are used to their full potential.

In 2019 the Netherlands and the rest of the Benelux jointly funded the work of the International Commission of Inquiry for Mali which is investigating human rights abuses committed in Mali between 2012 and 2018. In the coming year, the Netherlands will press hard to ensure the implementation of the recommendations set out in the Commission's final report.

#### *International Commission for Missing Persons (ICMP)*

The ICMP locates missing people worldwide. In 2019 the Netherlands supported a project in Iraq assisting missing persons and their families, both victims of IS and victims in earlier periods. ICMP provides technical assistance and capacity building in the search for missing persons and provides documentation and raises awareness of their plight.

#### *Courts and tribunals*

In 2019 the Netherlands continued undiminished its efforts to ensure that the special international courts and tribunals and their residual mechanisms, which are responsible for fulfilling the legal obligations of courts that have closed down, can function independently and effectively. This was in part reflected in Dutch financial assistance for copying the archive of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone in Freetown. In this way the Netherlands contributes to preserving the legacy of this tribunal and its contribution to the fight against impunity. The Dutch contribution is not

limited to those courts and tribunals based in the Netherlands: in 2019 the Netherlands lent financial support to the Special Criminal Court in the Central African Republic. The Dutch commitment to give all possible support to the Gambia in its application to the International Court of Justice concerning the possible violation of the Genocide Convention by Myanmar should also be seen as part of Dutch efforts to promote the effective functioning of courts and tribunals.

#### *Council of Europe*

As an institution that is part of the international legal order, the Council of Europe (CoE) is devoted entirely to the protection and promotion of human rights, the rule of law and democracy. Until mid-2019 the Council found itself in stalemate because one of its member states, Russia, was de facto suspended from the Parliamentary Assembly, one of its two statutory bodies, but not the other, the Committee of Ministers. This meant that Russia was in effect a half member, a status that had never been foreseen and in practice only had disadvantages. With Dutch support and thanks to constructive cooperation by both bodies, a way out of this impasse has now been found. The development of a new procedure, involving both bodies, enables a member state to be suspended or expelled from the Council of Europe in the event of a serious breach of its statutory obligations but can no longer lead to half membership.<sup>23</sup>

The rulings of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) have a major influence on the promotion of the international legal order throughout the European continent and often beyond. The Netherlands plays a critical yet constructive role in the CoE Committee of Ministers, which monitors the implementation of the Court's rulings. Monitoring is essential for the credibility and effectiveness of the ECtHR system. For example, the Netherlands intervened in Romanian and Greek cases concerning the poor conditions in detention or reception centres. The Netherlands also urged Bulgaria to amend legislation in line with recommendations from the CoE's Venice Commission on effective criminal investigation, including the position and powers of the chief prosecutor. In 2019 the Court also heard the case *Baka v. Hungary*. This case concerned the premature termination by Hungary of the mandate of the President of its Supreme Court, by introducing ad hominem legislation at constitutional level without the possibility of judicial review, a measure taken because of the President's critical remarks on judicial reform. The Netherlands expressed concerns about the crippling effect of the measure on judges in Hungary. The Netherlands also urged Hungary to create a judicial environment in which judges do not have to fear reprisals if they criticise the functioning or reform of the courts.

The annual thematic debate organised by the CoE Committee of Ministers as part of its monitoring of the implementation of ECtHR judgments by the European Court of Human Rights was also significant for the fight against impunity. The subject of debate in 2019 was 'the obligation to investigate violations of Articles 2 and 3 of the ECHR by law enforcement officials'. The Dutch contribution involved a specialist public prosecutor from the National Public Prosecutor's Office sharing experiences of how investigations into alleged unlawful police violence are conducted in the Netherlands in accordance with the ECHR.

<sup>23</sup> Parliamentary Papers 20 043, nos. 116, 119, 121, 122.

# 7 Human rights and other policy terrains

## 7.1 Human rights in international trade and development cooperation policy

### Introduction

Dutch foreign trade and development cooperation (BHOS) policy is shaped internationally by the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the 2030 Agenda UN member states recognised human rights as the guiding framework for the SDGs. The SDGs are based on international human rights agreements and, like human rights, aim to guarantee human dignity and freedoms. The Netherlands endorses the vision of the current UN Secretary-General, who views the SDGs as the ‘most powerful tool for prevention’. Investing in this agenda contributes to one of the Netherlands’ BHOS policy goals: preventing conflict and instability.

The central role of the human rights approach in both the Kingdom’s foreign and BHOS policies stems from the conviction that respect for human rights is a prerequisite for sustainable development, peace and security. Experience shows in many countries around the world that the systematic human rights violations hamper development and stability. The opposite is also true: safeguarding human dignity in the long term requires people-centred development and security. The Netherlands therefore pursues an integrated policy that addresses this interdependence. See also Dutch Development Results for 2019 in Perspective.

The policy process takes into account human rights principles such as participation, accountability and non-discrimination. These are the core elements of the human rights approach. Its ultimate aim is to enable rights holders to hold government (duty bearers) to account for compliance with human rights obligations.

With inequality increasing at country level, the SDG campaign focuses primarily on the disadvantaged, as

expressed in its motto ‘leaving no one behind’. The Netherlands seeks to contribute to equal opportunities and socioeconomic development, particularly among women and girls who have lagged behind and are still often excluded from decision-making on development. The meaningful participation of marginalised groups and accountability by governments promote sustainable development and stability.

Human rights are seriously threatened by climate change. That is why the Netherlands is working at various levels to combat climate change and limit its negative consequences, through programmes related to water, food security, renewable energy and forests. The programmes particularly address the most vulnerable, who are hardest hit by climate change.

Dutch support for human rights defenders in 2019 specifically addressed the protection, visibility and legitimacy of the work of land rights defenders and environmental activists. See also chapter 4 and the letter to parliament on this subject (in Dutch).<sup>24</sup>

### Activities and results

#### Bilateral

Civil society organisations have an important role to play in promoting greater equality in society, providing services to the public, fostering safe public space and acting as watchdogs encouraging public authorities and the business community to become more inclusive. This is ever more important in the current climate in which space for civil society is under continuing pressure worldwide. Through its Dialogue and Dissent programme the Netherlands continues to invest heavily in local NGOs, enabling them to strengthen their lobbying and advocacy activities. Dialogue and Dissent is aimed at enlarging space for civil society, enabling vulnerable citizens to make their voices heard and thus better hold their own governments to account.

<sup>24</sup> Letter to parliament of 12 November 2019 on parliamentary requests pertaining to human rights (Parliamentary Paper 32 735, no. 272).

#### *Development-focused reception in the region*

The Dutch policy of reception in the region supports countries around Syria and the Horn of Africa in improving the situation of both refugees and vulnerable host country communities. Dutch efforts take a development-oriented approach to long-term displacement, with a focus on social protection and legal position, access to education and vocational training, and increasing employment and income opportunities. This gives refugees prospects, enabling them to build a new life and pursue personal development in the host country until they are able to return to their country of origin. Policy on reception in the region thus contributes to the delivery of the SDGs, human rights and sustainable development – in particular to the delivery of SDG 1 on the eradication of extreme poverty – and the implementation of social protection measures and of UN conventions on economic, social, cultural and children's human rights.

#### *Land-use rights for excluded groups*

The Netherlands is working to strengthen and grant land rights, especially to marginalised people, and for sustainable land use. Examples include the recently launched LAND-at-scale programme, close cooperation with organisations including the International Land Coalition, the Global Land Tool Network and the Dutch Land Registry, and participation in strategic partnerships with organisations such as Both Ends, Action Aid and Oxfam and their local partners. The Dutch High-Level LANDdialogue was held once more in 2019: an initiative bringing together government, industry, academics and civil society organisations to work on the practical application of the internationally accepted Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests.

#### *Increased role of human rights in export control*

Export control involves checks on certain goods being exported from the EU in order to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and unwanted military end-uses. It uses a licensing system based on careful consideration of the nature of the goods and their final destination. The Netherlands has strengthened the position of human rights within the assessment framework for granting these licences. For example, in some cases exporters are obliged to use an internal compliance programme which must include the prevention of human rights violations. Some export licences also include an additional 'human rights clause' stating that exports may not take place if the exporter could reasonably suspect that their goods are used to violate human rights. This relates to export licences issued for specific goods and destinations that the government deems to pose a high risk of human rights violations.

#### *Multilateral*

The Netherlands has also made major efforts to ensure the institutional embedding of the human rights approach at the UN and international development banks. In human rights forums such as the UN Human Rights Council and the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly, the Netherlands has opposed narratives that undermine the role of human rights in the UN's development and security pillars. Partly as a result of Dutch efforts, the human rights approach has been retained as a programming principle within the UN development system.

#### *Youth engagement in climate policy*

The Netherlands is endeavouring to increase meaningful participation by young people in shaping international climate policy within the framework of the government's climate diplomacy mandate. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) identifies young people as an important social group and calls on governments to increase their political participation. On 12 October the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation launched the Dutch Young Climate Movement's (JKB) We Are Tomorrow Global Partnership. Through peer-to-peer knowledge exchange with sister organisations in nine other countries, the JKB develops youth climate agendas with the aim of influencing the national climate plans (nationally determined contributions, NDCs) in the run-up to COP26 in Glasgow. The Netherlands facilitates this process and helps with access to local policymakers.

#### *Promoting access to justice*

As co-chair of the Task Force on Justice, the Netherlands endeavoured to increase countries' support for and action on SDG 16. In February 2019 the Netherlands organised a conference which produced The Hague Declaration, a document that underlines the importance of access to justice and human rights. Thanks to the report by the Task Force on Justice – which also highlights respect for human rights – delegates to a key stakeholder consultation platform on the SDGs, the High-Level Political Forum, gave broad recognition of the importance of access to justice.

#### *Mobilising support for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)*

See chapter 3.

## Human rights and business

The theme 'human rights and business' attracted considerable attention from both parliament and the media in 2019. Positive reporting on the issue included the Agreement for the Food Products Sector on paying a living wage; negative reporting addressed companies' failure to respect human rights.

Businesses have a duty to respect human rights throughout their value chain, starting from the impact that business activities have on people. Governments actively protect human rights through adequate legislation and enforcement. Both governments and businesses should establish remedial mechanisms to ensure that victims of human rights abuses have access to redress. The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) provide the framework for Dutch policy and are fleshed out in the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights.

Dutch policy on international corporate social responsibility (ICSR) contributes to a coherent commitment to 'human rights and business'. The government expects Dutch companies to conduct their business in line with the UNGPs and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. These guidelines require companies to identify possible risks, including human rights violations, in their value chains, to prevent or address these risks, and to be transparent in reporting about them.

### Results

As laid down by the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, civil servants who are active internationally and implementing organisations can follow a newly developed e-learning course which teaches them how to provide accurate and unambiguous information on human rights and business. Also in 2019, the government decided to revise the Dutch National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAP). A first step in this process included a National Baseline Assessment (NBA) carried out by the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights and the Danish Institute for Human Rights. The NBA will provide insights into the extent to which Dutch policy and legislation meet the objectives of the UNGPs and indicate where there is room for improvement. In accordance with the coalition agreement 'Confidence in the Future', ICSR policy is currently being evaluated to decide whether binding obligations can be imposed, and if so which ones. This evaluation will also consider how this relates to the recently adopted Child Labour (Duty of Care) Act (WZK).

In 2019 the Fund against Child Labour (FBK) and the Fund for Responsible Business (FVO) started accepting applications for funding. These funds focus on promoting partnerships between business and civil society organisations to address risks and abuses in value chains. The FVO also helps civil society organisations implement the IRBC agreements to which they are signatories. Where possible, substantive support is provided for the development of NAPs worldwide. This support includes sharing experiences and lessons learned. In 2019 for example the Netherlands worked with Malaysia on its NAP.

