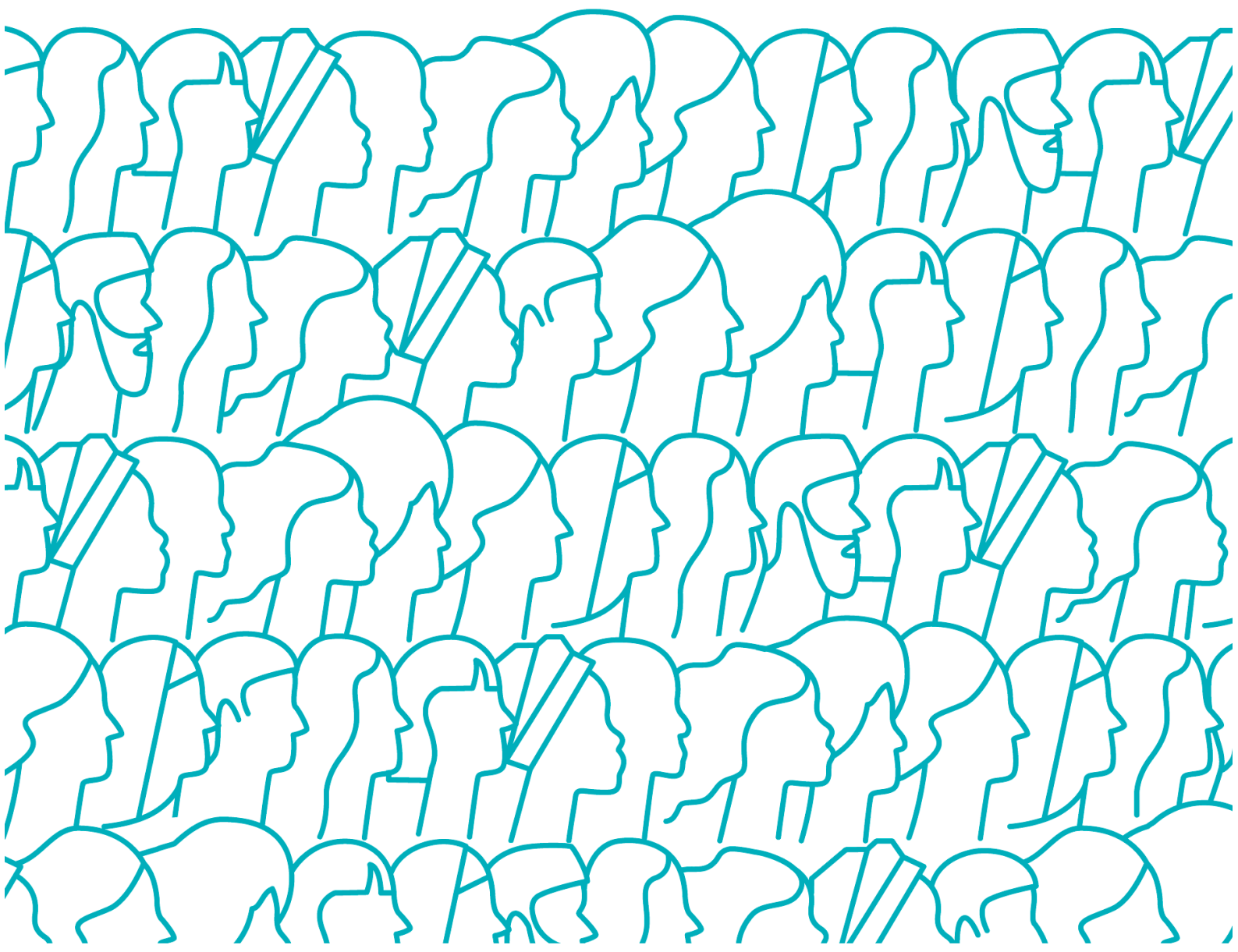


Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice
2019 Annual Report



Acknowledgements

We are pleased to present the 2019 Annual Report of Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice (WIGJ). We would like to thank our staff and interns for their excellent work and commitment to the organisation and our mission.

We would also like to express our appreciation to all our extraordinary partners, allies and supporters who made 2019 another important and impactful year for our work with the International Criminal Court and with grassroots organisations.

We would particularly like to acknowledge our partners with whom we continue to dream big and tackle daunting challenges. It is a privilege to collaborate, co-create and be inspired by and with you.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC):

Claudine Bela Badeaza, Director, Centre d'Education et Recherche pour les Droits des Femmes (CERDF);
Emérite Tabisha Mongelwa, Coordinator, Action des Femmes pour les Droits et le développement (AFD);
Jeanine Bandu Bahati, Coordinator, Encadrement des Femmes Indigènes et des Ménages Vulnérables (EFIM);
Joséphine Malimukono, Director, Ligue pour la Solidarité Congolaise (LSC);
Stella Yanda Bililo, Executive Secretary, Initiatives Alpha.

In Uganda:

Justice and Reconciliation Project
Women's Advocacy Network

On the *Call it what it is* campaign:

Actions des femmes pour les droits et le développement
ADHOC
Advocacy Forum
Amica e.V.
Amnesty International
Angels Refugee Support Group Association (ARSGA)
Association des Femmes Juristes de Centrafrique
Borisov female public association "Provincia"
Bulgarian Women's Lobby
Bureau Clara Wichmann
Catalystas Consulting
Center for African Justice, Peace and Human Rights
Center for Constitutional Rights
Center for Promotion of Healthy Family (CPHF)
Centre d'éducation et de recherche pour les droits des femmes (CERDF)
Civitas Maxima
Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC)
Coalition Malienne pour la Cour Pénale Internationale

