



STICH ARAB-WEST I

Narrative
December 31, 2024



FIGHTING FOUNDATION

Report
4 - October 1, 2025

Narrative Report: S Foundation as Hea Netw

Reporting Period: 1 January 2024 – 1 October

Board members in 2024 and 2025:

Koen Vliegenthart (chair)

Dick van der Steen (secretary)

Céleste Voogel (treasury)

Advisors to the board in 2024 and 2025

Cornelis (Kees) Hulsman

Eildert Mulder

Romana Moussa (since July 2025)

The Stichting AWF supported the work of the Ce
(CIDT), and Center for Arab-West Understanding
but the ties are changing with the new managem
advisors of AWF provided advice concerning wo
current management in Egypt no longer request
described in separate narrative reports which are
their establishment until 2023. Cooperation, how
database while executive work is carried out with
Arab-West Foundation (AWF) functions as the H
Foundation (ALF), and has been actively advanc
and the broader Euro-Mediterranean region. The
developments, transitions, and milestones, which
extended. Below is a summary of our activities a

Stichting Arab-West and of the Dutch ALF work

r 2025

Center for Intercultural Dialogue and Translation
g (CAWU) in Egypt since they were established
ment of CIDT and CAWU. Board members and
rk and management of CIDT in Egypt which
s. The work of CIDT and CAWU has been
e no longer shared with AWF as was done since
ever, is essential since AWF owns the DAB
n donor funding at CIDT. Since July 2024, the
lead of the Dutch Network of the Anna Lindh
ing intercultural dialogue in the Netherlands
e first half of 2025 brought several key
h is why the time period of the report has been
and progress during this entire reporting period.

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1. AWF Board meetings

The AWF board meets once or twice per year plus regular contacts about pending issues. The board nominate Cornelis (Kees) Hulsman as director. elections for Head of Network of the Dutch Anna Romana Moussa as potential international network attended on zoom between 8.30 pm and 9.00 pm to focus on fundraising outside Kerk in Actie and term continuation of database building.

On September 23, 2024, the board met to discuss meeting. The board also agreed to the draft text Dutch ALF network

(<https://www.annalindh.nl/zeven-redenen-om-lid-erk/>)

physically, and in between meetings maintains
d met on April 22, 2024, and decided to
The board also agreed to participate in the
Lindh Foundation network and nominate
ork coordinator if elected. Dr. Matthew Anderson
n Dutch time. Dr. Anderson was explicitly asked
SGP which is believed to be essential for long

ss preparations for the first national network
“seven reasons to become a member” of the

[te-worden-van-het-anna-lindh-foundation-netw](#)

2. Preserving the files of

I. Background

In 2005, the Arab-West Foundation (AWF) was established by Cornelis (Kees) and Sawsan Hulsman in Egypt to coordinate the Translation company (CIDT, 2005) and Center for Arabic World Studies (2007). The cooperation between the three entities was not possible in Egypt to bring all needed functions under the copyright of the database and supported CIDT and CAWS. CIDT carried out database building and CAWS carried out the database building.

II. C|DT-Cairo moves to a different

which CIDT and CAWU in Cairo had to move to a smaller office location. Matthew Anderson, director of CML, Adel Rizkallah and Egyptian trans activist collection of files and books in the stored in the Anglican St. John the and audio cassettes for the Netherlands. Around 120 kg of files people able to take them with the September 2025, CAWU moved to the address of CIDT is now registered Maadi. These steps were taken to secure a safe place for the remain

III. Bibliotheca Alexandrina

January 20 2025

We sent a letter to Bibliotheca Alexandrina director (in response to the question of donating the newspaper archive of Anglican Church of the Holy Baptist Church), and requesting a quotation to send it to the National Library database. Ambassador Ihab Gamal el-Din, Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, met in a meeting with Ambassador Hatem Abdelkader in the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and recommended to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. The Ambassador was very pleasant. The Ambassador presented the Ministry.