### Multilateral

The fifth session of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights (OEIGWG) took place from 14-18 October 2019. The Netherlands joined several other EU member states in insisting that the European Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS) attend the OEIGWG and issue a statement on behalf of the EU. The statement called for the involvement of civil society, businesses and trade unions in the negotiations. It also expressed the EU's continued commitment to working with all states and stakeholders worldwide to make progress on issues relating to human rights and business. A motion by MPs Mahir Alkaya and Isabelle Diks (Parliamentary Paper 35 300 XVII, no. 35) called on the government to use its diplomatic contacts to encourage participation by countries that were not yet taking part in the negotiation process. The diplomatic missions concerned are requested to actively raise the issue. The Netherlands is also actively and constructively engaged at EU level in the negotiations around the UN convention and is pressing for a mandate for a joint EU stance.

The Netherlands also actively advocates an initiating and coordinating role for the European Commission on ICSR, calling for the appointment of a lead Director-General and for an EU ICSR Action Plan, which should consist of a well-thought-out mix of voluntary and binding measures. The Netherlands received support from several EU member states when it advocated these positions in the Foreign Affairs Council for Trade on 21 November 2019 and in the Foreign Affairs Council for Development Cooperation on 25 November 2019.

The Netherlands was well represented at the annual UN Business & Human Rights Forum, where it participated and made a presentation in a panel on Business & Human Rights in Conflict-Affected Settings. In this session the Netherlands presented the policy and toolkit developed for private sector development projects in conflict areas. The Social and Economic Council also organised a session on ICSR policy and the approach of adopting voluntary IRBC agreements.

### Examples

#### *Living wage conference*

In November 2019 the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), Hivos, Fairfood, Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance and the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) organised 'The Only Way Is Up' conference. The two-day conference focused on securing living wages and incomes in global agri-food supply chains. It stressed that a living wage and income are fundamental human rights and must therefore be prioritised. Conference participants included stakeholders from many arenas, including companies, NGOs, lawyers, trade associations and governments from both producing and consuming countries. The conference ended with detailed undertakings by companies.

#### *Agreement for the Food Products Sector: A living wage in banana cultivation*

Dutch supermarkets have pledged to work together to ensure a living wage for workers in banana cultivation. The supermarkets aim to reduce the gap between the currently paid wages and the living wage for their entire banana assortment by at least 75% within five years. The Banana Retail Commitment was signed in October 2019 by the Albert Heijn, Superunie, Boni, Boon, Coop, Deen, Hoogvliet, Jan Linders, Jumbo, Plus, Poiesz, Sligro, Spar and Vomar supermarket chains and by the Central Bureau for the Foodstuffs Trade. The agreements are part of the IRBC Agreement for the Food Products Sector.

## 7.2 Peace, security and human rights

### Introduction

Conflict situations, both armed and unarmed, pose a threat to human rights. The Netherlands actively contributes to the reduction of violence against and fear among civilians, and considers people's physical and mental integrity to be an essential right. Human rights policy therefore cannot and should not be seen in isolation from the Dutch security strategy. Ensuring security contributes to other foreign policy objectives, including the protection of human rights. The Netherlands' focus is on prevention and strengthening.<sup>25</sup> Preventing insecurity and human rights abuses demands long-term investment, as it is cheaper and more sustainable than trying to remedy them. Strengthening refers in this context to promoting the international legal order and an effective multilateral system; earlier chapters have highlighted some aspects of this. Of particular note is the Netherlands' continuing commitment, at national level and through the EU and other forums, to resolve, end, manage or prevent specific national or international conflicts.

Security is more than the mere absence of armed or non-armed conflict. More specifically, Dutch policy on security and the rule of law, for example, is based on a people-centred approach in which the public interest, sustainable and inclusive peacebuilding, and the protection of human rights are central. For more details see the chapter on Security and the Rule of Law in [Dutch Development Results for 2019 in Perspective](#). A number of specific themes are discussed in more detail below.

### Activities and results

#### *Supporting the security sector in fragile states*

The Netherlands collaborates with a number of countries to build an effective and institutionally well-anchored security sector. Human rights considerations play a role in this. For example, the Netherlands financed a Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF) programme that provides technical assistance to the Malian security authorities, encouraging more transparent accountability to parliament, civil society, the ombudsman and the media.

#### *UN peace missions*

As part of the integrated approach to human rights, peace and security, the Netherlands continued to focus in 2019 on strengthening UN peacekeeping missions and the UN

system's capacity for prevention and sustainable peacebuilding. In situations of both actual and imminent armed conflict, peace missions are a crucial instrument in implementing the UN's peace and security mandate. The Netherlands is therefore working to promoting the effectiveness and efficiency of UN missions both bilaterally and multilaterally, irrespective of its deployment of Dutch personnel.

In January 2019, in the run-up to the UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Conference held in New York in March, the Netherlands, Rwanda and the UN organised a preparatory conference on UN peacekeeping. The focus of the conference was on the protection of civilians and improved mission performance.

During the year the Netherlands worked towards the further implementation of the Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) agenda for the reform of UN peacekeeping missions. A4P was presented by the UN Secretary-General in March 2018 under the Dutch presidency of the Security Council.

#### *Protecting the civilian population*

Protecting civilian populations remains a Dutch priority. In the annual debate in the UN Security Council on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, foreign minister Stef Blok highlighted the central role of protection of civilians in peace mission mandates and the importance of accountability for violations of international law.

In September 2019 the Netherlands organised a first, successful A4P protection meeting. Besides generating interest in the theme, the meeting yielded specific ideas on how missions can protect civilians.

In 2019, as in previous years, the Netherlands organised an integrated civilian protection train-the-trainer course in cooperation with US Africom, Rwanda and the UN Integrated Training Service. The course provided training to a total of 30 military, police and civilian personnel on peacekeepers' tasks in protection. In late 2019 the Netherlands and PAX organised a conference on lessons learned and best practices for training programmes on the protection of civilians.

In addition to efforts to give detailed substance to the concept of A4P champions and the organisation of conferences and training sessions, 2019 was also marked by new partnerships with civil society on protecting civilian populations. These large, multiannual partnerships, financed from the Stability Fund, with PAX (€ 11 million; September 2019 - December 2023) and the Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC; € 7.5 million; mid-2019 - mid-2022), focus on research, training and lobbying and advocacy.

<sup>25</sup> See also the Integrated International Security Strategy, 19 March 2018, Parliamentary Paper 33 694 no. 12.



Thanks to Dutch financial support, in cooperation with NGO partners and the UN, no less than 10.8 million square metres of land has been cleared of mines. Reducing threat levels in this way has directly contributed to the safety of more than half a million people in Afghanistan, Iraq, Mali and other countries. The Netherlands nominated itself for and was elected to the presidency of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention for 2021. This agreement is aimed at creating a mine-free world by 2025.

#### *Sustainable peacebuilding*

The Netherlands strives for more inclusive political processes, stability and lasting peace. The means to achieve this include strengthening political parties and parliaments and encouraging the participation of young people and women in political decision-making. In 2018/2019 the Netherlands supported the international cooperation agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG International) with training on topics such as gender awareness and local governance. The Netherlands also supports inclusive peace processes. A Clingendael Academy Training Facility trains mediators and negotiators to play a constructive role in peace processes worldwide.

In 2019 the Netherlands again consistently emphasised the importance of improving cooperation between the UN, the EU, international financial institutions and other partners. One of the priority areas for enhanced cooperation is peacebuilding and conflict prevention in fragile and conflict states, through the UN Peacebuilding Fund and the World Bank Group's draft Strategy for Fragility, Conflict and Violence. More generally, the Netherlands supports initiatives to improve coordination at country level so as to enable the UN, World Bank and EU to work better together. To this end the Netherlands funds the reform of UN country teams to improve strategic cooperation with partners. The Netherlands is also one of the advocates for the development by the international financial institutions of country platforms aimed at strengthening coordination among the institutions and with other partners.

#### *Prevention*

The prevention of human rights abuses and conflict is an essential part of Dutch foreign policy. A prevention agenda that contributes to poverty reduction and inclusive, sustainable development is vital to combat instability and reduce the risk of armed conflict. That is why the Netherlands is committed to tackling the structural root causes of conflict (structural prevention), with an additional focus on preventing recurrent violence. For example, the Netherlands is working with regional partners in the Darfur region of Sudan on community-based conflict resolution, with an emphasis on conflicts over water and land and on providing livelihood opportunities. These efforts have

resulted in more peaceful conflict resolution, fewer tribal conflicts and an improved sense of security.

Preventing recurrent violence necessitates fighting its root causes at the earliest possible stage. With the aim of identifying conflict risks in unstable regions early on, in 2019 the Netherlands continued to work on developing a knowledge and collaboration platform on big data applications for early warning and early action. The objective of the Interministerial Working Party on Early Warning, Early Action (IW-EWEA) is to identify and address conflict risks and threats to human rights. As a co-founder of the EU's Early Warning/Early Action Forum, the Netherlands is further raising awareness on this subject within the EU.

At an intersessional seminar on prevention in Geneva in November 2019, the Netherlands called for improved cooperation between the Human Rights Council and the UN pillar for peace and security, and for a central role for the Council in prevention. These efforts will continue during Dutch membership of the Human Rights Council in 2020-2022; the Netherlands has identified conflict prevention as one of its spearheads on the Council.

In both the EU and UN, the Netherlands has once again called for the operationalisation and application of the principle of Responsibility to Protect (RtoP), aimed at preventing genocide, ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity and war crimes – a principle which was accepted by the UN in its 2005 World Summit Outcome Document. The Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect in Geneva, co-chaired by the Netherlands and Rwanda, is examining the role of various human rights mechanisms (the Human Rights Council, OHCHR and Universal Periodic Review (UPR)) in preventing large-scale violations. In a UN General Assembly debate requested by several like-minded countries, the Netherlands highlighted the role of the Human Rights Council in prevention, the preventive role of accountability mechanisms and the need to position RtoP within a broader framework of prevention.

With a view to strengthening diplomatic efforts, Dutch financial support to the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect and the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation was continued in 2019.

