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Photo by Peace Brigades International - The Netherlands.

Dear partner,

Justice and Peace Netherlands is launching a new call for applications for at risk human rights defenders to participate in [Shelter City](#). The deadline for applications is 14 May 2021. **Please be aware that special conditions apply because of the COVID-19 situation (see conditions below).**

Shelter City provides temporary safe and inspiring spaces for human rights defenders at risk where they re-energise, receive tailor-made support and engage with allies. The term human rights defender is intended to refer to the broad range of activists, journalists and independent media professionals, scholars, writers, artists, lawyers, civil and political rights defenders, civil society members, and others working to advance human rights and democracy around the world in a peaceful manner.

From September 2021 onwards, several cities in the Netherlands will receive human rights defenders for a period of three months. At the end of their stay in the Netherlands, participants are expected to return with new tools and energy to carry out their work at home.

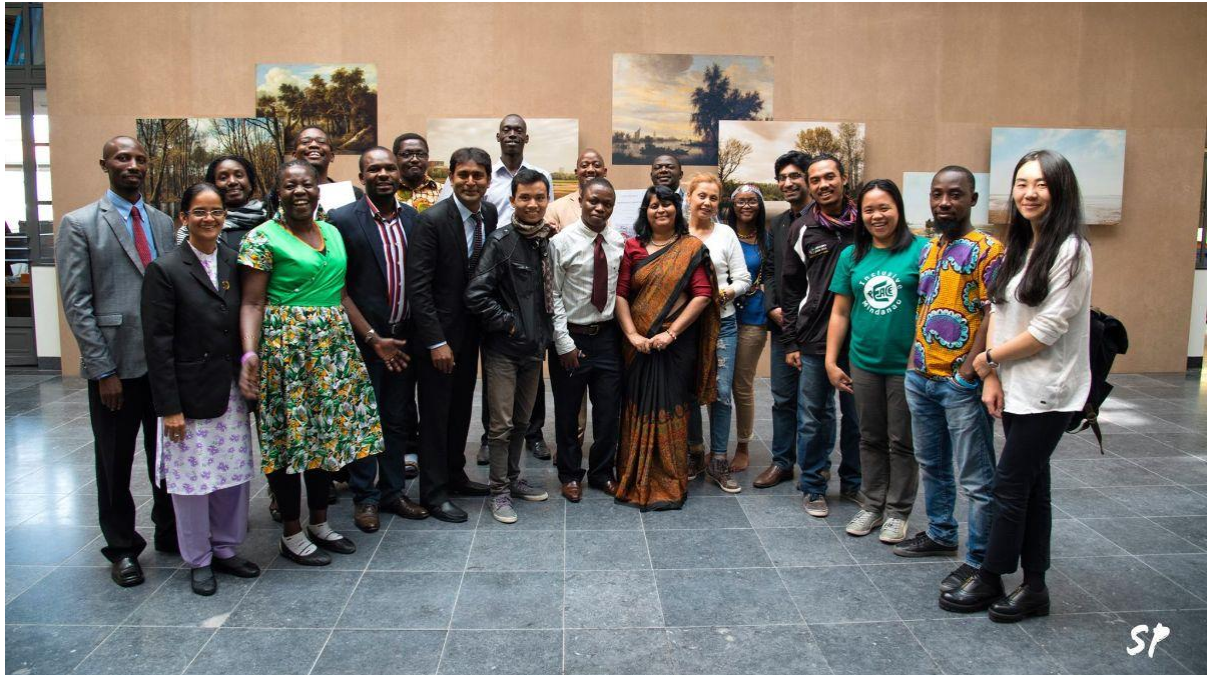


Photo by Strobe Pictures.

Journalists' Safe Haven Initiative

Justice and Peace aims to promote the safety of journalists, and in particular women journalists, worldwide so that they can build new strategies and continue their important work for freedom of expression in their country of origin. With the support of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Peace will be able to provide two additional temporary safe spaces per year in The Hague for journalists at risk and provide them with tailor-made support.

Shelter City and COVID-19

Please note that the current situation of the COVID-19 may pose certain challenges to the stay of human rights defenders in the Netherlands in 2021. These challenges can include:

- Limitations and/or changes in the programme that we can offer HRDs during their stay in the Netherlands;
- New measures and restrictions (including a lockdown) taken by the Dutch government;
- Cancellation of flights to/from the Netherlands;
- Postponement of return to the home country after 3 months because of travel restrictions;
- Participants might be requested to self-quarantine for 5-10 days upon arrival in the Netherlands (Shelter City programme will be adapted accordingly) and to take other

preventive measures due to COVID-19, including a COVID-19 test before travelling to the Netherlands.

Please consider these potential challenges carefully before applying to the programme.



To be eligible for Shelter City, HRDs should meet the following conditions:

- They implement a non-violent approach in their work;
- They are threatened or otherwise under pressure due to their work or activism;
- They can be relocated for a maximum period of 3 months. Limited spots are available for people who are not able to stay for the full 3 months;
- They are willing and able to return to their country of origin after 3 months;
- They are willing to speak publicly about their experience or about human rights in their country to the extent that their security situation allows;
- They have a conversational level* of English (limited spots are available for French or Spanish speaking HRDs);
- They are willing and able to come to The Netherlands without the accompaniment of family members;
- They have a valid passport (with no less than six months of validity) or be willing to carry out the procedures necessary for its issuance. Justice and Peace covers the costs of issuing a passport and/or visa (if applicable);
- They are not subjected to any measure or judicial prohibition to leaving the country;
- They are willing to begin their stay in The Netherlands around September 2021.

**By conversational English, we mean that participants' level of English allows them to actively participate in a training, speak about their work, communicate with the host city,*

etc.

Note that additional factors will be taken into consideration in the final round of selection, such as the added value of a stay in The Netherlands as well as gender, geographic, and thematic balance. Please note that we can only accept HRDs currently residing in a third country under exceptional circumstances.

To apply for Shelter City, kindly fill the online application form at the link below in your preferred language. Application forms must be submitted by 14 May 2021 at 23:59 CEST (Central European Summer Time). An independent commission will select the participants.

ENGLISH

FRENCH

SPANISH

Note that the selected human rights defenders will not automatically participate in Shelter City as Justice and Peace is not in control of issuing the required visas to enter the Netherlands.

For more information, please contact us at sheltercity@justiceandpeace.nl.