CIDT/AWF

established to support the dialogue work of
through the Center for Intercultural Dialogue and
for Arab-West Understanding NGO (CAWU,
es was always vital, since it was legally
s in one legal entity. AWF registered the
nd CAWU with small fundraising and advice.
took responsibility for the student internships for

Office location January 2024, the building in
had rented office space was sold and CIDT had
n. Kees Hulsman has been working with
DT since September 2022, CIDT accountant
lator Rafik Baracat to separate the large
e office. The newspaper collection could be
e Baptist Church in Maadi, Cairo. Sets of files
erlands have gone in stages to the Netherlands
May 2025, Kees took around 30 kg of files to the
es are remaining in Cairo for which we need
m. Unaccompanied luggage costs too much. In
to a substantially smaller office in Maadi while
ered at the virtual office at Regus location in
o reduce office costs. It also shows the need to
ning files as soon as possible.

tor Prof. Ahmed Abdullah Zayed Hegab with the
Arab-West Report (the files stored at St. John the
can all articles and upload these onto our
otian Ambassador to the UN in Geneva. Advised
the Netherlands to request a letter of
This meeting took place on February 2, 2024,
ted our request to the Egyptian Foreign

On February 25 2025

Omneya, assistant to the Director, told Kees over the phone that she had received the letter of recommendation from the Institute of Eastern Christianity and had further processed. This was followed up by numerous letters from the Anna Lindh Foundation prior to the Heads of Mission meeting in 2024.

IV. Dr. Candace Lukasik

Since Dr. Candace Lukasik from the USA was on a mission to the Institute of Eastern Christianity Global Orthodoxy, this was an opportunity to provide her with a library in Egypt for her personal library. In December 2024, she visited the Institute in Alexandria where the family of her husband lives. She was on a mission from the Netherlands to the USA, sadly went missing in the USA and her mission failed.

V. Mikado

On October 10 2025

Kees Hulsman brought some 50 kg of books and files to the Institute of Eastern Christianity and combined this visit with a visit to the Institute of Eastern Christianity helping the Monastery of Mor Ephrem to establish a library. This was followed by a visit on December 19 with another mission. It was not possible since Missio decided cut the costs of the mission. The books and files can be accepted.

VI. Groningen State University

Prof. Dr. Karène Sanchez Summerer, chair of the Institute of Eastern Christianity, remaining files and made inquiries at the Groningen State University. On December 17, the University Library confirmed that the files were accepted. Sanchez wants to organise some seminars to handle the files. Sanchez wrote "Two of the seminars, 'Europe in the context of the Middle East' and 'Europe'-BA3, as well as 'Understanding Sectarianism' will make sure this is the case (I am coordinating the seminars). I will email "it would be wonderful to get a PhD working on the historical dimension of the relations between the Middle East and Europe. It would be highly relevant, and I would welcome any idea to further this idea with our Graduate school, and if possible, we would consider funding the other 50% (this framework is already in place, we have). " The funding from Groningen represents 50% of the costs.

On March 20 librarian Martien Stege came with a letter from the University. Kees Hulsman visited Prof. Sanchez with around 50 kg of books and files.

for a phone call that the Bibliotheca Alexandrina
the Foreign Ministry. The request would be
erous phone calls including from Fatma Kotkat
of Network meeting in Alexandria in December

ne of the speakers at the Conference Rewriting
vide her with 23 kg of Arabic books on Copts in
4, Matthew and Adel brought other files to
s. A box of 20 kg of books shipped from the
ne US postal service. Efforts to trace them

d files to the Mikado library in Aachen and
Eastern Christian Studies (IvOC) for talks about
sh a library/archive center. This visit was
50 kg of books and files. Sadly, no more is
e Mikado library which means no more new

e Department, feared a potential loss of the
gen University library to store the files. On
he agreement to store all remaining files. Prof.
ave students work on aspects of it. Prof.
the Middle East/ The Middle East in
anism and Minorities- A Global approach'- MA,
g these courses). She further wrote in the same
g on the Arab West Foundation of course- the
e Netherlands and the Middle East/ Egypt would
a of partial funding you may have. I enquired
50% of a PhD was ensured, RUG would
is currently used with Double Degrees PhDs
nts 2100€/ month netto for a PhD student.

a car to pick up roughly 2 m3 of files. On June 5
d 40 kg of files.

VII. Anna Lindh Foundation

In December 2024

Dr. Matthew Anderson and Adel Rizkallah brought the Anna Lindh Foundation in Alexandria, partly boxes with books and documents, partly family in Alexandria later picked up, partly audio recordings from the Netherlands and several copies of the book 'The Heads of Network of the Anna Lindh Foundation'.

ht several boxes of books to the Anna Lindh
ks for Dr. Candace Lukasik which her husband's
cassettes for Kees Hulsman to take with him to
"Sighting the Moon" by Dr. Laoucet Ayari for

3. AWF participation in a

January 25-27 2024 — Conference Rew

Kees Hulsman participated with a paper on leaders: the example of Rev. Dr Andrea Zaki from the Protestant Community Council in Egypt, dedicated to the memory of a leader who was attacked for this by Coptic political activists in the US. The paper discussed the role of political activism to pressure the US government to protect the rights to Copts in Egypt. Such pressures, however, are based on false claims, which only would create Muslim anger and power based on false claims. During the conference, Kees Hulsman was accommodated.