*Parliamentary motions and undertakings referred to in the report*

Parliamentary Paper	Main mover(s)	Subject	Chapter	Page
22 112 V, no. 2529	Omtzigt	EU sanctions regime	Text box on EU	12
32 735 V, no. 217	Koopmans/Van Helvert	Projects in OECD countries	Introduction	7
Ditto			Explanatory notes on finances	53
32 735 V, no. 238	Van Ojik	Case against Myanmar	6	42
32 735 V, no. 248	Koopmans	Case against Myanmar	6	42
32 735 V, no. 250	Van Ojik/Karabulut	Recommendations for combating impunity	6	43
32 735 V, no. 255	Voordewind	Death penalty – specific categories	2	26
Ditto			5	39
32 735 V, no. 256	Voordewind	Blasphemy	2	26
32 735 V, no. 257	Van der Staaij	Projects in the Middle East	2	25
32 735 V, no. 264	Van Ojik/Ploumen	Protection of female journalists	1	17
33 694 V, no. 13	Voordewind	Freedom of religion and belief	2	23
34 775 V, no. 26	Sjoerdsma	Emergency fund protecting journalists	1	17
34 775 V, no. 29	Voordewind	Freedom of religion and belief	2	23
34 952 V, no. 89	Alkaya	Human rights defenders	4	36
35 078 V, no. 22	De Graaf/Omtzigt	EU's Special Envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion or belief	2	27
35 000 V, no. 26	Van Helvert	Appointment of Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion and Belief	2, Box	24
35 000 V, no. 36	Van der Staaij	Classic rights and freedoms and young people	2, Box	28
35 300 V, no. 20	Van Ojik/Ploumen	Peaceful protest movements	Box EU	12
Ditto			4, Box	36
35 300 V, no. 32	Sjoerdsma	EU sanctions regime	Box EU	12
35 300 V, no. 33	Sjoerdsma	Priorities in the UN Human Rights Council	Introduction	9
35 300 V, no. 34	Ploumen/Van Ojik	Alliance for Multilateralism	Introduction	6
35 300 V, no. 35	Ploumen/Van Ojik	Strengthening the UN Human Rights Council	Introduction	9
35 300 XVII, no. 35	Alkaya/Diks	Using diplomatic contacts with third countries to encourage participation in talks on a binding UN Convention on human rights and business	7.1, Box	47
<b>Date/reference number of undertaking</b>				
16-11-2016 DMM 2		Undertaking by the foreign minister: decision on further funding of the receptor project to be based on the results of the evaluation	Explanatory notes on the financial appendix	53
		Undertaking by foreign minister: House to be informed in the annual human rights report about the work of the Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion and Belief: e.g. goals for the coming year, current and future activities and the budget.	2, Box on the Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion and Belief	24
T/DOBBZ/14-112019/1		Undertaking by the foreign minister: Next year's human rights report will discuss how the Netherlands is following up on the Istanbul process.	2	26

### Explanatory note to the financial annexe

The financial annexe provides an overview of Ministry of Foreign Affairs projects financed from the Human Rights Fund and other funds (Accountability Fund, SBE International Rule of Law, Funding Leadership and Opportunities (FLOW), Netherlands-MENA partnership (Shiraka), Public Diplomacy, social transformation programme (MATRA), Foreign Policy Support Programme (POBB), Strategic Partnerships within foreign trade and development cooperation (BHOS) policy) which are specifically aimed at protecting and/or promoting human rights. A number of other developments related to human rights project funding are outlined below.

#### *Funding in OECD countries*

During its annual meeting with the minister on the Human Rights Report on 1 July 2019, the House of Representatives requested clarification on the list of projects. Furthermore, in accordance with the motion submitted by MPs Sven Koopmans and Martijn van Helvert (Parliamentary Paper 32 735 V, no. 217) which was adopted on 5 November 2018, the House requested the government, with a few significant exceptions, to desist from spending Human Rights Fund resources in OECD countries with a fully functioning rule of law.

Partly on the basis of these requests, the Ministry reviewed the various funds contributing to human rights and analysed in which OECD and other relatively wealthy countries the Ministry disburses non-ODA funds to promote the rule of law and human rights. A distinction was made between funds that are merely channelled through OECD countries and/or relatively rich countries to third countries (for example through Freedom House in the US, which funds human rights defenders in countries worldwide), and funds that are spent in the OECD country itself. The analysis showed that Human Rights Fund expenditure is very low in OECD countries. No new funding from the Human Rights Fund will be spent in those countries that do receive financial support unless it falls under a listed exception or the country lacks a properly functioning rule of law.

The analysis also showed that several projects that were previously included in the Human Rights Report do not have the promotion and protection of human rights as their primary objective but contribute, for example, to strengthening bilateral relations with the Netherlands, building international alliances or strengthening the Netherlands' position. The financial annexe has therefore been shortened to include only those projects whose explicit objective is promoting or protecting human rights. The House will thus have a clear picture of where funding on human rights policy is actually spent. Furthermore, the proportion of projects in OECD countries will decrease over the coming years because the Human Rights Fund will only be used in

those OECD countries lacking a properly functioning rule of law or for projects that fall under a listed exception.

#### *Receptor approach*

Lastly, on 16 November 2016 the government promised the House of Representatives that it would carry out a final evaluation of the pilot project on the applicability of the receptor approach to human rights. The Ministry ensured that the implementing organisation of the pilot project was closely involved in drawing up the terms of reference for the evaluation, whose aim was to clarify the value and applicability of the receptor approach to Dutch foreign human rights policy by considering to what extent the approach is innovative and adds value.

After some delay, the evaluation was conducted in September 2019 and January 2020 by an external, independent evaluator. The evaluation of this five-year pilot project concluded that the receptor approach provides no demonstrable added value. Moreover, the evaluation suggested that the approach contributes to a discourse that is increasingly resonating among countries that runs counter to the human rights agenda promoted by the Netherlands (on universality, indivisibility vs. non-intervention, sovereignty and collective rights). Several of the criticisms of the receptor approach highlighted in this evaluation are in line with an advisory letter from the Advisory Council on International Affairs (April 2012).<sup>26</sup> On the basis of these conclusions, the government will not finance any new projects based on the receptor approach.

<sup>26</sup> 'The Receptor Approach: A Question of Weight and Measure' (Advisory Council on International Affairs), advisory letter no. 21, 13 April 2012.

# Financial annexes: expenditure by theme

1. Expenditure from the Human Rights Fund, by theme

2. Expenditure from other funds, by theme<sup>27</sup>

*Total, Human Rights Fund*

Theme	Expenditure in EUR	Number of projects
Freedom of expression and internet freedom	19,740,039	116
Freedom of religion and belief	5,343,683	45
Equal rights for women and girls	7,841,900	127
Human rights defenders	9,081,997	71
Equal rights for LGBTI persons	4,861,531	80
Promotion of the international legal order / Tackling impunity	3,232,490	28
Other		
• Human rights (general)	601,403	19
• Business and human rights	1,379,227	24
• Most serious breaches	1,036,820	17
• Other	2,615,178	62
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,734,268</b>	<b>589</b>

*Total, other funds*

Theme	Expenditure in EUR	Number of projects
Freedom of expression and internet freedom	7,133,686	26
Freedom of religion and belief	29,791	3
Equal rights for women and girls	30,213,747	55
Human rights defenders	16,444,270	15
Equal rights for LGBTI persons	4,291,102	22
Promotion of the international legal order / Tackling impunity	1,703,584	18
Other		
• Human rights (general)	11,365,427	4
• Business and human rights	186,197	7
• Most serious breaches	118,699	2
• Other	1,273,333	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>72,759,836</b>	<b>168</b>

<sup>27</sup> Accountability Fund, multilateral human rights, SBE International Rule of Law, Funding Leadership and Opportunities (FLOW), Netherlands-MENA partnership (Shiraka), Public Diplomacy, social transformation programme (MATRA), Foreign Policy Support Programme (POBB), Strategic Partnerships within foreign trade and development cooperation (BHOS) policy, and a number of small projects associated with other funds.

# 1 Expenditure from the Human Rights Fund, by theme

Theme: Freedom of expression and internet freedom

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire	Côte d'Ivoire	World Press Day 2019	2,026
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire	Côte d'Ivoire	World Press Photo	24,219
Abuja, Nigeria	Nigeria	Media Narratives on Conflict and Humanitarian Crises in Nigeria	70,866
Amman, Jordan	Jordan	Digital Rights: Improving Human Rights Online in Jordan	136,539
Amman, Jordan	Jordan	Exploring Equality and Human Rights in Jordan with Podcasts	169,767
Amman, Jordan	Jordan	Internet Freedom in Jordan	40,186
Amman, Jordan	Jordan	Promoting Accountability and Local Governance in Jordan through Independent Media	96,800
Amman, Jordan	Jordan	Increased Access to Information on Human Rights through Media in Jordan	63,739
Ankara, Turkey	Turkey	Various projects [Confidential]	125,719
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Digital rights in Kazakhstan	37,800
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	World Press Photo Exhibitions	2,000
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Independent Media School in Kazakhstan	63,990
Athens, Greece	Greece	The Young Journalists	10,000
Baghdad, Iraq	Iraq	World Press Photo Exhibition	75,082
Bangkok, Thailand	Thailand	World Press Photo Exhibition	28,938
Budapest, Hungary	Hungary	Network of Independent Regional Online Newspapers	8,000
Budapest, Hungary	Hungary	Reclaiming Democracy	3,000
Budapest, Hungary	Hungary	Empowerment Through Media Skills: Roma Women as Role Models	7,000
Budapest, Hungary	Hungary	From Local News Towards Local Democracy	7,000
Beirut, Lebanon	Lebanon	Digital Rights as Human Rights	60,923
Bucharest, Romania	Romania	Journalists Against Organized Crime in Romania	24,890
Bucharest, Romania	Moldova	Support for Russian Version of Print and Online Versions of Investigative Newspaper Ziarul de Garda	113,817
Bucharest, Romania	Moldova	Romano FM Radio in Soroca	20,129
Bucharest, Romania	Moldova	Online Russian language News Platform Newsmaker.Md	105,500
Bucharest, Romania	Moldova	Boosting Support to Russian-language Independent Media and Media Literacy Efforts	39,876
Bucharest, Romania	Moldova	Support of Freedom of Speech, Independent Press and Opinion Pluralism	38,000
Bucharest, Romania	Moldova	World Press Photo	10,500

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Bucharest, Romania	Romania	Media X Files: Establishing Good Practice in Reporting on Violence against Women & Girls	35,000
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Strengthening Innovation and Research on Freedom of Expression	45,188
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	World Press Photo Exhibition	17,715
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Support Leaders and Communities Affected by the Armed Conflict in Sharing their Stories in Local Media	40,734
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	League Against Silence – Combating Media Self-Censorship	37,960
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Human Rights Day Seminar	12,695
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Local Democracy Index	22,561
Bratislava, Slovakia	Slovakia	Bellingcat training for investigative journalists	12,672
Bratislava, Slovakia	Slovakia	Fund for Investigative Journalism Contribution	2,500
Bratislava, Slovakia	Slovakia	Investigative Center of Jan Kuciak	10,000
Bujumbura, Burundi	Burundi	Confidential	694,192
Caracas, Venezuela	Venezuela	Fabrica de Cine	9,206
Caracas, Venezuela	Venezuela	Peliculas que Importan	4,250
Caracas, Venezuela	Venezuela	World Press Photo 2019	24,053
Caracas, Venezuela	Venezuela	Confidential	24,990
Dhaka, Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Voice of Rural Journalism	45,109
Geneva, Switzerland (Permanent Mission to the UN)	Switzerland	World Press Exhibition	20,879
Harare, Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	Strategic Litigation for Media and Access to Information Law Reform	85,000
Havana, Cuba	Cuba	Potaje Urbano 2019: Freely expressing the Cuban Cultural Identity	1,285
Havana, Cuba	Cuba	Various projects [Confidential]	103,792
Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	Pakistan Center for Excellence Evolution	162,096
Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	Voice and Visibility	154,107
Istanbul, Turkey	Turkey	Confidential	36,908
Jakarta, Indonesia	Indonesia	Various projects [Confidential]	46,019
Jakarta, Indonesia	Timor-Leste	Strengthening Media Self-Regulatory in Timor-Leste	129,755
Jakarta, Indonesia	Indonesia	Support for Press Freedom	137,218
Jakarta, Indonesia	Indonesia	Confidential	29,164
Kabul, Afghanistan	Afghanistan	The Empowerment of Afghan Children and Women through the Film Project: ‘When Pomegranates Howl’	20,000
Cairo, Egypt	Egypt	Freedom of Expression Program	27,432
Cairo, Egypt	Egypt	Digital Rights Project	36,258
Cairo, Egypt	Egypt	Freedom of Expression Program II	24,200
Khartoum, Sudan	Sudan	Various projects [Confidential]	519,419
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Economic Education for Public Participation in Decision Making	4,838
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Protection of Freedom of Speech in the East of Ukraine	10,923
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	TV Bridges	5,935
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Digital Rights Agenda	49,352
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Freedom of information for Crimea	46,303
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Strengthening the Capacity of Journalists and the Media	2,790