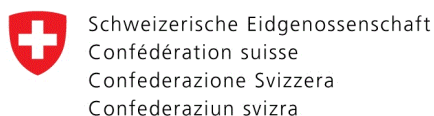
Encadrement des femmes indigènes et des ménages vulnérables (EFIM)
Georgian Centre for Psychosocial & Medical Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (GCRT)
Global Justice Center
Global Rights Compliance
Human Rights and Gender Justice (HRGJ) Clinic, CUNY Law School
Humanas
IMPACT
Initiatives Alpha
International Center for Women Rights Protection and Promotion "La Strada"
International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
Iranian Center for International Criminal Law
Journalists for Justice
Justice and Reconciliation Project (JRP)
Justice International
Justice without frontiers
Lawyers and Doctors for Human Rights
Ligue pour la solidarité congolaise
MADRE
Medica Mondiale



Medical Human Rights Network
 Mobilising for Rights Associates
 Mukwege Foundation & SEMA Network
 Nigerian Coalition on the International Criminal Court
 No Peace without Justice
 Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA)
 Redress
 Refugee Law Project (RLP)
 Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI)
 Social Media Matters
 Society for Protection of Rights of the Child (Spark)
 Surkuna - Centro de apoyo y protection de los derechos humanos
 Survivor + All survivors Project

Survivors Speak OUT Network
 The European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR)
 The Kosovo Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims
 "The Prosecutors" Film
 The Red Elephant Foundation
 TRIAL International
 Wangu Kanja Foundation
 We are Not a Weapon of War
 Women's Advocacy Network
 Women Empowerment Organization
 Women's Link worldwide
 ПГОО «КДЖ «Юго-запад» (S-W Women Org)

We would also like to express our gratitude to our donors for making the implementation of our mission and programmes possible.



Norway in the Netherlands
 Royal Norwegian Embassy in the Hague



LE GOUVERNEMENT
 DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 Republic of Korea



Embassy of Sweden
 The Hague



Australian Government

Canada

Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice



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Mission

Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice works to achieve global gender justice and equality in and through the law.

Vision

A gender just world in which there is accountability for sexual and gender-based crimes and equality in, and through the law.

2019 at a glance

This year Women's Initiatives worked with grassroots organisations, decision-makers, victims/survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), justice stakeholders, family members and communities affected by armed conflicts. We launched the *Call it what it is* Campaign to draw on the collective strength of civil society to give survivors of sexual violence in conflict a voice in shaping contemporary, victim-centric and contextually relevant guidance to international criminal law practitioners on what makes violence sexual. We also worked with the partners on the international prosecution of conflict-related sexual and gender-based crimes and advocated for and facilitated the participation of women in the justice system.

During 2019 we:

- Gathered the input of more than 300 respondents from around the world on what an act of sexual violence could constitute by means of an online survey available in 14 languages;
- Consulted over 500 sexual violence survivors from more than 25 countries on what an act of sexual violence constitutes in their view;
- Assisted more than 500 victims of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence to access medical and psychosocial services;
- Partnered with more than 60 national and international civil society organisations to consult survivors and raise awareness about the need for a broader understanding of sexual violence;
- Launched The Hague Principles on Sexual Violence, that include The Civil Society Declaration on Sexual Violence, the ICL Guidelines, and Key Principles for Policy Makers;
- Held events with sexual violence survivors, civil society actors, legal practitioners, and representatives of states parties to discuss among others the experience of various practitioners in addressing sexual violence, enabling disclosure, the implementation of The Hague Principles on Sexual Violence;
- Submitted an *amicus curiae* brief to the Constitutional Court of Colombia on the issue of reproductive rights;
- Joined forces with other civil society actors to advocate for accountability for the Rohingya genocide in Myanmar;
- Advocated with ICC staff and officials on gender justice issues and provided policy briefings and information for hundreds of delegates and representatives of Rome Statute states parties;
- Monitored 11 situations under investigation by the ICC from a gender perspective and monitored all of the cases in which sexual and gender-based crimes have been charged.



+542 page likes
reaching 7660 &
7423 engaged
users



+628 Twitter
followers
reaching 4,428



45,502
website
views

Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice



Values statement

The Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice is dedicated to achieving gender equality women's human rights and international justice. We work to ensure justice for women and communities affected by armed conflict through an independent and effective International Criminal Court and promote use of the Rome Statute to advance women's rights.

Our shared values help us to achieve this. These values include:

Human Rights - Human rights are indivisible, inter-related and universal and as such we will work towards the eradication of all discrimination based on gender, sexuality, religion, race, age, ability, ethnicity, nationality, class or other factors. We will work towards the full application of the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, other international human rights and humanitarian law. We will actively challenge any fundamentalisms that threaten these rights.

Justice and Peace - We strive towards a world free from violence against women and an end to war and conflicts. We work towards a world based on principles of justice, interdependence, equality, solidarity and respect. We promote the rule of law and international legal standards to ensure accountability for perpetrators and the end to all forms of violence, discrimination and oppression.

Self Determination - We stand in solidarity with those dispossessed of their land, livelihood, language and cultural identity and support gender equality within movements towards self-determination. We also promote a woman's right to determine and choose her relationships, sexuality, identities, goals and dreams.

Diversity - We will work together as feminists and gender justice advocates, respecting and learning from each other's diverse backgrounds, beliefs, abilities and experiences. Openness to diversity is integral to advancing women's rights and creating just and equitable societies.

Responsibility - We will strive for fairness and respect in our relations, responsible and effective use of our resources, transparency in our processes, accountability, integrity and excellence in all our work.

These values guide our work with the International Criminal Court, in the field, our collaborations and partnerships, within the organisation, and as actors in the international movements of advocates for women's human rights and gender justice.



**CALL IT
WHAT
IT IS**

#TimeToDefine

#SexualViolence



The *Call it what it is* campaign

The *Call it what it is* campaign was launched with an event at the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) to the Rome Statute session in The Hague in December 2018, and the opening of an online survey on sexual violence. Beginning in January 2019, WIGJ focused the campaign on four main areas: survivor consultations, developing a network of civil society organisations to partner on the campaign, drafting the Civil Society Declaration on Sexual Violence, and strategic advocacy with states and the International Criminal Court (ICC). The end result was the launch of three documents in December 2019: The Civil Society Declaration on Sexual Violence, Guidelines for International Criminal Legal (ICL) practitioners, and Key Principles for Policy Makers, collectively known as The Hague Principles on Sexual Violence.