April 17, 2024 — Palestinian Prisoners D

Each year European Palestinians organize a conference on Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons. Kees Hulsman was invited to present this online, <https://www.dialogueacrossborders.com/en/state-of-palestine/2024/april-17-2024>

July 26, 2024 - Nederlandse Onafhankel

Dr. Yossi Beilin and Dr. Heba Hussein, major Israeli negotiators of the Oslo Accords in 1993, developed the Holy Land Prize. Hanneke Gelderblom-Lankhout, Eildert M.

September 26, 2024 - IIB Sammelband & Vienna

Prof. Wolfram Reiss, Professor of Religious Studies and Theology, Vienna University and Substitute head of the Institute for Religious Studies (2007-2024), and supporter of the Holy Land database from day 1, retired and invited Kees Hulsman to participate in the symposium. Kees Hulsman was also asked to write a paper on **Interreligious Encounters with students in Egypt** for Prof. Reiss. At the Symposium, speakers were asked to share how they changed their outlook on religious beliefs.

October 27 2024 — 40th anniversary of the Monastery of Mor Ephrem

Kees Hulsman was one of the speakers at the conference. Elizabeth Martijn of the Department of Middle Eastern Studies

activities

Writing Global Orthodoxy

entitled “Efforts to silence Middle Eastern Church in Egypt.” Rev. Andrea Zaki is the head of the dedicated his life to Muslim-Christian dialogue and was in the USA since his work did not match with their intention to pressure the Egyptian government for more dialogue. However, are largely based on exaggerations or even lies. Dick van der Steen provided Kees with

May

use an event to ask for the position of the church. I wrote with the support of Eildert Mulder a text and

[document-annual-observance-palestinian-prisoner-d](#)

Vrijheidsprijs 2024

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators leading to the Oslo Accords. The Confederation for which they received this prize was founded by Eildert Mulder and Kees Hulsman attended.

& Symposium farewell Prof. Dr. Wolfram Reiss,

Studies, Faculty of Protestant Theology, Department of Systematic Theology and Church History, the Arab-West Report/Dialogue Across Borders. Kees Hulsman to be a speaker on his farewell lecture. He will write a chapter on **Intercultural and Religious Dialogue in Egypt** for a book commemorating the work of Prof. Dr. Wolfram Reiss. He was asked to speak about personal experiences that

the consecration of the Syrian Orthodox

at the celebration. During lunch he met with Dr. Eildert Mulder, East Studies at the University of Groningen. Dr.

Elizabeth recommended Kees to contact Prof. D. Department.

January 2025 — Visit delegation Bishopric

The Bishopric of Rotterdam/Pour les Autres sent them to the projects they had previously funded, including the Learning Center for Arab-West Understanding in Cairo. Mr. Henk van der Wal contacted Dr. Matthew Anderson, Dr. Brooke Comerford, and Dr. St. Joseph Church in Zamalek Cairo, where they had been working, whom we have collaborated to set up the CAWU. Kees received at the home of Dr. Comer who was in the Netherlands.

May 3-4 2025 — Palestinian Prisoners D

Kees Hulsman spoke about “The unique role of the Dialogue Across Borders Foundation network in relation to Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and Hanneke Gelderblom, Inge Marit Wielinga of WOC, and Dr. Bosch for the CDA Ledenplatform attended. Both Kees and Dr. Bosch have been speaking, <https://www.dialogueacrossborders.com/en/cda-ledenplatform>

June 4 2025 — SIB

Kees Hulsman spoke at the student society SIB-Leiden during his student days in Leiden. SIB-Leiden invited SIB-students to speak about their time at SIB-Leiden. <https://www.dialogueacrossborders.com/en/cornelis-van-der-schueren-student-society-leiden-university>

July 3 2025 – Sidelines 59th session of the

Kees Hulsman was asked to speak at this hearing on Misinformation on Freedom of Expression and Communication. <https://www.dialogueacrossborders.com/en/impression>

Dr. Karène Sanchez-Summerer, head of the

Visit of Rotterdam to Egypt

at a small delegation to Egypt to visit projects
ing Center for refugees of the Center for
h Ruijven contacted Kees Hulsman who in turn
mer and Fr. Claude Ondongar of the Comboni
y run a primary school for Eritrean refugees with
l refugee learning center. The delegation was
he company of Dr. Matthew Anderson.