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Kigali, Rwanda	Rwanda	Club de la Presse	40,376
Kinshasa, DRC	DRC	La Securite des Journalistes et Droit a l'Information au Nord et Sud Kivu	250,000
Kinshasa, DRC	DRC	World Press Photo Exhibition	65,552
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Malaysia	Freedom Film Fest 2019	6,352
Lima, Peru	Peru	World Press Photo Exhibition	14,000
Lima, Peru	Ecuador	World Press Photo Exhibition	14,875
Manila, Philippines	Philippines	Safety of Journalists	48,572
Maputo, Mozambique	Mozambique	World Press Photo Exhibition	20,496
Mexico City, Mexico	Mexico	International Human Rights Day 2019	4,000
Mexico City, Mexico	Mexico	Confidential	52,000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Enabling the next generation	9,200,000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Article 19 – Breaking the impasse	79,200
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Access Now	332,511
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Safety for Media Professionals	700,000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Digital Defenders Partnership	1,014,879
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Resilient Information Spaces	439,948
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Small Media Foundation	305,708
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Viable Media for Empowered Societies	1,113,172
Moscow, Russia	Russia	Various projects [Confidential]	148,807
Panama City, Panama	Panama	Workshop and Training Press Freedom	4,675
Paris, France (Permanent Delegation to UNESCO)	Yemen	International Programme for the Development of Communication	380,171
Paris, France (Permanent Delegation to UNESCO)	Worldwide	Presidency of the International Programme for the Development of Communication	14,000
Beijing, China	China	Various projects [Confidential]	69,412
San José, Costa Rica	Costa Rica and El Salvador	World Press Photo Exhibition	34,828
San José, Costa Rica	Central America	Improving the Safety of Journalists in Remote Areas of Central America	212,564
Skopje, North Macedonia	North Macedonia	Vidi Vaka Medium for Digital Natives: Preserving a Free Flow of Information	9,443
Sofia, Bulgaria	Bulgaria	Anti-Corruption Media Training Seminar	2,978
Sofia, Bulgaria	Bulgaria	The Role of Independent Media in Corruption Prevention	13,995
Sofia, Bulgaria	Bulgaria	Monitoring and Analyzing Media Attacks on the Judiciary in Bulgaria	10,080
Tbilisi, Georgia	Armenia	Protecting the Rights of Journalists and Countering the Narrative Discrediting European Values	72,000
Tripoli, Libya	Libya	Human Rights Day event 'Draw your Right'	7,000
Tunis, Tunisia	Tunisia	The Right to Access to Information	127,370

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Tunis, Tunisia	Tunisia	Promoting Investigative Journalism in the Regional and National Media in Tunisia	1,903
Tunis, Tunisia	Tunisia	Supporting Freedom of Expression and Media Development in North-West Tunisia	3,063
Warsaw, Poland	Belarus	Various projects [Confidential]	261,860
Warsaw, Poland	Belarus	The Belarusian Internet Library: Freedom of Speech and Intellectual Property	10,500
Warsaw, Poland	Belarus	Access to Propaganda-free Information in Belarus	95,000
Warsaw, Poland	Belarus	World Press Photo Belarus 2019	24,950
Warsaw, Poland	Belarus	Enhancing Access of Belarusian People to Objective News and Information via Euroradio	20,000
Washington D.C., United States	Worldwide	Support for a Transatlantic High Level Working Group on Content Moderation Online and Freedom of Expression	125,000
Vienna, Austria (Permanent Mission to the OSCE)	OSCE region	Challenging Restrictions on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan	94,000
Vienna, Austria (Permanent Mission to the OSCE)	OSCE region	Election Observation Development Programme	40,000
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Vital News and Reporting to Support Human Rights in Myanmar	9,444
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Investigative Journalism Project	10,005
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Protecting Human Rights Through Legal Advocacy	65,000
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Vital News Reporting to Support Human Rights	42,500
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Investigative Journalism Project	29,921
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Yangon Photo Festival 2019	17,000
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Human Rights Tulip Promotion	2,125
<b>Total</b>	<b>€19,740,039</b>		<b>€ 19.740.039</b>

Theme: Freedom of religion and belief

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Abuja, Nigeria	Nigeria	Transforming the Farmer-Herder Conflicts	269,000
Abuja, Nigeria	Nigeria	Unity in Diversity	78,360
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Promoting Freedom of Religion and Belief in Kazakhstan through Freedom of Expression	34,000
Baghdad, Iraq	Iraq	Freedom of Religion and Belief Day	5,000
Colombo, Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	Religious Freedom: Unlocking the Roots of Religious Violence	6,178
Geneva, Switzerland (Permanent Mission to the UN)	Worldwide	Istanbul Process	71,478
Geneva, Switzerland (Permanent Mission to the UN)	Worldwide	Side Event Freedom of Religion and Belief	7,299
Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	Preserving Freedom of Religious Belief in Pakistan	100,796
Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	Engage Foundation – blasphemy	135,726
Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	Legal Aid and Advocacy for Minorities	77,734
Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	EPIC – Engaging Pakistani Interfaith Communities	28,592
Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	Social and Economic Empowerment of Minorities	25,654



Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	Mainstreaming Minorities Agenda Democratic Process	8,180
Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	Team Muhafez and Basila & the Street Crew	107,943
Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	Legal Aid Assistance for Minorities	12,714
Istanbul, Turkey	Turkey	Various projects [Confidential]	145,038
Jakarta, Indonesia	Indonesia	Media and Religious Moderation	126,193
Jakarta, Indonesia	Indonesia	Religious Freedom Protection	131,273
Cairo, Egypt	Egypt	Minorities Project	63,894
Cairo, Egypt	Egypt	Together we Develop Egypt Phase II	114,293
Cairo, Egypt	Egypt	Promoting Cultural of Dialogue: Building Capacities towards Religious Tolerance and Mutual Coexistence	48,400
Khartoum, Sudan	Sudan	Confidential	46,504
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Promoting Tolerance via Jewish History and Culture	9,300
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Promotion of Religious Diversity	41,775
Lima, Peru	Peru	Catolicas por el Derecho a Decidir Peru	19,459
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Istanbul Process – conference	16,783
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Middle East and North Africa	Countering four pillars of discrimination	574,645
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	A Religious Mosaic	470,000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Voices for Inclusion	411,369
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Cameroon and the Philippines	Freedom of Religion and Belief in Cameroon and the Philippines	815,775
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Sub-Saharan Africa	Charting a Course for Muslim Advocates for Freedom of Religion or Belief and Women's Rights	121,500
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Minority Rights Group International London	23,808
Moscow, Russia	Russia	Various projects [Confidential]	20,000
Nairobi, Kenya	Kenya	Enhancing Freedom of Religion or Belief	151,696
Nicosia, Cyprus	Cyprus	Religious Heritage of Cyprus	2,250
Beijing, China	China	Confidential	114,139
Tbilisi, Georgia	Armenia	Promoting Freedom of Religion and Belief in Armenia	102,113
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	Humans in Religion	4,294
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	Protecting the Rights of Non-dominant Religious Groups	32,592
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	Fostering Religious Tolerance and Cultural Diversity in Public Schools	69,115
Tirana, Albania	Albania	Exploring the Role of Religion in Western Balkan Societies	8,000
Washington D.C., United States	Worldwide	Protecting Belief Fund	376,406
Vienna, Austria (Permanent Mission to the OSCE)	Ukraine	Ukraine: Faith in Religious Pluralism	94,470
Vienna, Austria (Permanent Mission to the OSCE)	Central Asia	Forum 18 News Service	39,993
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Religious Freedom Initiative Plus	50,000
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Cultivation for religious freedom and belief	121,452

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Human Rights Tulip Winner Myanmar	8,500
<b>Total</b>			<b>€ 5,343,683</b>

Theme: Equal rights for women and girls

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Abuja, Nigeria	Nigeria	Red Diamond 2 – Women and Girls	134,670
Abuja, Nigeria	Nigeria	Towards Ending Child Marriage	130,548
Accra, Ghana	Ghana	Equal Rights and Economic Empowerment for women	83,537
Algiers, Algeria	Algeria	Renforcement de la Protection	285,000
Amman, Jordan	Jordan	Supporting Women's Voices in Marriage and Advocating for the Rights of Women with Disabilities	653,541
Amman, Jordan	Jordan	Integrated Development Center for Policy Research and Innovation Advancement	265,312
Amman, Jordan	Jordan	Improving Jordan's Microfinance Industry to protect the socioeconomic rights of Jordan's most vulnerable, especially women	69,404
Amman, Jordan	Jordan	From Principle to Practice: Understanding patriarchal attitudes and paving the way for policy reform	101,029
Amman, Jordan	Jordan	Equality for Prosperity	104,184
Ankara, Turkey	Turkey	Confidential	133,917
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	WikiGap Kazakhstan	16,745
Athens, Greece	Greece	Melissa Project Empowering Female Refugees against Gender Based Violence	7,000
Baghdad, Iraq	Iraq	Empowering Feminist Journalists	38,250
Baghdad, Iraq	Iraq	National Action Plan on Equal Rights for Women	54,497
Baghdad, Iraq	Iraq	Middle East and North Africa Regional Forum	17,850
Baku, Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan	Learn, Launch, Lead: Promoting Social Entrepreneurship as a Tool to Empower Woman	25,000
Baku, Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan	Confidential	48,000
Baku, Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan	Promotion of the Girl Child (rights) through Sport	25,000
Bangkok, Thailand	Thailand	Human Library: Putting a Spotlight on Invisible Women, Lending a Voice to Unheard Women	2,630
Bangkok, Thailand	Thailand	MySis ChatBot Against Violence on Women	13,150
Budapest, Hungary	Hungary	Let us Work Together – Stop Violence Against Women!	6,000
Budapest, Hungary	Hungary	Social Economy and Social Entrepreneurship for the Inclusion of Disadvantaged Women in the Labour Market	2,000
Budapest, Hungary	Hungary	Helping Small Communities in the Countryside by Strengthening the Role of Women	12,000
Beirut, Lebanon	Lebanon	Women in Politics programme	131,453
Beirut, Lebanon	Lebanon	Encouraging Women in Politics	13,597
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia	Agora 2.0: Interactive Educational Project aimed at providing Political and Media Literacy to Young People Focusing on Gender Identity	24,800
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia	Public: Working with Youth on Understanding Discrimination and Social Acceptance with Focus on Women	39,880
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia	New Spaces, New Voices: End News Media Sexism	8,106
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia	Be Equal in the Value Chain	8,008