Survivor Consultations

Between March and August 2019, a total of 549 survivors from 26 countries participated in consultations. Participants were asked to comment on various factors that may make an act “sexual” in nature. The aim of the consultations was to understand from survivors what to them, makes an act “an act of sexual nature”; are there (violent) acts not involving physical contact that can be called “sexual”; what elements make an act “an act of sexual nature”; what examples or acts could be considered as “acts of sexual nature”.

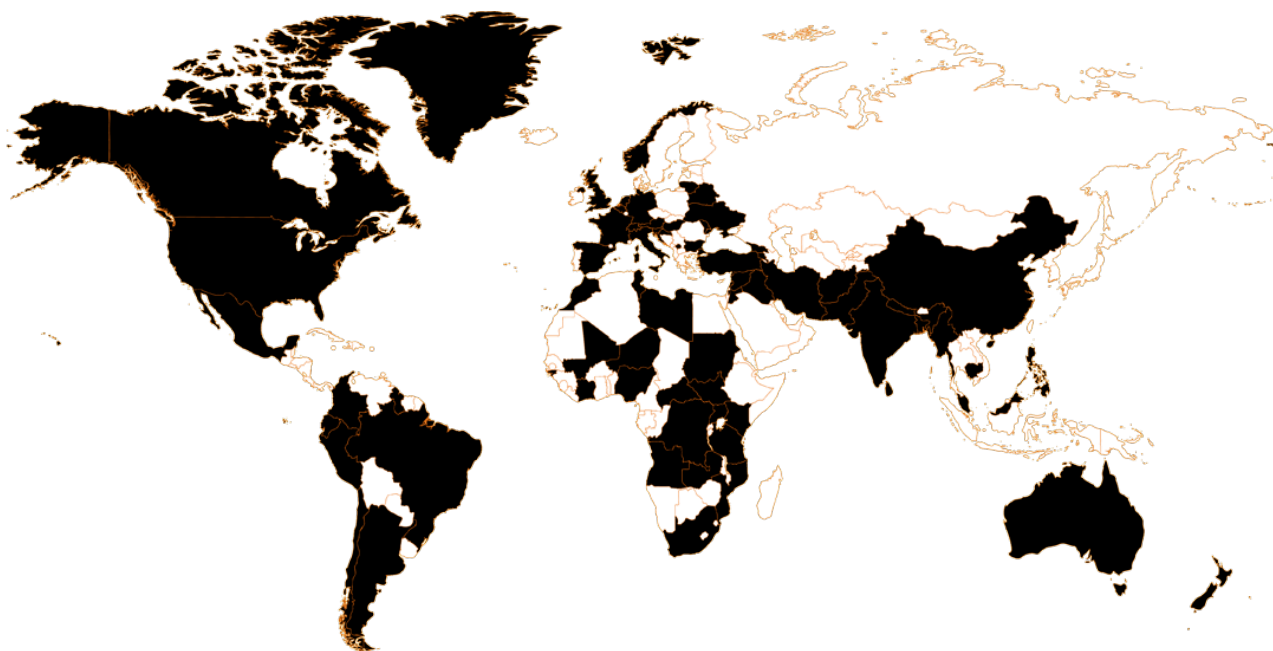


Figure 1: countries of origin of partners, survey respondents and consultations participants

Participants gave fascinating insights on what can be considered “sexual”, but also identified elements that need *not* be present in order for an act to be considered “sexual”. For example, participants in numerous consultations indicated that an act can be “sexual” in nature even if the perpetrator neither intends to derive sexual gratification from it, nor actually derives sexual gratification from it, which has been misconstrued in the legal sphere.

Results from all consultations were used to inform the drafting of the Civil Society Declaration on Sexual Violence. Insights from survivors were critical to ensuring that the document was informed by the lived experience of survivors and reflected cultural, religious, ethnic and other considerations from across the globe.

Forming Civil Society Partnerships

During the Call it what it is campaign, Women's Initiatives developed partnerships with 60 civil society organizations. The organizations who have joined the campaign range from large international organizations to local grassroots organizations in conflict affected countries. Many of the partners participated during the consultation phase of the campaign, and a number of organizations have begun promoting The Hague Principles in their countries. Partners were kept informed through monthly updates and will continue to engage on the rollout of The Hague Principles. Please see the full list of partners [here](#).

The Civil Society Declaration on Sexual Violence

The original objective of the campaign was to produce a civil society declaration on sexual violence. During the development of the declaration, it became clear from feedback from experts that three documents were needed: a civil society declaration, a document aimed at practitioners of international criminal law, and a document geared toward policy makers. The declaration itself is very comprehensive and includes examples of sexual violence that may not rise to the level of international (or national) crimes. The drafting of the document was based on the results of the survivor consultations and was extensively reviewed by a group of academic legal experts, and later further reviewed by a large group of legal practitioners. The declaration is now available in English, Spanish, French, Arabic and Russian. Please see the complete set of documents [here](#).

Strategic Advocacy

Throughout 2019, Women's Initiatives undertook strategic advocacy with states, the ICC and other relevant stakeholder. Through events, panel discussions, presentations and meetings, Women's Initiatives worked to develop support for The Hague Principles on Sexual Violence, and to encourage states to raise the issue of sexual violence at the 18th ICC ASP session in December 2019. Women's Initiatives is an active member of the International Gender Champions (IGC) group in The Hague and worked with co-chairs of the Justice Impact Group of the IGC, Canada and Sweden, to focus on the issue of sexual violence through the Call it what it is campaign. Launched in June 2019, the IGC's Justice Impact Group first objective is to create a working definition of sexual violence in the context of International Criminal Justice. In doing so, the Impact Group seeks to advance the Women's Initiative for Gender Justice Call it what it is campaign.

