



Network VN-Vrouwenverdrag/ Dutch CEDAW Network

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Committee on The Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

Pre-sessional Working Group for the 81st session

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Amsterdam, 5 June 2021

Dear CEDAW Secretariat,

The enclosed shadow report '*Women's Rights beyond Gender Neutrality: in Words and in Action*' has been compiled on behalf of the Dutch CEDAW Network. This independent network consists of a core group of Dutch NGOs and several individual experts working on women's human rights in the Netherlands. In addition to this core group a large number of other NGOs is connected to the network, all lending their expertise.

The 75 Dutch NGOs/CSOs that endorsed this shadow report are listed below.

The report reflects the concerns and questions of civil society regarding women's rights in the Netherlands and aims to contribute to the development of the list of issues prior to reporting (LOIPR) for the Netherlands. The NGOs/CSOs are particularly concerned about the many government policies that are gender neutral and thereby fail to address the specific realities and needs of women. For example, the COVID-19 pandemic has made visible and amplified pre-existing gender inequalities and the pandemic response followed the usual *modus operandi* – being 'gender neutral', which means excluding women's voices and perspectives. This actually undermines the intentions of policies and responses to protect and support all citizens in the Netherlands. Another point of great concern that the NGOs/CSOs would like to highlight and suggest to consider for the list of issues is the intersectional discrimination that women in the Netherlands face on multiple levels.

The attached shadow report in word and pdf can be posted on the CEDAW website for public information purposes. The shadow report is evidence based. References, however, could not be included in the attached report without exceeding the maximum amount of 6,600 words. All references can be found in the annotated version of the shadow report that is published on the Website of the Dutch CEDAW-Network: <https://www.vn-vrouwenverdrag.nl/shadow-report-2021/>

The Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science has funded the process by which this shadow report was produced. Regretfully, no funding was provided for preparing contributions regarding the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom (the countries Aruba, Curacao, St Maarten and the special municipalities the islands Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba). Hence, the report only addresses the European territory of the Kingdom, which is here referred to as the Netherlands.

In addition to our written contribution, we would like make an oral intervention during the remote informal private meeting taking place on Monday 5 July 2021 from 14h30 to 15h30 (Geneva time). We will contact the CEDAW Secretariat accordingly in a separate message and shall share an electronic version of our statement prior to the presentation in due course.

With kind regards,



Petra Snelders
Chair Dutch CEDAW Network

LIST OF ENDORSEMENTS

- Aidsfonds – Soa Aids Nederland (Aids Fund– Soa Aids the Netherlands)
- Art.1 , Kenniscentrum discriminatie Nederland (Art.1, Dutch knowledge centre on discrimination)
- ASKV/Steunpunt Vluchtelingen (ASKV/Refugee Support)
- Atria Kennisinstituut voor Emancipatie en Vrouwengeschiedenis (Atria Institute on Gender Equality and Women's History)
- Both ENDS
- Bureau Clara Wichmann
- CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality
- COC Nederland (COC Netherlands, Rights of lesbian women, gay men, bisexuals and transgenders (LGBT's))
- Commission for Filipino Migrant Workers (CFMW)
- COMENSHA - Coördinatiecentrum tegen Mensenhandel (Dutch Coordination Centre against Human Trafficking)
- Cordaid
- VVAO Vereniging van vrouwen met een hogere opleiding (Society of Women with a higher/academic education)
- Defence for Children
- Dona Daria, kenniscentrum Emancipatie te Rotterdam (Expertise Centre for Emancipation)
- ELANCE Academy
- Emancipator
- FairWork
- Federatie Nederlandse Vakbeweging (FNV) (The Netherlands Trade Union Confederation)
- Femmes for Freedom
- Graduate Women International Netherlands GWI-NL
- Amsterdams Coördinatiepunt Mensenhandel (ACM), onderdeel van HVO-Querido (Amsterdam Coordination Point for Human Trafficking (ACM), department of HVO-Querido)
- Huize Agnes (The Agnes van Leeuwenberch Foundation)
- Humanistisch Instituut voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking (Hivos) (Humanist Institute for Co-operation with Developing Countries)
- International Network of Liberal Women