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Bucharest, Romania	Romania	EveryGirl Everywhere Tour and Awareness Campaign	24,100
Bucharest, Romania	Romania	Preventing Sexual Offences and Recruitment of Teenagers through Online Social Networks	13,988
Bucharest, Romania	Moldova	Development of Resilience to Sexual and Commercial Exploitation for Adolescents in Vocational Schools	67,550
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Gender Equality in Territorial Peace Processes in Montes de María	72,944
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Indigenous Women & Good Living	13,660
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Migrant Women & Justice	26,761
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Cycle of Silence Documentary	17,250
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Migrant Women Leaving the Prison System	1,906
Buenos Aires, Argentina	Argentina	The Next Women Pitch Competition 2019	12,000
Buenos Aires, Argentina	Argentina	Festival de Cine	19,168
Buenos Aires, Argentina	Argentina	Girl Empowerment through Sports	40,000
Buenos Aires, Argentina	Argentina	Dispositivo Integral de Fortalecimiento de la Ley de Educación Sexual	38,947
Buenos Aires, Argentina	Argentina	Women's rights	20,125
Buenos Aires, Argentina	Argentina	Fortaleciendo la Red Municipalista de Lucha contra las Violencias a las Mujeres de la Provincia de Córdoba	1,426
Caracas, Venezuela	Venezuela	ImpactGirls	20,397
Dakar, Senegal	Gambia	Awareness raising on Harmful Traditional Practices and Sexual and Reproductive Health among Adolescents	19,220
Dakar, Senegal	Guinea-Bissau	Equipping a Shelter for Children and Young Girl Victims of Gender Violence	19,131
Dakar, Senegal	Senegal	Opening of a Women's Rights House	7,165
Dakar, Senegal	Senegal	Advocacy for Access to Reproductive Health for Adolescents and Young People	93,790
Dakar, Senegal	Mauritania	Combating Sexual Violence in Mauritania	6,977
Dakar, Senegal	Senegal	Mobilizing Grandmothers and Teachers to Promote Girl's Rights and Education and to Prevent Child Marriage	17,559
Dakar, Senegal	Senegal	Maison Rose: Protection of Children and Women Victims of Violence	17,150
Dhaka, Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Leaping Boundaries: Empowering Girls in Bangladesh	18,917
Erbil, Iraq	Iraq	Combating Female Genital Mutilation in Iraqi Kurdistan and Helping Victims	89,590
Geneva, Switzerland (Permanent Mission to the UN)	Switzerland	Artistic Project against Domestic Violence	874
Harare, Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	Protection and Access to Justice for Girls and Women in Zimbabwe	796,249
Harare, Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	Mitigating Violence Against Women in Political Spaces	125,384
Havana, Cuba	Cuba	Proyecto Palomas Documentary	2,742
Havana, Cuba	Cuba	Christian Centre for Reflection and Dialogue – Inclusion and Non-Discrimination	17,997
Havana, Cuba	Cuba	Cuban National Center for Sex Education: Program on Sexual Health and Human Rights	85,000
Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	Strengthening Law Enforcement Capacity for Effective Service Delivery	105,038
Istanbul, Turkey	Turkey	Confidential	66,182
Jakarta, Indonesia	Indonesia	Confidential	110,964

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Kabul, Afghanistan	Afghanistan	My Red Line: Campaign for Advocacy of Afghan Women in Peace Building	16,830
Cairo, Egypt	Egypt	Together to Combat Trafficking in Women	63,293
Cairo, Egypt	Egypt	Training and Employment for Women and Youth	41,126
Cairo, Egypt	Egypt	Addressing Female Migrants' Vulnerability to Sexual Exploitation	1,298
Khartoum, Sudan	Sudan	Confidential	19,066
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Access to Justice for Women Victims of Violence	14,906
Kigali, Rwanda	Rwanda	Capacity building, Legal Assistance, and Advocacy for Women Street Vendors' Rights	45,274
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Malaysia	Child Marriage Workshops for Rohingya Refugee Communities in Penang	6,479
Kinshasa, DRC	DRC	Promoting Women's Political Participation	187,000
Kinshasa, DRC	DRC	Lutte Contre les Violences Faites aux Femmes et Jeunes Filles dans la Province de Tshopo et Ville Province de Kinshasa	170,000
Luanda, Angola	Angola	Promotion of Civil Society Women Networks and Empowerment of Young Women in Angola	50,000
Manila, Philippines	Philippines	Workshop for Aspiring Female Entrepreneurs	33,327
Maputo, Mozambique	Mozambique	World Press Photo CIVICUS	12,000
Mexico City, Mexico	Mexico	Protection of Indigenous Women	24,456
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Evaluatie Karama	27,830
Moscow, Russia	Russia	Various projects [Confidential]	165,583
New Delhi, India	India	Equal Rights for Women in Urban Slums of Aurangabad	3,567
New Delhi, India	India	Creating Favourable Ecosystem for Non-traditional Livelihoods for Women	2,377
New Delhi, India	India	Empowering Rural Women in Protecting their rights	4,435
New Delhi, India	India	Gendercide Project	98,770
New Delhi, India	India	Training Unemployed Women in Jharkhand	62,266
New Delhi, India	India	Menstrual Ad Education, Awareness, Production and Sale	9,569
New Delhi, India	India	Women Agriculture Entrepreneurs	14,755
Beijing, China	China	Various projects [Confidential]	994,801
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa	Advancing the Rights of women, girls and LGBTI communities	27,990
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa	Gender Based Violence Prevention Programme	28,763
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa	Tsoga! Rights and empowerment of Township-based women	57,276
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa	Project Access II: Youth Zones Protecting Disadvantaged Youth in their Development	62,497
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa	Ruben Richards Foundation: Human Rights Practice in Vulnerable Communities	16,318
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa	Consultation Dialogue: Young women as Drivers of Democracy	2,714
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa	Women's Rights, Internet Governance and Online Safety and Security	7,353
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa	Shared Goals, Different Paths – Women, Peace & Security	10,300
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa	Advancing the Rights of Women and Girls	3,056

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa	Restoring Dignity to Women – Soap Project	2,215
Paramaribo, Suriname	Suriname	Human Rights Research in the Wayana community in the South of Suriname	20,780
Rabat, Morocco	Morocco	Fighting Violence Against Women	3,211
Rabat, Morocco	Morocco	Activities to Protect Women against Sexual Harassment	78,392
Rabat, Morocco	Morocco	Promoting Best Practices in the State Response to Sexual Violence against Women	104,344
Rabat, Morocco	Morocco	Counselling Center to Support Female Victims of Violence	13,046
Rabat, Morocco	Morocco	Pour Une Politique Pénale et Carcérale qui Intègre le Genre	56,584
Rabat, Morocco	Morocco	Stop Aux Violences Numériques	80,400
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabia	Female Career Fair	14,950
San José, Costa Rica	Central America	Improve Environment for Women to Fully Exercise their Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights	162,271
Skopje, North Macedonia	North Macedonia	Support for the Implementation of the National Action Plan for the Istanbul Convention	74,526
Skopje, North Macedonia	North Macedonia	Mentor with Impact – Mentoring Program for Women Entrepreneurs and Professionals	3,693
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	Dominican Republic	COIN: Access to information, Health and Legal Aid for Sex Workers and Dutch Detainees in the Dominican Republic	44,000
Santiago, Chile	Chile	Convencion Hay Mujeres 2019	2,600
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	Role of Women in National Security	60,480
Tbilisi, Georgia	Armenia	Preventing Domestic Violence against Women	25,000
Tel Aviv, Israel	Israel	Cracking the Glass Ceiling	16,828
Tirana, Albania	Albania, North Macedonia, Kosovo	Handle with Care: Educate the Public about the Topic of Human Trafficking and Prostitution	1,260
Tirana, Albania	Albania	Dare and Care: Raising Awareness and Educating Young People about Human Trafficking	41,600
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	Role of Women in National Security	60,480
Tbilisi, Georgia	Armenia	Preventing Domestic Violence against Women	25,000
Tel Aviv, Israel	Israel	Cracking the Glass Ceiling	16,828
Tirana, Albania	Albania, North Macedonia, Kosovo	Handle with Care: Educate the Public about the Topic of Human Trafficking and Prostitution	1,260
Tirana, Albania	Albania	Dare and Care: Raising Awareness and Educating Young People about Human Trafficking	41,600
Tirana, Albania	Albania	Education – No Early Marriage	22,455
Tirana, Albania	Albania	See Women: Supporting Vulnerable Groups	26,695
Tripoli, Libya	Libya	Freedom Fields Movie	25,000
Warsaw, Poland	Belarus	Confidential	45,600
Warsaw, Poland	Belarus	Promoting Democratization and Human Rights in Belarus	19,200
Warsaw, Poland	Belarus	Women Leaders in Belarus	14,000
Washington D.C., United States	Worldwide	Due Diligence Project: Framework to Counter Violence Against Women	14,025
Vienna, Austria (Permanent Mission to the OSCE)	OSCE region	Combating Violence Against Women in Southeast and Eastern Europe	100,000
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Vagina Monologues Performances	2,533

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Women Media Project	25,161
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Human Rights Tulip Myanmar Winner	8,500
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Platform for Women's Skill Development	2,017
<b>Total</b>			<b>€ 7,841,900</b>

Theme: Human rights defenders

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Ankara, Turkey	Turkey	Confidential	79,983
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Coalition of New Human Rights Defenders in Kazakhstan	23,568
Baghdad, Iraq	Iraq	Human Rights Tulip Award Ceremony	9,304
Baku, Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan	Confidential	26,730
Bangkok, Thailand	Thailand	Raise Your Voice for Environmental Rights	25,503
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Autonomous Development, Effective and Peaceful Leadership in Nariño & Chocó	19,708
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Strengthening Capacities of Self-Protection of Individuals, Groups and Communities at Risk because of their Human Rights Work and Leadership	80,616
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Self-Protection and Security of Human Rights Defenders and Organizations	34,894
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Strengthening Human Rights Defenders Working in Brazil	10,000
Bujumbura, Burundi	Burundi	Various projects [Confidential]	265,909
Caracas, Venezuela	Venezuela	Various projects [Confidential]	19,247
Caracas, Venezuela	Venezuela	Capacity Building of Espacio Anne Frank	8,497
Caracas, Venezuela	Venezuela	Human Rights of Indigenous People	1,723
Colombo, Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	Confidential	9,416
Dakar, Senegal	Guinea-Bissau	Building the Capacity of Civil Society in Rural Guinea-Bissau to Promote and Protect Human Rights	9,944
Harare, Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	Human Rights Support for Human Rights Defenders	237,257
Harare, Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	Hivos	137,485
Istanbul, Turkey	Turkey	Various projects [Confidential]	63,195
Jakarta, Indonesia	Indonesia	Various Human Rights Activities	4,442
Jakarta, Indonesia	Indonesia	Confidential	103,884
Juba, South Sudan	South Sudan	Confidential	500,000
Kabul, Afghanistan	Afghanistan	Local Human Rights Tulip	5,322
Kampala, Uganda	Uganda	Strengthening Protection Mechanisms for Human Rights Defenders in Uganda	471,352
Khartoum, Sudan	Sudan	Confidential	89,681
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Protection, Legal Assistance, Support of Victims in Crimea	12,369
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Ensuring Legal Protection of Human Rights Defenders	49,600
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Legal Support for Human Rights Defenders in Crimea	68,633
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Human Rights Tulip 2019	4,247
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Fight for Rights: Empowering disability of Human Rights Defenders	45,334