Key events

International Women's Day: WIGJ marked the 2019 International Women's Day with a panel discussion on the challenges and successes of prosecuting sexual and gender-based crimes and a screening of *The Prosecutors*, telling the story of lawyers dedicated to fighting impunity through prosecution. Among the panellists were lawyer Amani Kahatwa (Democratic Republic of Congo) and Prosecutor Jasmin Mesic (Bosnia and Herzegovina). The event was co-sponsored by Canada, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

International Day for Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict: WIGJ marked the 2019 International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict (June 19) with a panel discussion called 'Translating the Lived Experience of Sexual Violence Survivors into Law', co-hosted with the Embassies of Canada, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom to The Netherlands. The lively panel discussion touched on many critical issues fundamental to the Call it what it is campaign, including how sexual violence in conflict is addressed in various accountability efforts and what needs to be done to better understand this form of violence. Central to the panellists' interventions was the need to involve survivors in initiatives aimed at addressing sexual



violence. The panel discussion took place at the Leiden University the Hague Campus on June 19, 2019. Read the full report [here](#).

Side event at ASP18: With the support of 20 state sponsors and the International Gender Champions – The Hague Hub, Women’s Initiatives launched The Hague Principles on Sexual Violence with a panel discussion on ‘Translating the lived experience of sexual violence survivors into law and policy’ at the 18th ASP session in December 2020. The panel focused on the findings of the Call it what it is campaign consultations with survivors of sexual violence; discussing how the ICL Guidelines will inform international law practitioners, including at the ICC; and discussing the implementation of The Hague Principles of Sexual Violence at the international and national level. Women’s Initiatives was honoured to have among speakers: Mr Carl Magnus Nesser, Director-General for Legal Affairs at Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ms Kaija Suvanto from the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ms Fatou Bensouda, ICC Prosecutor; Judge Howard Morrison, ICC; Ms Patricia Sellers, Special Adviser on Gender for the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC; Mr Wayne Jordash, Managing Partner at Global Rights Compliance; Ms Toufah Jallow from The Toufah Foundation (with support from African Legal Aid (AFLA)); and Mr Matthew Neuhaus, Australian Ambassador to the Netherlands.

Followed sustained advocacy by Women’s Initiatives, five states explicitly mentioned the campaign and/or The Hague Principles on Sexual Violence in their ASP general debate statements. Also, two novel references were made in the ASP’s omnibus resolution. The first is the ASP encouraging the ICC to take note of the best practices of relevant international and national organizations, tribunals, and mechanisms related to sexual and gender-based crimes, including practices related to investigation, prosecution and training, in solving challenges related to crimes under the Rome Statute, including sexual and gender-based crimes. The second is the ASP encouraging the ASP Bureau to engage with interested States Parties and other relevant actors to identify ways to support Court efforts with respect to sexual and gender-based crimes that amount to Rome Statute crimes.

Preparing for the next phase

The next phase of the campaign will focus on the rollout and implementation of The Hague Principles. For this phase, pilot projects will be carried out in order to develop methodologies that can be more widely scaled. In 2020, we will begin with a pilot project in Colombia aiming to develop strategies for prosecution in national jurisdictions. Additional pilot projects are envisaged involving local level advocacy campaigns and working with national level policy makers.





Democratic Republic of the Congo

Transit House Project

The Transit House project continues to be highly effective in supporting a significant number of individuals, predominantly women, to access medical assistance and a greater level of medical care in relation to injuries and harm as a result of conflict-related rape and other forms of sexual violence.

In the first half of 2019, Women's Initiatives continued to support the two local community-based safe houses operating in Uvira, South Kivu, and Goma, North Kivu. The Transit Houses provide residential facilities for SGBV victims/survivors to stay in while awaiting surgery and during their post-surgery recovery, before returning home, and transportation for victims/survivors to and from the hospital. By providing psycho-social assessments, referrals and assistance to survivors of conflict-related (and other) SGBV to access local health centres and general hospitals for more specialised treatment, including surgeries for rape-related injuries the Transit Houses assist about 1000 SGBV survivors yearly.

More than 500 survivors were assisted by our partners in the DRC in the first half of 2019. About a quarter of survivors were referred to a hospital for specialized treatment, most commonly for reparative surgeries for rape-related injuries; and another quarter were referred to a local health centre.

Local partners - Actions des femmes pour les droits et le développement (AFD) and Ligue pour la solidarité congolaise (LSC) - held outreach sessions raising awareness to reduce stigma for SGBV victims and stressing the importance of reporting SGBV incidents rather than accepting informal agreements with the perpetrator or the perpetrator's family. Partners also held consultations with more than 50 survivors on the issue of sexual violence as part of the *Call it what it is* campaign.

The North Kivu safe house set up a mushroom farm to provide survivors with a reintegration kit, as well as to help sustain the Transit House. More than 150 survivors received relevant training on mushroom cultivation. Engaging survivors in activities related to the maintenance of the farm contributes to the promotion of women's access to land, to women's economic empowerment and to the involvement of conflict-affected populations in the agropastoral sector.

Challenges

LSC highlighted the increasingly high level of insecurity in the area as a major challenge, despite the establishment of new government institutions after the 2018 general election. Challenges to fighting sexual and gender based violence continued due to the very low status of women and girls in terms of gender equality, the low application of legal texts for the promotion and protection of women's rights; the lack of dissemination of law that favour women's rights, the widespread impunity for violence is compounded by the lack of adequate means to protect victims and witnesses, the persistence of certain stereotypes to the detriment of women, poor governance and the weak economic power of women.

AFD also noted the need to enlarge the Transit House facilities, providing psychological support for psycho-social assistants and AFD personnel, and equipping the team with megaphones and security training

The opening of another Transit House facility in Baraka (45km from Kabondozi) and equip a room in Uvira for the temporary stay of victim survivors (before and after staying at the Transit House), remains a need.

