



IWPR-NL Activity Report 2019

2019 ORGANISATIONAL OVERVIEW

IWPR-NL Mission

Giving Voice, Driving Change. IWPR supports local reporters, citizen journalists and civil society activists in three dozen countries in conflict, crisis and transition around the world. We contribute to peace and good governance by strengthening the ability of media and civil society to speak out. We do this by training, mentoring and providing platforms for professional and citizen reporters; building up the institutional capacity of media and civic groups; and working with independent and official partners to remove barriers to free expression, robust public debate and citizen engagement.

IWPR-NL Structure

IWPR Netherlands is a Dutch foundation (*stichting*) registered as a public benefit organisation (*Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling*, ANBI). IWPR-NL is an integral part of the IWPR Global Network, regulated by the International Network Agreement of IWPR. The governance committees for the US, UK and NL work closely together and hold two meetings annually as the International Board, with additional joint committee meetings regularly throughout the year.

The offices in London, Washington and the Netherlands are together responsible for implementing strategic plans, projects, programmes and fundraising. They provide management oversight, guidance and administrative support to the field offices.

Field offices around the world oversee and manage projects in more than 30 countries where IWPR is active. In 2019 IWPR had a staff of around 130, the majority based in the field.

IWPR-NL contributes to the development of the international network, tapping into European partners and expertise, contributing to programme development and promotion, and accessing European funding opportunities.

IWPR-NL Governance

The Dutch Board of Trustees ensures the legal and financial oversight of the proper functioning of NL operations, while participating fully in the International Board and supporting coordinated operations under the global management team.

The board consists of Adrienne van Heteren (chair), Simon Hersom (treasurer) and Sir David Bell (member). Further places are under recruitment.

The advisory council advise the Board and the management of IWPR-NL, sharing their insights and knowledge of Dutch society. They work on voluntary base. In 2019 the advisory council consisted of Frits Barend, Max Christern, Andree van Es, Geert Glimmerveen, Erik Hallers, Otto van der Harst, Carine de Meyere en Veronique Swinkels. The advisory council met once in 2019 to discuss progress and plans for the year.

Steven Assies, who joined IWPR in September 2018, served in the year as Country Director Netherlands, responsible for day-to-day management and development of the Netherlands office and operations. Anthony Borden, Executive Director of IWPR globally, also served as Executive Director of the Netherlands foundation.

IWPR-NL 2019 Activity Report

Institutional development. In 2019, thanks to generous support from the Dutch Postcode Lottery, IWPR continued to invest in strengthening its network, review its strategic focus, improve its communication and outreach activities and invest more systematically in monitoring and evaluation.

In October IWPR held its first-ever international retreat in The Hague to discuss current challenges and future opportunities. Around 40 staff from IWPR programmes in Latin America, the Middle East and North Africa, Central Asia and the Caucasus met for the four-day event, made possible with the support of the Dutch Postcode Lottery Fund. The event was hosted by Adrienne Van Heteren, chair of the IWPR-NL Board and NL Country Director Steven Assies. Outside attendees included representatives of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the investigative network Bellingcat and longstanding IWPR partner Hivos. Representatives of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as some of IWPR's partner organisations in the Netherlands took part in the closing session.

Public Awareness & Outreach. IWPR aims to increase the awareness of the public of the role of local journalists and activists play in areas of conflict. In 2019 in the Netherlands held a number of public activities. On the occasion of International Women's Day, March 3, IWPR published on its website and various social media a number of interviews with female human rights activists from across the world as well as frontline reports from IWPR correspondents around the world.

IWPR-NL continued the cooperation with Human Rights Watch in the Netherlands, contributed to the Human Rights Weekend, February 8-10. Nabil Khoury, IWPR Programme Director Iraq, participated in a panel discussion on press freedom and security for journalists in the face of rising disinformation and increasing threats against journalists. The event was widely covered in the Dutch media.

IWPR-NL on behalf of the IWPR International Network joined Wo=men – the Dutch gender platform. WO=men strives for worldwide gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. IWPR is a signatory of the 1325 National Action Plan. IWPR is a member of the working group on Women, Peace and Security.

IWPR-NL took steps to further extend outreach and partnership in the Netherlands. This resulted amongst others in the invitation to participate in the World Press Freedom Conference 2020 to be held in The Hague in April 2020, hosted by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNESCO and to present programme ideas to the 2020 celebration of 75 years of Peace, to be held in The Hague in October 2020.

Fundraising. Thanks to the Dutch Postcode Lottery grant, IWPR-NL continued to support the Cyber Arabs project, its digital security training and advice project to journalists and citizen activists, and to provide continuing programme support for investigative reporting in Afghanistan.

IWPR-NL acts as liaison and first contact with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. IWPR-NL maintains regular contacts with the various country desks at the Ministry. In 2019 IWPR-

NL organized several visits for IWPR programme staff to the Ministry to discuss IWPR programmes and activities in their respective countries. Meetings were held on Mexico and Cuba, Syria and Iraq, Tunisia, Libya, Myanmar.

IWPR-NL serves as project lead for the European Union, coordinating project development and channelling applications, and submitting several in the year.

Challenges, Opportunities & Plans. In 2020, IWPR-NL will continue to invest in developing the Dutch presence, participating in public events, building programmatic partnerships and identifying funding opportunities as possible. This will include the hiring of a full-time specialist in monitoring and evaluation in the Netherlands, a critical function that will inform and support IWPR's programme operations internationally.

In light of global uncertainties arising from the coronavirus pandemic across the many countries in which IWPR operates, IWPR is responding by continuing and increasing its support for journalists and activists in challenging environments, while increasing the use of online and virtual tools to maintain and enhance its training, mentoring and other frontline support programmes.