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Kigali, Rwanda	Rwanda	Strengthening Human Rights Defenders Practical Knowledge in Human Rights Research Methodology and Information Protection	2,399
Kigali, Rwanda	Rwanda	Human Rights Defenders Capacity Building in Research Methodology and Security	53,900
Kinshasa, DRC	DRC	Various projects [Confidential]	432,880
Kinshasa, DRC	DRC	Local Human Rights Tulip	10,132
Manila, Philippines	Philippines	Communications for Human Rights	24,150
Manila, Philippines	Philippines	Capacity Building for Young Human Rights Defenders	6,294
Manila, Philippines	Philippines	Confidential	22,915
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Shelter City Initiative	446,469
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Movies that Matter	80,750
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Holistic Protection – Integrated security and protection capacity development for most-at-risk Human Rights Defenders	308,750
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Sub-Saharan Africa	Foundations for Human Rights – Supporting change agents to act for human rights	452,340
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Latin America	Improved protection and support for (women) human rights defenders in Latin America	142,911
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	OSCE region	Support for Human Rights Defenders in Post-Soviet Countries	96,225
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Awarding the Human Rights Tulip	9,680
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Pakistan	Project winner Human Rights Tulip 2016: Digital Rights Foundation	4,100
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Mauritania	Project winner Human Rights Tulip 2015: Initiative for the Resurgence of the Abolitionist Movement	3,750
Moscow, Russia	Russia	Various projects [Confidential]	230,400
Nairobi, Kenya	Kenya	Safety & Security of Human Rights Defenders	173,489
Panama City, Panama	Panama	Human Rights Film	2,890
Beijing, China	China	Various projects [Confidential]	445,861
Rabat, Morocco	Morocco	Advancing Human Rights Jurisprudence	25,995
Rabat, Morocco	Morocco	Institutionalization of International Human Rights Agreements	16,853
Ramallah, Palestinian Territories	Palestinian Territories	United Nations Development Programme: Civil Society Organizations Support	2,040,000
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Women Human Rights Defenders	54,715
San José, Costa Rica	Nicaragua	Various projects [Confidential]	293,756
San José, Costa Rica	Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua	Planet Protectors	253,272
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	Tbilisi Shelter City	94,080
Tel Aviv, Israel	Israel	Safeguarding Israeli Democracy	36,000
Tel Aviv, Israel	Israel	Advocacy for Palestinian Citizens of Israel	44,811
Tripoli, Libya	Libya	Human Rights Day 2018	11,314
Warsaw, Poland	Belarus	Various projects [Confidential]	240,403
Washington D.C., United States	Worldwide	Lifeline: Embattled CSO Assistance Fund	170,000

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Washington D.C., United States	North and South America	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights	238,000
Vienna, Austria (Permanent Mission to the OSCE)	OSCE region	Shelter and Resilience for Human Rights Defenders	25,000
Vienna, Austria (Permanent Mission to the OSCE)	OSCE region	Winning Public Support for Human Rights Defence	20,000
Vienna, Austria (Permanent Mission to the OSCE)	OSCE region	Advanced Human Rights Monitoring Training for Human Rights Defenders	49,805
Vienna, Austria (Permanent Mission to the OSCE)	OSCE region	Democracy Defenders Award 2019	538
Vienna, Austria (Permanent Mission to the OSCE)	OSCE region	Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2019 - Side Events	6,189
Vienna, Austria (Permanent Mission to the OSCE)	OSCE region	Civil Society Advocacy on Human Dimension	50,000
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Strengthening Human Rights Protection in Myanmar	43,138
<b>Total</b>			<b>€ 9,081,997</b>

Theme: Equal rights for LGBTI persons

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Abuja, Nigeria	Nigeria	Confidential	165,959
Algiers, Algeria	Algeria	Various projects [Confidential]	35,093
Ankara, Turkey	Turkey	Various projects [Confidential]	72,278
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Capacity Building for LGBTI activists	40,290
Athens, Greece	Greece	Lexicon for LGBTI Asylum Seekers	7,000
Baghdad, Iraq	Iraq	Various projects [Confidential]	13,000
Bangkok, Thailand	Thailand	LGBTI Business Conference 2019	8,548
Bangkok, Thailand	Thailand	Hero Awards 2019	7,364
Bangkok, Thailand	Thailand, Cambodia and Laos	LGBTI documentary Events in Thailand, Cambodia and Laos	13,967
Budapest, Hungary	Hungary	Without Taboos about LGBTI+ People	5,000
Beirut, Lebanon	Lebanon	LGBTI Youth Platform	115,118
Beirut, Lebanon	Lebanon	Confidential	169,229
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia	Belgrade Pride 2019	10,000
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia	Novi Sad Pride 2019	6,145
Belgrade, Serbia	Montenegro	Podgorica Pride 2019	5,000
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia	Dignity at Work	47,856
Bucharest, Romania	Moldova	Fearless Together - LGBTI Rights Lobby and Advocacy Programme	7,180
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Sexual and reproductive health services for transgender people at Profamilia clinics	2,820
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Strengthening the Strategic Response Capacity of the LGBTI Movement in Colombia against Misinformation Campaigns	44,760



Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Empowering Transgender People for Better Access to Health Services	43,231
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	I Exist: Right to Exist for Transgender People in Brazil	13,440
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Visibility to the Invisible: Greater Protection of LGBTI People Deprived of Freedom of Abuse and Institutional Violence	28,930
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	LGBTI Film Festival 2019	852
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Six Stripes: a Platform to Foster and Empower those who are part of the LGBTI Community	2,625
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Creating awareness of LGBTI People in Detention	2,022
Buenos Aires, Argentina	Argentina	Reducción de Violencias con Jóvenes en Situación de Vulnerabilidad Psicosocial	24,999
Bujumbura, Burundi	Burundi	Confidential	42,075
Colombo, Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	Human Rights Day	5,514
Dakar, Senegal	Gambia and Senegal	Various projects [Confidential]	9,552
Havana, Cuba	Cuba	Orgullo Trans Cubano	850
Havana, Cuba	Cuba	Festival Diversidad de la Rambla al Malecon	2,975
Havana, Cuba	Jamaica	LGBTI Family Film Screening	384
Havana, Cuba	Jamaica	Confidential	22,950
Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	Confidential	123,628
Istanbul, Turkey	Turkey	Confidential	28,616
Cairo, Egypt	Egypt	Confidential	55,981
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Empowering Civil Society	5,762
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	KyivPride	10,349
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Mykolaiv the City of Equality	6,387
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Lviv: Becoming a Human Rights City	37,744
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Journalists for Gender Equality and LGBTI Rights	34,100
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Coming Out of Isolation	50,122
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Malaysia	Rainbow Forward Strategy Retreat	2,994
Manila, Philippines	Philippines	International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia 2019	8,356
Mexico City, Mexico	Mexico	Campaign International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia 2019	8,667
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Ensemble Contre la Peine de Mort	2,000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Eastern Europe and Central Asia	Support of the LGBTI grassroots in Eastern Europe	540,000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Sub-Saharan Africa	Ending LGBTI Conversion Therapy	490,535
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Advancing Equal Rights for LGBTI People Amidst Closing Civic Space & Religious Conservatism	800,573
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	International Policy: Human Rights for Intersex People	100,000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Central America and Southeast Asia	Documentary M/F/X outreach and impact program	99,600
Moscow, Russia	Russia	Various projects [Confidential]	101,540
New Delhi, India	India	Smile - Equal Rights Programme for LGBT	5,274
New Delhi, India	India	LGBTI Suicide Prevention	24,925

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Panama City, Panama	Panama	Contrastes Documentary: Videos and Documentary about LGBTI Community in the Netherlands	5,100
Panama City, Panama	Panama	Fundacion Iguales	4,675
Panama City, Panama	Panama	Building Bridges Visitors Program	1,317
Beijing, China	China	Various projects [Confidential]	561,928
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa	Realising LGBTI Rights in Africa	97,700
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa	IDAHOT Day 2019	1,621
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa	Societal Challenges - Photography Project and LGBTI	4,321
Rabat, Morocco	Morocco	Confidential	533
Seoul, South Korea	South Korea	Korean Queer Culture Festival	6,800
San José, Costa Rica	Central America	Free to Be	212,775
Skopje, North Macedonia	North Macedonia	Skopje Pride Parade 2019	6,980
Santiago, Chile	Chile	Organizando Trans Diversidades - Transfest 2019	5,850
Tbilisi, Georgia	Armenia	LGBT community Building in Armenia	64,700
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	Sensitizing Key Stakeholders on LGBTI Issues	69,989
Tbilisi, Georgia	Armenia	Environment of Dialogue through Education and Support	3,894
Tunis, Tunisia	Tunisia	Confidential	3,114
Warsaw, Poland	Poland	Impact of the Inclusive Working Culture on the Company Performance	19,950
Warsaw, Poland	Belarus	Confidential	4,340
Washington D.C., United States	Worldwide	Dignity for all – Emergency Support for LGBTI Human Rights Defenders	147,000
Vienna, Austria (Permanent Mission to the OSCE)	Macedonia	LGBTI Rights and Freedoms in Macedonia	30,000
Vienna, Austria (Permanent Mission to the OSCE)	Russia	Moscow Mechanism: Improving Human Rights in Chechnya	1,117
Wellington, New Zealand	Pacific Region	Support for LGBTI activists	14,564
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Promoting and Protecting LGBTI Rights in Myanmar	50,817
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Proud - LGBTI Community and Culture	28,263
<b>Total</b>			<b>€ 4,861,531</b>

Theme: Promotion of the international legal order / Tackling impunity

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Algiers, Algeria	Algeria	Various projects [Confidential]	42,297
Caracas, Venezuela	Venezuela	Confidential	14,739
Dakar, Senegal	Gambia	Media training on Transitional Justice Gambia	8,778
Geneva, Switzerland (Permanent Mission to the UN)	Worldwide	Accountability Conference	25,450
Jakarta, Indonesia	Indonesia	Empowering Indonesian Victims' Voices	22,458
Juba, South Sudan	South Sudan	Confidential	147,900
Cairo, Egypt	Egypt	Confidential	126,964
Khartoum, Sudan	Sudan	Support Darfur Bar Association	6,656

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Khartoum, Sudan	Sudan	Building the New Sudan	269,460
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Communication and Advocacy Support for a Human Rights Strategy	11,759
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Access to Justice for Vulnerable Groups	16,973
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Promoting Respect for Humanitarian Law	7,794
Kinshasa, DRC	DRC	Fighting against Impunity	320,000
Kuwait City, Kuwait	Kuwait	Capacity Building Training for Judges and Prosecutors in Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking	7,822
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	International Research And Exchanges Board	13,120
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	The Commission for International Justice and Accountability	619,380
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	International Commission Of Jurists	157,859
Nairobi, Kenya	Kenya	Combating Impunity	100,040
Beijing, China	China	Various projects [Confidential]	283,111
Ramallah, Palestinian Territories	Palestinian Territories	Youth Peace Initiative	80,000
Sana'a, Yemen	Yemen	International Development Law Organization	472,000
Seoul, South Korea	South Korea	Training on Transitional Justice for North and South Korean Students	24,995
Sofia, Bulgaria	Bulgaria	Seminars by the Dutch Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe	2,935
Strasbourg, France (Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe)	Europe	Human Trust Fund	200,000
Strasbourg, France (Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe)	Europe	Support for the European Court of Human Rights	100,000
Strasbourg, France (Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe)	Ukraine	Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine	100,000
Strasbourg, France (Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe)	Georgia	Council of Europe Action Plan for Georgia	30,000
Strasbourg, France (Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe)	Europe	Support for the Council of Europe's Platform for the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists	20,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>€ 3,232,490</b>

Theme: Human rights (general)

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Ankara, Turkey	Turkey	Confidential	470
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Capstone Projects: Development of Human Rights Courses for Higher Education Institutions in Kazakhstan	67,770
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Roadmaps for Implementation of UN Treaty Bodies Decisions by Kazakhstan's Government	71,100
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan's Universal Periodic Review 2019	42,660
Bucharest, Romania	Moldova	Human Rights Film Festival	25,000
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Small Activities on Human Rights	19,035
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Citizenship and Democracy in Schools	22,055
Geneva, Switzerland (Permanent Mission to the UN)	Worldwide	Building National Universal Periodic Review Architecture	200,000
Geneva, Switzerland (Permanent Mission to the UN)	Worldwide	Support for Human Rights Council	10,398
Geneva, Switzerland (Permanent Mission to the UN)	Worldwide	Booklet to mark the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights	4,092
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Saudi Arabia	Confidential	10,000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Saudi Arabia	Confidential	10,890
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Human rights course 2019	36,460
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Human Rights Council candidacy	3,945
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Human Rights Report 2018	1,312
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Celebration of 70 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights	2,860
Moscow, Russia	Russia	Confidential	25,400
Ramallah, Palestinian Territories	Palestinian Territories	Al Mezan Center for Human Rights	9,775
Ramallah, Palestinian Territories	Palestinian Territories	Yesh Din volunteer for human rights	8,181
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Human Rights Day at the 25th Sarajevo Film Festival	30,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>€ 601,403</b>