South Kivu Policy Paper

In December 2018, a meeting was organised for prosecutors to develop policy guidelines on sexual and gender-based crimes to be applied by prosecutors across South Kivu. The draft was finalised with support

Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice



from our local partner and Hague team in January 2019. The South Kivu-wide policy paper seeks to assist prosecutors in investigating and prosecuting sexual and gender-based crimes and includes concrete next steps that were determined. Prosecutors were overwhelmingly in favour of such a policy paper, highlighting the high rotation of posts at the different prosecutorial offices and the need to provide guidance, especially to more junior prosecutors who may be less experienced in prosecuting sexual and gender-based crimes.

The South Kivu policy paper on sexual and gender-based crimes provides definitions of sexual violence crimes in line with current international norms, taking into account the context of impunity and conflict in the DRC. In addition to explaining the legal framework, both at the national and international level, including the elements of crimes and modes of liability, it further outlines investigative and evidence standards for cases involving sexual and gender-based crimes, as well as necessary protection measures for victims of these crimes. The foreseen use of this policy paper by South Kivu authorities would demonstrate their commitment to the fight against impunity for sexual and gender-based crimes and strengthen accountability efforts for these crimes going forward.

Challenges

In the absence of funding to support the wider distribution of the policy paper on sexual and gender-based crimes, our local partner had limited capacity to promote the document.





ICC Legal Monitoring and Advocacy

During the reporting period, we continued our legal monitoring and advocacy in eleven situations and all cases before the ICC where charges for sexual and gender-based crimes (SGBCs) have been brought. Overall, 16 (64%) of the 25 ICC cases involving war crimes, crimes against humanity and/or genocide have included charges for SGBCs and seven of these cases have had SGBC charges successfully confirmed to trial.

We have contributed to this record with consistent monitoring and advocacy since 2004, including through:

- strategic advocacy with senior decision-makers within the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) and case-based teams;
- case-by-case legal monitoring;
- the provision of SGBV documentation to support ICC investigations and SGBV charges;
- phase-based advocacy (at the preliminary examination, investigation, analysis, prosecution, sentencing, and reparation phases); and
- legal filings as amicus curiae before the Court on nine occasions.

Laurent Gbagbo and Charles Blé Goudé

On 15 January 2019, Trial Chamber I of the ICC acquitted Mr Gbagbo and Mr Blé Goudé of all charges of crimes against humanity. Laurent Gbagbo is the former President of Côte d'Ivoire and was charged, alongside Charles Blé Goudé, with the commission of rape in the aftermath of the 2010 post-election violence in Côte d'Ivoire, among other crimes. According to the Chamber, the Prosecutor failed to demonstrate the responsibility of the defendants, namely the existence of a "common plan" to keep Gbagbo in power and of patterns of violence that would attest to "a policy to attack a civilian population". The Appeal Judgment overturned the first ICC conviction of sexual violence.

Dominic Ongwen

LRA commander Dominic Ongwen has been charged with the highest number of sexual violence crimes in any case before the ICC to date. This includes the charge of forced pregnancy which has not previously been prosecuted by an international tribunal or special court. In the reporting period, the submission of evidence by parties came to an end. The judgement is expected in 2020.

Bosco Ntaganda

Trial Chamber VI delivered its judgment on 8 July 2019, finding Mr Ntaganda guilty of five counts of crimes against humanity and thirteen counts of war crimes, committed in Ituri, DRC, in 2002 and 2003. The trial of Bosco Ntaganda began in September 2015 and is the first case under international humanitarian and criminal law to charge an individual with sexual violence committed against child soldiers within their own militia group and under their command.

Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice welcomed the sentencing judgement, delivered on 7 November 2019. In explaining how they arrived at the sentence of 30 years imprisonment – the maximum sentence imposed to date at the ICC – the Judges continued to advance the creation of strong jurisprudence on sexual violence at the international level. The ICC's judges confirmed that, with regard to sexual violence, the particular defenselessness of victims due to their very young ages, the repeated victimization of some of the victims, and the particular cruelty of a number of incidents should be seen as aggravating factors.



Al Hassan Ag Abdoul Aziz Ag Mohamed Ag Mahmoud

The confirmation of charges hearing in the case of Al Hassan took place between 8 July 2019 and 17 July 2019. On 30 September 2019, Pre-Trial Chamber I issued a unanimous decision, confirming the charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity against Mr Al Hassan and committed him to trial before a Trial Chamber. The case against Al Hassan is noteworthy for its potential to substantially advance the ICC's gender jurisprudence. Not only is it the first case in the Situation in Mali to include sexual and gender-based crimes, but it also features two crimes, gender-based persecution and forced marriage as other inhumane act, the adjudication of which may have important implications for gender justice.

Alfred Yekatom and Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona

The confirmation of charges hearing in the joint case of *The Prosecutor v. Alfred Yekatom and Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona* opened on 19 September 2019. The decision on the confirmation of charges was issued on 11 December 2019. Pre-Trial Chamber II of the ICC partially confirmed the charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Among the confirmed charges is rape and attempted rape as a war crime and a crime against humanity, the only sexual violence crimes charged in this case. While noting that the inclusion of charges of all forms of sexual violence is important for recognition of its victims and survivors, Women's Initiatives noted that the trial against the two suspects will continue to build the ICC jurisprudence on SGBV.

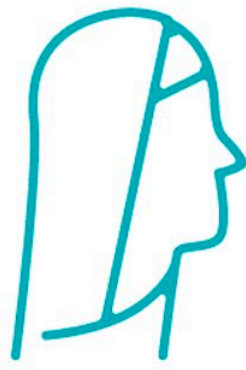
Situation in Bangladesh/Myanmar

During the reporting period, Women's Initiatives focused on the developing situation of the genocide against the Rohingya and related responses from a multitude of international stakeholders. Women's Initiatives joined forces with other NGOs to:

- [Call](#) on Pramila Patten, the Special Representative to the Secretary-General (SRSG) on Sexual Violence in Conflict, to highlight the importance of credible, survivor-centric accountability for conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) in documenting the crimes perpetrated against the Rohingya population;
- Propose [recommendations](#) to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) outlining concerning sections of Myanmar's Exceptional Report on the situation of Rohingya women and girls from northern Rakhine State that dismissed accusations of rape and sexual violence and denied any wrongdoing. It was pointed out in the joint letter that such blanket denial attempts to escape accountability for the international crimes committed;
- Following the assignment of the situation in Myanmar and Bangladesh to the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber III, [encourage](#) the ICC to ensure in particular that crimes committed against women and girls are not left behind in the Prosecutor's investigation or in any cases pursued.

