



Minutes – NGOs Meeting on CRSV

Date: 20 April 2018, 11:00-14:00 hours
Venue: Rijen
Present: *Centre for African Justice, Peace and Human Rights* (Sophia Ugwu, Adepeju Adewoye, Gizela Madeira, Cynthia Achieng Odera);
Civitas Maxima (Emmanuelle Marchand);
Equator Foundation (Rina Ghafourkhan);
Mukomeze (Eefje de Volder, Anne-Marie de Brouwer);
Dr. Mukwege Foundation (Benjamin Duerr, Malini Laxminarayan);
Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice (Samantha Addens, Marina Sarakini, Andrea Raab);
Sterk Huis (Antoinette van der Kaa); and the hosting organization,
IMPACT: Center Against Human Trafficking and Sexual Violence in Conflict (Anne-Marie de Brouwer, Eefje de Volder, Sofia Kriempardi).

On 20th April 2018, Impact: Center Against Human Trafficking and Sexual Violence in Conflict initiated a joint NGOs meeting with representatives of various Netherlands-based NGOs working on conflict-related sexual violence.

The purpose of this first joint meeting was to bring together Netherlands-based organizations working on CRSV, share information on projects and activities, exchange knowledge on various issues as well as to explore whether there would be an interest and an added value in making connections, strengthen communications and formalize cooperation among the participating organizations.

Eight organizations were represented in the meeting (see above). All Netherlands-based organizations previously identified as working on CRSV were approached to join the meeting. Some working on CRSV as part of its core mission, others as part of its broader mission. The organizations are working in different or multiple fields/backgrounds, such as law, humanitarian sector, developmental aid, academia/science, psycho trauma, or otherwise.

The first part of the meeting was focused on offering an insight into each other's work through presentations. Representatives of the NGOs talked about their key expertise, focus areas and regions of their organizations and current and past activities and projects.

Following these introductory presentations, participants then entered into an open dialogue on whether there would be an added value for organizations working on CRSV in the Netherlands to create a kind of platform of communication and cooperation. Participants agreed quickly on the need and importance of such a platform as it may support knowledge exchange (including not reinventing the wheel every time a similar issue may arise) and cooperation amongst each other (or several members), including obtaining funding for mutual projects, referrals of for instance journalist who may wish to know more about a particular issue, joint lobby and advocacy, etc.

As for the practical arrangements of this cooperation, participants agreed that ideally, we would meet both offline and online. Offline because it helps to really know each other and to better grasp what an organization is doing. Online because it will help to distribute important documents, events or other information in between offline meetings.

Therefore, it was discussed that the members of the CRSV Network Netherlands-based (NL) meet twice a year. The location is at the venue where one of the members is located (rotating basis). To be able to share information in between meetings, in time a digital knowledge sharing platform will be developed (in the form of intranet on a website) so that members can online share relevant information with other members directly. For now, information can be shared through the mailing list and events can be posted on the website where all the information of the participating NGOs can be found.

All organisations agree that the lead of the CRSV NL network would lie in the hands of IMPACT as the organisation taking the initiative for this network (e.g. taking notes, distributing the notes and information concerning offline meetings among members, creating a webpage with all the members on it, contact point for the network) as there needs to be an organisation driving the network.

It was decided that the network would be informal (and not be officially registered as a foundation or some other kind of legal enterprise) but that this might be a possibility in the future. It was also noted that other relevant (national and international) networks linked to CRSV should not be forgotten and looked into for networking purposes. Organisations are connected to similar but also different networks (e.g. NAP signatories) and exchanging information about what happens in these networks is of interest as well.

'Moving forward'

In order to move forward with this initiative Impact has taken the initiative to create a webpage on its site with information about all the members of the network. The webpage can be found here <https://www.impact-now.org/crsv-network-nl/>.

To expand this page, we need to know from each organization the following information:

- *Name organisation*
- *Name contact person of the organisation and his/her email address*
- *Abstract of the work of the organisation (max. 5 lines)*
- *Key words expertise of the organisation (max. 5 lines)*

- *Key countries/regions the organisation works in*
- *Other relevant information organisation wishes to share*
- *Website organisation*
- *High quality logo of the organisation*

We have already updated this information for Impact, so you can take this as an example. You can send the information about your organization to Sofia Kriempardi at s.kriempardi@impact-now.org.

Impact will look further into the creation of the online information sharing platform. It will take notes during meetings and distribute them after, approach for each offline meeting one of the members for organizing the meeting (with the support of Impact) and be a contact point for the members and possible new members.

Rijen, 20/04/2018

Minutes by

IMPACT: Center Against Human Trafficking and Sexual Violence in Conflict