Theme: Business and human rights

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Accra, Ghana	Ghana	Human Rights and Business	24,835
Amman, Jordan	Jordan	Socio Economic Development for Marginalized Workers in Jordan	107,168
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Support for the National Contact Point in Kazakhstan	1,558
Baghdad, Iraq	Iraq	Roundtable on Human Rights & Water	3,000
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Trust and Consensus Building: Conflict Transformation, Peaceful Coexistence and Addressing Remedy Measures in the Coal Mining Region in Cesar	113,006
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Strengthening the Ombudsman's Office	2,482

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Research on multinational corporations in Colombia	11,000
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Creating employment opportunities for detainees	48,941
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Human Rights in Construction: Research on Human Rights of Children and Adolescents in the Construction Industry of Rio de Janeiro	20,546
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Making Corporate Social Responsibility Effective through Dialogue and Multi-stakeholder Monitoring	1,527
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Indigenous Rights and Corporate Social Responsibility	1,207
Harare, Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	Exchange Program between Tilburg University and Midlands University in Zimbabwe in Areas of Human Rights and Business	691
Jakarta, Indonesia	Indonesia	Support for the Business & Human Right Agenda	104,228
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Malaysia	Business and Human Rights Conference	419
Kinshasa, DRC	DRC	Improving the Field Implementation of Voluntary Principles for Security and Human Rights in South Kivu	148,770
Lima, Peru	Peru	Contribution to ICCO	18,750
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	The International La Strada Association	13,361
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Shelter Me II	3,029
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO)	527,567
Moscow, Russia	Russia	Various projects [Confidential]	25,400
New Delhi, India	India	Supporting Advocacy to Address Negative Impacts of Unsustainable Business Practices on Human Rights	41,166
New Delhi, India	India	Indus Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability	30,393
Beijing, China	China	Confidential	64,183
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business	66,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>€ 1,379,227</b>

Theme: Most serious breaches

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Accra, Ghana	Ghana	Africa Centre for International Criminal Justice	116,411
Beirut, Lebanon	Lebanon	Prevention of Torture	57,800
Beirut, Lebanon	Lebanon	Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture	213,101
Bucharest, Romania	Moldova	Improving the Access of Children Victims/Witnesses of Violence, Neglect, Exploitation and Trafficking to Specialized Services	14,854
Bucharest, Romania	Moldova	Holocaust Education for Non-Jewish Youth in Moldavia	7,000
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Support for the Colombian Commission of Jurists	53,653
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Strengthening Resilience Capacities of Former Combatants in the Process of Reincorporation and in Communities to Prevent Victimization and Stigmatization	132,051
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Contributing to the Access of Land Restitution Rights for the Displacement Victims in Antioquia	4,958
Dakar, Senegal	Gambia	Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission - Stories of Women and Marginalized Groups	9,948
Hanoi, Vietnam	Vietnam	Training Program on the United Nations Convention Against Torture	75,000

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	Public and Policy Advocacy against the Death Penalty	78,757
Kigali, Rwanda	Rwanda	Confidential	2,076
Kinshasa, DRC	DRC	Strengthening Capacity to Prosecute International Crimes 2019	5,820
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	World Organisation Against Torture	212,500
Rabat, Morocco	Morocco	Capacity Reinforcement Prison Personnel on Human Rights	33,343
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Youth Countering Violent Extremism	19,548
<b>Total</b>			<b>€ 1,36,820</b>

Theme: Other human rights

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Amman, Jordan	Jordan	Second Chance: Enhancing Legal Protection for Juveniles and Vulnerable Youth	123,937
Ankara, Turkey	Turkey	Confidential	264,496
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Smart Pavlodar Initiative: Involvement of Citizens in the Management of City Territories and Utilities	23,993
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Anti-corruption Interactive Map	29,812
Athens, Greece	Greece	Strengthening the Organizational Capacity of the Greek Ombudsman in Handling Complaints from Asylum Seekers and Refugees	27,246
Athens, Greece	Greece	Different People, Same Country Initiative: Supporting a Change in the Narrative about Migrants and Refugees	10,850
Athens, Greece	Greece	Assisting Professionals to Support and Empower Refugee and Migrant Women against Gender-Based Violence	6,650
Beirut, Lebanon	Lebanon	Peacebuilding & Reconciliation	4,604
Beirut, Lebanon	Lebanon	Youth now - Peace building Youth	14,731
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Constructors of Peace: peacebuilding and training young activists	11,670
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Anne Frank Educational Programme	21,370
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Anne Frank - A History For Today	4,491
Caracas, Venezuela	Venezuela	Confidential	12,648
Colombo, Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	Election Monitoring	12,662
Dakar, Senegal	Senegal	Vocational Training for Economic and Social Integration of Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrants from the Sub-Region Living in Senegal	24,686
Havana, Cuba	Cuba	AfroAtenas: Support for Non-violence and Non-discrimination	4,610
Istanbul, Turkey	Turkey	Confidential	912
Jakarta, Indonesia	Indonesia	Confidential	70,400
Cairo, Egypt	Egypt	Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Children in Conflict with the Law	7,064
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Open Data Monitoring	4,668
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Countering Discrimination against the Terminally Ill	14,248
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Protecting the Right to Life and Safety of Civilians	49,600
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Rating of Accessibility in Ukrainian Cities	39,944
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Malaysia	Sponsorship Participation in Conference on Statelessness	1,600
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Malaysia	Forum on Political Funding	4,180

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Malaysia	Refugee Festival 2019	1,672
Lima, Peru	Peru	Contribution to Aynimundo	22,206
Lima, Peru	Peru	Futuro Presente Programme	19,397
Manila, Philippines	Philippines	Youth-Friendly Health Centers	4,192
Mexico City, Mexico	Mexico	Confidential	41,195
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Receptor Approach Evaluation	22,467
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Network meetings, Human Rights Ambassador	1,104
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Visit to the Netherlands by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights	1,817
Moscow, Russia	Russia	Various projects [Confidential]	67,194
New Delhi, India	India	Rights for Nomadic Narikkuravar Children	2,246
New Delhi, India	India	Programme for Children Living on Construction Sites	9,840
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa	Countering Violence and Extremism in Southern Africa	35,066
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa	Political Dialogues	18,397
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa	Improving Governance in South Africa to Strengthen Checks and Balances, Prohibit Wrongdoing and Promote Democracy	24,890
Rabat, Morocco	Morocco	Support for Civil Society in Public Policy Participation	10,027
Rabat, Morocco	Morocco	Appui à l'Intégration des Migrants et Droits à la Diversité	13,585
Ramallah, Palestinian Territories	Israel	Breaking The Silence	9,115
Ramallah, Palestinian Territories	Israel / Palestinian Territories	Various projects [Confidential] to promote reconciliation	415,625
Ramallah, Palestinian Territories	Israel	Gisha - Legal Center for Freedom of Movement	3,076
Ramallah, Palestinian Territories	Israel	B'Tselem - The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights	8,800
Ramallah, Palestinian Territories	Palestinian Territories	The Palestinian Working Women Society for Development	4,250
Ramallah, Palestinian Territories	Israel	Bimkom - Planners for Planning Rights	3,960
Ramallah, Palestinian Territories	Israel / Palestinian Territories	ALEH - Peace Bottom-Up	92,624
Sanaa, Yemen	Yemen	Documenting, Supporting and Advocating Human Rights in Yemen	577,626
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	Understanding and Combating Far-Right Extremism and Ultra Nationalism	77,448
Tbilisi, Georgia	Armenia	A Story to Learn From - the Diary of Anne Frank in Armenia	54,000
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	Civic Education for All	40,320
Teheran, Iran	Iran	Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	129,898
Tel Aviv, Israel	Israel / Palestinian Territories	Settlement Watch 2017-2019	6,738
Tel Aviv, Israel	Israel / Palestinian Territories	Detention and Interrogation of Children in Police Stations	29,811
Tel Aviv, Israel	Israel	Human Rights of the Arab Minority in Israel	9,112
Tel Aviv, Israel	Israel / Palestinian Territories	Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information: Forums Towards Partnership Building	4,438

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Tripoli, Libya	Libya	Human Rights Carousel	10,000
Warsaw, Poland	Belarus	Increasing Awareness of the 2nd European Games Accessibility and Sports for Persons with Disabilities	1,970
Vienna, Austria (Permanent Mission to the OSCE)	Russia	Confidential	50,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>€ 2,615,178</b>



## 2 Expenditure from other funds, by theme

Theme: Freedom of expression and internet freedom

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Ankara, Turkey	Turkey	Confidential	22,522
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia, Kosovo	Media Incubator for the Western Balkans	100,000
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia	Media and Information Literacy	36,450
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia, Albania, Montenegro, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo	Integrity and Authorship in Journalism	40,000
Belgrade, Serbia	Montenegro	Facts Do Matter 2 - For the Media that We Deserve	50,800
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Free Press Unlimited: No News is Bad News	6,410,250
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Investigative Media	4,572
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Examining Elections through the Lens of Human Rights	29,810
Kinshasa, DRC	DRC	World Press Photo Exhibition	12,000
Manila, Philippines	Philippines	Coconet II: Connecting Communities and Networks	23,715
Pristina, Kosovo	Kosovo	Empowering Media for Democracy	40,000
Pristina, Kosovo	Kosovo, North Macedonia, Bosnia, Serbia, Montenegro	Regional Digital Media Event	48,000
Riga, Latvia	Latvia	Fact-checking Hub for Investigative Journalists	24,500
Riga, Latvia	Latvia	Public Service Media in Latvia	19,967
Riga, Latvia	Latvia	Young Media Sharks – Mentoring and Summer School	19,980
Riga, Latvia	Latvia	Platform for European Russians in Latvia and the Baltics	18,000
Riga, Latvia	Latvia	Movies that Matter and Latvian Journalist Association	3,050
Skopje, North Macedonia	North Macedonia	Monitoring and Policy for a Reformed Media Sector	23,862
Tallinn, Estonia	Estonia	World Press Photo Exhibition 2019	10,000
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	Privacy Rights in Georgia	78,590
Tirana, Albania	Albania	Constructive Journalism in Albania	18,040
Tirana, Albania	Albania	Media Freedom: Self Regulation Act III	30,000
Tirana, Albania	Albania	Jan Jansen Newspaper Archive	4,550
Tirana, Albania	Albania	World Press Photo Exhibition 2019	10,000
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Legal Reform Movement Freedom of Expression	17,000
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Investigative Journalism Training	37,534
<b>Total</b>			<b>€ 7,133,686</b>

Theme: Freedom of religion and belief

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
New Delhi, India	India	Empowerment of Social Activists to Address Religious Intolerance	5,498
New Delhi, India	India	Capacity Building for Religious Minorities	14,293
Warsaw, Poland	Belarus	Confidential	10,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>€ 29,791</b>