On 11 November, Women's Initiatives co-hosted an event with No Peace Without Justice and other civil society actors where The Gambia announced the filing of an application before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for alleged violations by Myanmar of the Genocide Convention, for the genocide against the Rohingya. The event also addressed the implications of state responsibility under the Genocide Convention for deterring further crimes and providing redress to the victims and discussed the role that civil society groups and other stakeholders could play in such an inter-state dispute.





Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice communication in 2019



628 new Twitter followers reaching 4,428 in total



45,502 website views and a new section on the *Call it what it is* campaign



13 public statements on gender justice and ICL-related issues



542 new page likes reaching 7660 and 7432 engaged users



Launched The Hague Principles on Sexual Violence



Interviewed for the [Feminifesto](#) and the [Asymmetrical Haircuts](#) podcasts



Annex A

Legal and Organisational Structure

The Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice was established on 7th of January 2004 in The Hague, Netherlands and is established for an unlimited period of time. The organisation was created with the goal to promote the integration of a gender perspective into international humanitarian and criminal laws and institutions.

The Board is responsible for the governance of the organisation with the following members in 2019:

1. Gabrielle McIntyre, Chair
2. Judicael Elidje, Treasurer
3. Elizabeth Farr, Secretary
4. David Tolbert
5. Melinda Reed, Executive Director

In 2019, the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice operated with the staff structure approved by the Board, with the following members:

1. Melinda Reed, Executive Director
2. Alix Vuillemin Grendel, Senior Advocacy Advisor
3. Valeria Babără, Programme Associate
4. Dorine Llanta, Campaign Coordinator
5. Cristina Luque, Finance Consultant
6. Siobhan Hobbs, Legal and Programme Director
7. Marina Sarakini, Administrative Associate
8. Maria Elvira Mingo Jaramillo, Legal and Programme Officer
9. Nada Kiswanson, Consultant
10. Chiara Loiero, Consultant
11. Fabiana Nunez del Prado, Consultant
12. Daniela Horta, Gender Responsive Budgeting Intern
13. Zhengqi Liu, Legal Trainee
14. Nicole Jagonase, Legal Trainee
15. Marianne Besson-Burke, Communications Intern
16. Lina Stotz, Legal Intern
17. Sally Eshun, Legal Intern



Governance and Policy Framework

The internal governance of the organisation is outlined in the Governance Manual and is further supported by a set of policies and standard operating procedures including:

- Standard Operating Procedures Manual
- General Policies
 1. WI Values Statement
 2. WI Statute
 3. WI Governance Manual
 4. Quality Management Practices
 5. WI Board of Directors Conflict of Interest Policy
 6. WI Planning Monitoring and Evaluation System
 7. WI Operational Theory of Change
 8. WI Theory of Change
 9. Confidentiality Form
- Financial Policies and Protocols
 1. Financial Policies and Procedures Manual
 2. Reserve Policy - results are annually appropriated to the general reserve and appropriated reserves are formed if necessary.
 3. Payment Protocol
 4. Procurement Policy
 5. WI Financial Monitoring Policy
- Risk Management
 1. Risk Management Framework
 2. Managing Programme Risks
- Memorandum of Understanding
- WI Approval, Assessment and Reporting Forms
- Partner Request & Reporting Forms



Budget and Finance

Annual Budget: In 2019, the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice, implemented our domestic and international programmes with a budget of €951,278. During the 2019 financial year we raised €335,847 through the generous support of our donors.

Risk Management: We have a robust risk management framework with respect to three key areas - institutional, financial and programmatic risks. These are reflected in our Risk Management Framework and the Managing Programme Risks protocol. The key risks identified and assessed by the organisation include:

Risk 1: Risk of security to field operations and local partners

Risk description: Field operations and local partners are affected due to external and local insecurity issues. Field staff, consultants and local partners are endangered.

Risk type: Programmatic

Risk 2: Risk of insufficient funds

Risk description: Reduced funds or insufficient funds to implement our programmes and support institutional resilience.

Risk type: Financial and Institutional

Risk 3: Risk of loss of credibility

Risk description: Loss of credibility due to insufficient implementation of quality control standards or compliance challenges with implementing partners

Risk type: Operational and Institutional

Risk 4: The risk of our capacity not matching our mandate

Risk description: Personnel, structure and capacity to fulfil our mandate and related programmes and strategies



Annual report 2019

**Stichting Women's Initiatives for
Gender Justice**

The Hague

Reportno.:
II.01.01\

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Financial statements

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2019

(After proposal distribution of result)

		31 December 2019		31 December 2018	
		EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
ASSETS					
Fixed assets					
Property, plant and equipment	1		-		424
Financial assets	2		-		8.000
Current assets					
Receivables	3		-		44.290
Cash and cash equivalents	4		6.993		16.710
			<u>6.993</u>		<u>69.424</u>
LIABILITIES					
Equity	5		(44.036)		(4.412)
Short-term liabilities	6		51.029		73.836
			<u>6.993</u>		<u>69.424</u>

Statement of income and expenses for the year 2019

			2019		2018
		EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
Income	7	335.847		430.205	
Direct expenses	8	<u>(289.584)</u>		<u>(340.529)</u>	
			46.263		89.676
Expenses of employee benefits	9	2.599		40.135	
Depreciation tangible fixed assets	10	424		1.121	
Housing expenses	11	37.785		27.586	
Selling expenses	12	(1.925)		25.737	
Office expenses	13	16.310		18.275	
General expenses	14	<u>30.694</u>		<u>27.216</u>	
Total of sum of expenses			<u>85.887</u>		<u>140.070</u>
Total of result before tax			(39.624)		(50.394)
Income tax expense			<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>
Total of result after tax			<u><u>(39.624)</u></u>		<u><u>(50.394)</u></u>

Notes to the financial statements

ENTITY INFORMATION

Registered address and registration number trade register

The registered and actual address of Stichting Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice is Noordwal 10, 2513 EA in The Hague. Stichting Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice is registered at the Chamber of Commerce under number 27264260.