- Joke Smit Stichting
- Johannes Wier Stichting
- Landelijk Netwerk Vrouwelijke Hoogleraren (Dutch Network of Women Professors)
- Mama Cash
- Middelburg Human Rights Law Consultancy
- Nederlands Juristen Comité voor de Mensenrechten (NJCM) (Dutch Section of the International Commission of Jurists)
- Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad (Dutch Council of Women)
- Neighborhood Feminists
- Nisa4Nisa
- NNID, Nederlandse organisatie voor seksediversiteit (NNID Foundation, Netherlands organisation for sex diversity)
- Oudere Vrouwen Netwerk Nederland (OVN NL) (Older Women's Network (OWN NL)
- Oxfam Novib
- Passage, Christelijk- maatschappelijke vrouwenbeweging (Passage, Christian Social Women's Movement)
- Platform Vrouwen & Duurzame Vrede (Platform Women & Sustainable Peace)
- Platform Zelfbeschikking en Verblijfsrecht (Platform Self-Determination and Residence Rights)
- Prostitution Information Center (PIC)
- RADAR , antidiscrimatievoorziening (RADAR, antidiscrimination agency)
- RESPECT Network (campaigning for the rights of migrant domestic workers)
- Rights4Change (Organization for human rights and gender justice)
- Rutgers
- S.P.E.A.K (Muslim women collective)
- SEDA Women Development Center Curaçao
- SekswerkExpertise - platform positieverbetering sekswerkers (Expert platform to advance sex workers' rights)
- SHOP – Kennis- en expertisecentrum sekswerk en mensenhandel (Knowledge and expertise centre for sex work and human trafficking)
- Somali Network for Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect (SONPPCAN)
- Steungroep Vrouwen Zonder Verblijfsvergunning (Supportgroup Undocumented Women)
- Steunpunt Studerende Moeders (Foundation Studying Mothers)
- Stichting Asiya
- Stichting Buurtvrouwennetwerk (Neighborhood Women's Network Foundation)
- Stichting Kezban
- Stichting LOS (National Support Organisation for Undocumented Migrants)
- Stichting Molukse Vrouwen Raad (MVR) (Moluccan Council of Women)
- Stichting Ondersteboven (Foundation focusing on the visibility of queer women)
- Stichting Vobis
- TAMPEP , The European Network for the Promotion of Health and Rights among Migrant Sex Workers
- TIYE International
- Transgender Netwerk Nederland (TNN)
- Transnational Migrant Platform Europe (TMP-E)
- Unie van Soroptimistclubs in Nederland, Suriname en Curaçao (Union of Soroptimistclubs in the Netherlands, Suriname and Curaçao)
- Valente, branchevereniging voor participatie, veilige opvang en begeleiding / landelijk netwerk vrouwenopvang (Valente, association for participation, safe shelter and guidance / national network of women's shelters)

- Vereniging van Nederlandse Vrouwelijke Artsen (VNVA) (Dutch Medical Women Association)
- Vereniging voor Vrouw en Recht Clara Wichmann (Dutch Association Women and Law Clara Wichmann)
- Verpleegkundigen & Verzorgenden Nederland (V&VN) (Dutch association of nurses and carers)
- VluchtelingenWerk Nederland (Dutch Council for Refugees)
- VTU Vrouwen tegen Uitzetting Amsterdam (Women against Deportation Amsterdam)
- WECF International
- WILPF Nederland (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Dutch section)
- WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform
- WOMEN Inc.
- Women on Waves
- WOUW-Amsterdam, Netwerk van Maatschappijkritische 50+ vrouwen (Network of 50+ women critical of the social structure)