Theme: Equal rights for women and girls

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Abuja, Nigeria	Nigeria	Promoting Gender Equality and Accountability through Policy	102,379
Abuja, Nigeria	Nigeria	Protect Women's Rights and Promote Gender Equality	87,496
Abuja, Nigeria	Nigeria	Programmes, Policies and Legislation for Gender Equality in Nigeria	94,507
Abuja, Nigeria	Nigeria	Community Advocacy against Female Genital Mutilation	4,277
Abuja, Nigeria	Nigeria	Increasing Advocacy Capacity of Young Women on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights	73,070
Algiers, Algeria	Algeria	Confidential	30,769
Amman, Jordan	Jordan	16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence	10,141
Ankara, Turkey	Turkey	Confidential	20,656
Bamako, Mali	Mali	Actions pour la Santé de la Reproduction et la Promotion des Droits des Femmes et des Filles	1,505,816
Bucharest, Romania	Romania	Romanian Independent Working Group against Trafficking and Smuggling	950
Bratislava, Slovakia	Slovakia	Human Rights Day 2019 - Women's Rights are Human Rights	1,939
Dakar, Senegal	Senegal	Human Rights Day - Film Screening for Students	564
Dakar, Senegal	Cabo Verde	Project for Mediation in Family Conflicts	4,986
Dakar, Senegal	Senegal	National Coalition for the Abandonment of Child Marriage in Senegal	57,935
Dakar, Senegal	Cabo Verde	Involving Young People in Discussions around Sexuality and Gender-Based Violence	18,753
Doha, Qatar	Qatar	Screening 'A Thousand Girls Like Me'	2,585
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Count Me In! Project on Equal Rights for Women	6,089,738
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Girls Advocacy Alliance	7,932,940
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Leading from the South	10,000,000
Hanoi, Vietnam	Vietnam	An Improved Legal Framework for Sexual Violence against Women and Girls	92,794
Harare, Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	Building Capacity of Girls and Young Women in Zimbabwe	34,747
Harare, Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	Ground Up: Movement Building for Political Accountability	66,992
Istanbul, Turkey	Turkey	Confidential	21,189
Juba, South Sudan	South Sudan	16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence	666
Cairo, Egypt	Egypt	Leadership and Participation of Young Women and Girls	639,049
Cairo, Egypt	Egypt	Scaling up the Safe Cities for Women Project	686,375

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Cairo, Egypt	Egypt	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights for Women Living with HIV	374,280
Cairo, Egypt	Egypt	Gender-Sensitizing the Legislative Process	114,505
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Malaysia	Girls Speak: Empowering Girls as Human Rights Defenders	418
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Malaysia	Human Rights Day Film Screening on Women's Rights	2,299
Kinshasa, DRC	DRC	Civil and Electoral Information for Women	296,637
Manila, Philippines	Philippines	Pinsan 3Ds Strategies: Decriminalize, Destigmatize and Demystify Abortion in the Philippines	169
Maputo, Mozambique	Mozambique	Supporting Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights	3,300
Maputo, Mozambique	Mozambique	Strengthening the Sport for Development Network	38,550
Maputo, Mozambique	Mozambique	Women Political Academy	880,581
Nairobi, Kenya	Kenya	Amplifying Voices of Women with Disabilities in Kenya	365,887
New Delhi, India	India	Ending Sexual Harassment: Accountability for Women Workers in the Informal Sector	10,767
New Delhi, India	India	Ensuring Equal Rights for Women	29,853
New Delhi, India	Nepal	Dignified and Just Lives for Dalit Women in Far-West Nepal	48,061
New Delhi, India	India	Male Youth Forums for Gender Equality	23,527
New Delhi, India	India	Go-Girls-Go: Enhancing Agency of Adolescent Girls to Advocate for Equality	24,600
Pristina, Kosovo	Kosovo	Advancing Equality and Non-Discrimination	32,000
Pristina, Kosovo	Kosovo	Increased Participation for Good Governance	16,390
Riga, Latvia	Latvia	Regional Discussions on Gender Equality	2,000
Riga, Latvia	Latvia	Women Leadership Programme	1,000
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	Access to Justice for Victims of Sexual Crimes in Georgia	62,630
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	Promoting Diversity in Security and Defence Institutions	40,992
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	Supporting Resocialization of Female Prisoners	4,095
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights Training for Women with Disabilities	1,976
Tirana, Albania	Albania	Women in Politics Training	5,000
Tokyo, Japan	Japan	A Better Community for Women Active in the Night Time Economy	11,850
Tripoli, Libya	Libya	Confidential	25,000
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Healing Wounds for Justice and Peace	175,000
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Raising Gender Awareness in the Conflict Affected Kachin State	37,000
Zagreb, Croatia	Croatia	Be the Change! Workshops on Gender Equality	4,020
<b>Total</b>			<b>€ 30,213,747</b>

Theme: Human rights defenders

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Juba, South Sudan	South Sudan	Strengthening the Human Rights Defenders' Network	1,000
Juba, South Sudan	South Sudan	Unpaved Road to Peace - Movies that Matter	1,384
Manila, Philippines	Philippines	Foster Social Cohesion, Community Resilience and Respect for Human Rights	4,881
Manila, Philippines	Philippines	Project Liguasan - Youth Empowerment for Environmental Justice	22,942
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Civicus Programme Support	2,166,000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	International Center for Not-for-Profit Law	850,000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Digital Defenders Partnership	1,000,000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Freedom from Fear	12,061,000
Nicosia, Cyprus	Cyprus	Travelling Exhibition: International Criminal Court	5,495
Pristina, Kosovo	Kosovo	TrueAktiv: Critical Thinking and Human Rights Program for Youth	55,000
Pristina, Kosovo	Kosovo	Photo Exhibition EmbraceMe-Kosovo	3,000
Tripoli, Libya	Libya	Supporting and Protecting Human Rights Defenders	145,721
Tripoli, Libya	Libya	Human Rights Day 2018	11,314
Warsaw, Poland	Belarus	Various projects [Confidential]	24,000
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Human Rights Education and Advocacy	85,000
Zagreb, Croatia	Croatia	Annual Award for Human Rights, Peacebuilding and Non-Violence	4,007
<b>Total</b>			<b>€ 16,444,270</b>

Theme: Equal rights for LGBTI persons

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Algiers, Algeria	Algeria	Confidential	11,923
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia, Montenegro	Human Rights Day	3,400
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia	Raising Awareness for the Diversity of the Same-Sex Community	3,600
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia	Remedy for Inequality – Access to Justice for LGBT People	87,062
Bucharest, Romania	Romania	Human Rights Day 2019: LGBT Focus	12,500
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Printing Works by Transgender Artists	1,500
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Promoting the Rights of LGBT Victims of the Armed Conflict	138,792
Bratislava, Slovakia	Slovakia	Košice Pride 2019	1,000
Bratislava, Slovakia	Slovakia	Bratislava Pride: Rainbow Zebra	29,634
Bratislava, Slovakia	Slovakia	LGBTI Fund	1,500
Dakar, Senegal	Senegal, Gambia	Various projects [Confidential]	30,918
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	LGBTI rights organisation COC Nederland - Partnership for Rights, Inclusivity, Diversity and Equality	3,846,150
Nicosia, Cyprus	Cyprus	Workshop LGBTI Pride Festivals	1,182
Pristina, Kosovo	Kosovo	Advancing the LGBTI Community's Position in Society	45,000

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Riga, Latvia	Latvia	LGBTI House – Riga & LGBTI Tent for Democracy at Lampa Festival	1,500
Tallinn, Estonia	Estonia	LGBTI Conference – The Price of Education: the Wellbeing of LGBTI+ Students	459
Tirana, Albania	Albania	Empower the Protection of Intersex People	60,000
Tirana, Albania	Albania	Regional Conference LGBTI+ 2019	5,000
Tirana, Albania	Albania	EMO Girl Performance at Cloud Festival	3,000
Tokyo, Japan	Japan	Pride House Tokyo Charity Marathon	5,000
Tokyo, Japan	Japan	Participation of LGBTI Activists at Amsterdam Pride	1,500
Wellington, New Zealand	Pacific Region	Event with UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity with LGBTI Activists in the Pacific	500
<b>Total</b>			<b>€ 4,291,102</b>

Theme: Promotion of the international legal order / Tackling impunity

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Supporting the Special Jurisdiction for Peace	55,967
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Participation of Women and Indigenous Victims in Integral Systems of Truth and Justice	107,556
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Empower Families of Victims of Enforced Disappearance and Missing Persons	10,968
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Building Truth, Justice and Peace with Victims of the Armed Conflict in Urabá and Bajo Atrato	149,574
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Justice for Children and Adolescents Affected by the Armed Conflict in Colombia	117,241
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Support for the Truth Commission	165,073
Harare, Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	Combating Impunity and Promoting Human Rights Accountability	81,549
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Openness of Courts for Media and Public	10,356
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Raising Proficiency of the Judiciary	12,922
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Malaysia	Outreach Event International Criminal Court	2,299
Kinshasa, DRC	DRC	Strengthening Citizen Election Observer Capacity	22,000
Luanda, Angola	Angola	Advocacy for Access to Justice in Angola	120,000
Luxembourg, Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Screening of 'The Trial of Ratko Mladic'	1,950
Maputo, Mozambique	Mozambique	Transparency and Accountability in the Extractive Industry	703,866
Nairobi, Kenya	Kenya	Access to Justice - Promoting Access to Justice for the Poor and Marginalized	137,333
Tirana, Albania	Albania	Video on Rule of Law Cooperation	4,930
<b>Total</b>			<b>€ 1,703,584</b>

Theme: Human rights (general)

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights	10,649,997
Nairobi, Kenya	Kenya	Human Rights Protection	412,806
New Delhi, India	India	Human Rights Day Activities 2019	2,624
Ramallah, Palestinian Territories	Palestinian Territories	The Independent Commission for Human Rights 2017-2019	300,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>€ 11,365,427</b>

Theme: Business and human rights

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Athens, Greece	Greece	Integration of Refugees in Greece	800
Manila, Philippines	Philippines	Business for Peace	79,578
Manila, Philippines	Philippines	Capacity Building for Small to Medium Water Districts in the Philippines	24,504
Tirana, Albania	Albania	Promoting and Enhancing Corporate Social Responsibility	48,815
Tirana, Albania	Albania	Women Entrepreneurship as Social Innovation	20,000
Tirana, Albania	Albania	Women Business Fair 2019	2,500
Warsaw, Poland	Belarus	Confidential	10,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>€ 186,197</b>

Theme: Most serious breaches

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Support for the Search Unit for Missing Persons (Participation by family members)	116,694
Tokyo, Japan	Japan	Website providing information on the death penalty	2,005
<b>Total</b>			<b>€ 118,699</b>

Theme: Other human rights

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Algiers, Algeria	Algeria	Confidential	96,652
Amman, Jordan	Jordan	Juvenile Justice Mapping Exercise	61,720
Ankara, Turkey	Turkey	Various projects [Confidential]	382,114
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia	Mobile Legal Assistance in South Serbia	44,600
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Forced Disappearance in Guaviare and Boyacá	67,932
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Policy Advice on the Colombian Peace Process	89,000
Bratislava, Slovakia	Slovakia	Roma Spirit 2019	2,000
Bratislava, Slovakia	Slovakia	Human Forum: Countering extremism	2,000
Bratislava, Slovakia	Slovakia	Anne Frank - Let Me Be Myself	1,000
Bratislava, Slovakia	Slovakia	Cleveringa Lecture 2019	71,019
Hanoi, Vietnam	Vietnam	Youth leadership for Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights in Vietnam	100,198
Hanoi, Vietnam	Vietnam	Rooted: Land Rights Issues	104,510

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in EUR
Hanoi, Vietnam	Vietnam	Realization of Land Use Rights for Ethnic Minority People with Disabilities	59,534
Hanoi, Vietnam	Vietnam	Community Participation in Water Rights Advocacy in Srepok River Basin	45,000
Istanbul, Turkey	Turkey	Various projects [Confidential]	105,151
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Improving Access to Freedom of Assembly in Bosnia and Herzegovina	40,903
<b>Total</b>			<b>€ 1,273,333</b>

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