GENERAL NOTES

The most important activities of the entity

The activities of Stichting Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice consist mainly of: An international women's human rights organisation that advocates for gender justice through the International Criminal Court (ICC) and through domestic mechanisms, including peace negotiations and justice processes.

The location of the actual activities

The actual address of Stichting Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice is Noordwal 10, 2513 EA in The Hague.

GENERAL ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

The accounting standards used to prepare the financial statements

The financial statement is drawn up in accordance with the provisions of Title 9, Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code and the Dutch Accounting Standards, as published by the Dutch Accounting Standards Board ('Raad voor de Jaarverslaggeving').

Assets and liabilities are generally valued at historical cost, production cost or at fair value at the time of acquisition. If no specific valuation principle has been stated, valuation is at historical cost.

ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

Financial assets

Receivables recognised under financial assets are initially valued at the fair value less transaction costs. These receivables are subsequently valued at amortised cost price, which is, in general, equal to the nominal value. For determining the value, any depreciation is taken into account.

Receivables

Receivables are initially valued at the fair value of the consideration to be received, including transaction costs if material. Receivables are subsequently valued at the amortised cost price. If there is no premium or discount and there are no transaction costs, the amortised cost price equals the nominal value of the accounts receivable. Provisions for bad debts are deducted from the carrying amount of the receivable.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at banks and in hand represent cash in hand, bank balances and deposits with terms of less than twelve months. Overdrafts at banks are recognised as part of debts to lending institutions under current liabilities. Cash at banks and in hand is valued at nominal value.

Current assets

Current assets are initially valued at the fair value of the consideration to be received, including transaction costs if material. Trade receivables are subsequently valued at the amortised cost price. Provisions for bad debts are deducted from the carrying amount of the receivable.

Current liabilities

On initial recognition current liabilities are recognised at fair value. After initial recognition current liabilities are recognised at the amortised cost price, being the amount received taking into account premiums or discounts and minus transaction costs. This is usually the nominal value.

Accounting principles for determining the result

The result is the difference between the realisable value of the income and expenses and other charges during the year. The results on transactions are recognised in the year in which they are realised.

Revenue recognition

Income comprises the income from realised grants and donations which have been allocated to related direct and indirect expenses.

Sum of expenses

Costs are determined on a historical basis and are attributed to the reporting year to which they relate.

Notes to the balance sheet

Assets

FIXED ASSETS

1 Property, plant and equipment

	Furniture, fixtures and fittings
	<u>EUR</u>
Balance as at 1 January 2019	
Cost or manufacturing price	86.627
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(86.203)</u>
Book value as at 1 January 2019	<u>424</u>
Movements	
Depreciation	<u>(424)</u>
Balance movements	<u>(424)</u>
Balance as at 31 December 2019	
Cost or manufacturing price	86.627
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(86.627)</u>
Book value as at 31 December 2019	<u>-</u>
	<u>31-12-2019</u> <u>31-12-2018</u>
	EUR EUR
2 Financial assets	
Rental deposit	<u>-</u> <u>8.000</u>

CURRENT ASSETS

	<u>31-12-2019</u>	<u>31-12-2018</u>
	EUR	EUR
3 Receivables		
Accrued income and prepaid expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>44.290</u>
Accrued income and prepaid expenses		
Accrued income	-	39.856
Miscellaneous prepaid expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>4.434</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>44.290</u>
4 Cash and cash equivalents		
ING Bank N.V.	429	10.002
DFCU Bank Ltd	5.674	6.036
Cash	<u>890</u>	<u>672</u>
	<u>6.993</u>	<u>16.710</u>

Liabilities

	<u>31-12-2019</u>	<u>31-12-2018</u>
	EUR	EUR
5 Equity		
Legal and statutory reserves	97.000	97.000
General reserve	<u>(141.036)</u>	<u>(101.412)</u>
	<u>(44.036)</u>	<u>(4.412)</u>
Legal and statutory reserves		
Appropriated reserve	<u>97.000</u>	<u>97.000</u>
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
	EUR	EUR
General reserve		
Balance as at 1 January	(101.412)	(51.018)
Appropriation of result	<u>(39.624)</u>	<u>(50.394)</u>
Balance as at 31 December	<u>(141.036)</u>	<u>(101.412)</u>
	<u>31-12-2019</u>	<u>31-12-2018</u>
	EUR	EUR
6 Short-term liabilities		
Payables to banks	-	7.292
Trade payables	18.013	4.553
Payables relating to taxes and social security contributions	3.795	32.350
Other liabilities and accrued expenses	<u>29.221</u>	<u>29.641</u>
	<u>51.029</u>	<u>73.836</u>
Trade payables		
Trade creditors	<u>18.013</u>	<u>4.553</u>
Other liabilities and accrued expenses		
Net wages	14.701	3.699
Audit and consultancy costs	14.520	23.125
Other payables	<u>-</u>	<u>2.817</u>
	<u>29.221</u>	<u>29.641</u>

SUSTAINABILITY IN THE NEAR FUTURE

For the year 2020 the overhead costs have been reduced and fundings for 2020 already granted will be sufficient. Depending on funding still to be secured for the year 2021, the board has already begun to explore possibilities of merging with other organisations in case needed in order to secure enough funding base to sustain the foundation's activities.

Notes to the statement of income and expenses

	2019	2018
	EUR	EUR
7 Income		
FCO United Kingdom	169.045	-
Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs	120.000	90.000
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency	28.393	-
FCO DRC (July 2018 through March 2019)	4.975	83.538
Swiss (through April 2018)	-	22.259
FCO Uganda	-	18.286
UK/DFID	-	82.442
Anonymous Funding	-	84.654
King Bedouin Foundation (Planethood)	-	38.370
Other	13.434	10.656
	<u>335.847</u>	<u>430.205</u>

8 Direct expenses

Labour	173.000	209.725
Legal (Advocacy, Research & Monitoring)	101.048	1.928
Democratic Republic of Congo	3.085	85.370
Uganda	1.858	35.854
Publications and printing	1.659	4.358
Strategic Events	8.934	2.849
ICC Monitoring / ASP	-	445
	<u>289.584</u>	<u>340.529</u>

	Call it what it is	Other	Total
	EUR	EUR	EUR
Specifications on the programmes in 2019:			
Grant	322.413	13.434	335.847
Legal (Advocacy, Research & Monitoring)	(101.048)	-	(101.048)
Democratic Republic of Congo	-	(3.085)	(3.085)
Strategic Events	-	(8.934)	(8.934)
Uganda	-	(1.858)	(1.858)
Publications	-	(1.659)	(1.659)
Labour	(173.000)	-	(173.000)
Total	<u>48.365</u>	<u>(2.102)</u>	<u>46.263</u>

	2019	2018
	EUR	EUR
9 Expenses of employee benefits		
Wages and salaries	677	646
Social security premiums and pensions cost	1.784	5.099
Other expenses of employee benefits	138	34.390
	<u>2.599</u>	<u>40.135</u>

	2019	2018
	EUR	EUR
Wages and salaries		
Salary	140.677	195.646
Applied salaries	(140.000)	(195.000)
	<u>677</u>	<u>646</u>
 Social security premiums and pensions cost		
Social security charges	22.872	31.446
Addition pension provision for scheme	7.647	9.501
Sick pay insurance	4.265	4.693
	<u>34.784</u>	<u>45.640</u>
Applied social security charges	(33.000)	(40.541)
	<u>1.784</u>	<u>5.099</u>
 Other expenses of employee benefits		
Contractors	-	34.307
Other staff expenses WKR	29	83
Arbo services	109	-
	<u>138</u>	<u>34.390</u>
 10 DEPRECIATION TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	<u>424</u>	<u>1.121</u>
 11 Housing expenses		
Rent expenses	36.424	22.048
Utilities	-	3.643
Cleaning expenses	1.361	1.895
	<u>37.785</u>	<u>27.586</u>
 12 Selling expenses		
Travelling and hotel expenses	(1.925)	25.147
Board meetings (2/years)	-	590
	<u>(1.925)</u>	<u>25.737</u>
 13 Office expenses		
Bookkeeping	8.847	8.055
Repair & maintenance	4.532	5.485
Telephone and fax expenses	1.300	2.943
Office supplies	892	1.367
Insurance premium	739	357
Postage expenses	-	68
	<u>16.310</u>	<u>18.275</u>

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
	EUR	EUR
14 General expenses		
Audit costs	18.015	23.384
Other general expenses	2.115	2.237
Consultancy expenses	3.903	-
Fine and increases of taxes and social insurance premiums	3.829	-
Bank expenses	2.843	2.675
Cash differences	268	-
Monitoring & Evaluation (institutional)	-	225
Currency translation differences	(279)	(1.305)
	<u>30.694</u>	<u>27.216</u>

The Hague,

Stichting Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice



Melinda Reed
Director

Other information

We hereby offer you the report concerning the annual report 2019 for Stichting Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice, The Hague.

Independent auditors' report

To: The board of Stichting Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice

A. Report on the audit of the financial statements 2019

Our opinion

We have audited the financial statements 2019 of Stichting Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice, based in The Hague.

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Stichting Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice as at 31 December 2019, and of its result for 2019 in accordance with Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code.

The financial statements comprise:

1. the balance sheet as at 31 December 2019;
2. the statement of income and expenses for 2019; and
3. the notes comprising a summary of the accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Material uncertainty related to going concern

We draw attention to the negative result over the year 2019 and the negative equity of the foundation. The foundation is in need for funding for its programs and general expenses. The funding for 2020 has mostly been received.

The Covid19 virus has spread over the world and has significant impact on the financial possibilities of nations and their scope, which can lead to lower contributions. This can lead to decrease of income for the foundation, making it harder to continue.

Basis for our opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Dutch law, including the Dutch Standards on Auditing. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report.

We are independent of Stichting Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice in accordance with the Verordening inzake de onafhankelijkheid van accountants bij assurance-opdrachten (ViO, Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, a regulation with respect to independence) and other relevant independence regulations in the Netherlands. Furthermore we have complied with the Verordening gedrags- en beroepsregels accountants (VGBA, Dutch Code of Ethics).

We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

C. Description of responsibilities regarding the financial statements

Responsibilities of the board for the financial statements

The board is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code. Furthermore, the board is responsible for such internal control as the board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

As part of the preparation of the financial statements, the board is responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern. Based on the financial reporting framework mentioned, the board should prepare the financial statements using the going concern basis of accounting unless the board either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The board should disclose events and circumstances that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern in the financial statements.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objective is to plan and perform the audit assignment in a manner that allows us to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence for our opinion.

Our audit has been performed with a high, but not absolute, level of assurance, which means we may not detect all material errors and fraud during our audit.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial statements. The materiality affects the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures and the evaluation of the effect of identified misstatements on our opinion.

We have exercised professional judgement and have maintained professional skepticism throughout the audit, in accordance with Dutch Standards on Auditing, ethical requirements and independence requirements. Our audit included among others:

- Identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatements of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, designing and performing audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatements resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;

- Obtaining an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control;

- Evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the board;

- Concluding on the appropriateness of the board's use of the going concern basis of accounting, and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause a company to cease to continue as a going concern;

- Evaluating the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures; and

- Evaluating whether the financial statements represents the underlying transactions and events free from material misstatements.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant findings in internal control that we identify during our audit.

The Hague, 12 May 2020

Maas Accountants B.V.

G.J. Maas RA

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'G.J. Maas', written in a cursive style.