Day, Brussels

the civil society network of the Anna Lindh
estinians and surrounding countries.” Also
omen for Peace and Erik Tilanus and Robert
h Hanneke Gelderblom and Robert Bosch have
[ers.com/en/node/65501](https://www.ers.com/en/node/65501)

-Leiden, a student organisation that he was a
B-Leiden asked Kees and two other former
iden and their career.
[elis-hulsmans-speech-about-his-career-dutch-st](#)

to the UN Human Rights Council

ing at the UN in Geneva about the Impact of
Opinion. For the full text see:
[fact-misinformation-freedom-expression-and-opin](#)

4. Election, Transition and Anna Lindh Foundation

I. Election

In July 2024, due to Romana Moussa's efforts in a campaign video and Kees Hulsman's e-mails to the Head of Network (HoN) for the Netherlands that was monitored by the Dutch Foreign Ministry to each of the candidates to present the campaign-based public advocacy for dialogue, the exchanges (Jongeren Uitwisseling Begrip - JUB), more community-focused, dialogue-driven strate



**Dutch Head of Network verkiezing
2024 Anna Lindh Foundation**

[Click here](#) for the campaign video

The transition process from the previous Head of Network (HoN) to the new Head of Network (HoN) Platform, faced delays due to overlapping holidays and the transition process was not yet completed, and AWF formally took on its duties in July 2024.

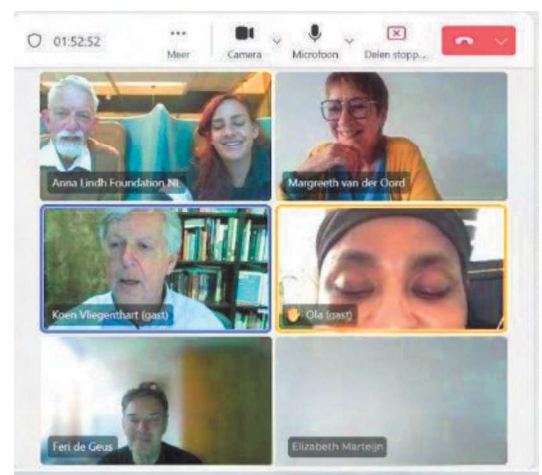
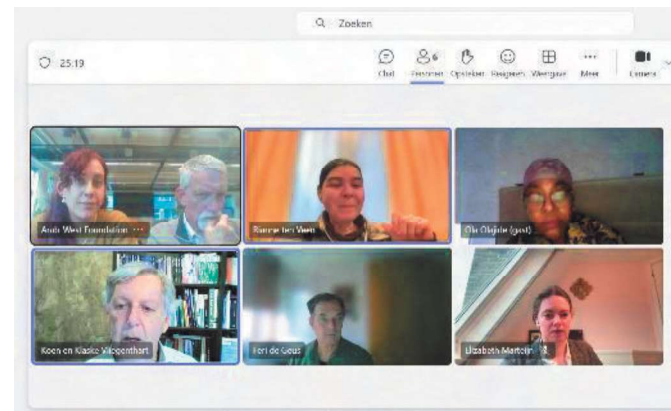
To strengthen the network's capacity, sustainability, and resilience, the Anna Lindh Foundation initiated the formalisation of the Dutch Platform for Dialogue and Exchange (Dutch Platform). This process included the creation of a Governance Board, which will oversee the platform's activities, and a Board of Advisors. The Governance Board is composed of representatives from various civil society organisations, while the Board of Advisors provides strategic guidance and support.

and Governance Dutch Network

producing, filming and editing a successful members, the Arab-West Foundation became by a clear majority (83%) through online voting. Voting followed the request of the Foreign. Their visions for the network: one focused on the other emphasising dialogue and youth. The strong outcome gave legitimacy to our legacy moving forward.

f Network (HoN), the Grote Midden Oosten
y periods. Despite this, foundational work was
by the end of October.

ity, and democratic foundation, the Arab-West
ch network's governance structure. This
which meets every 3 months, and a Board of
of elected representatives from member
des strategic direction and reflective oversight.



In alignment with network-wide consultation and updated: the previous focus on decolonisation shifted to Dialogue Across Generations and Cultures, and Decolonisation. This shift acknowledges the urgency of life and intercultural understanding, and has been

In April 2025, a consensus was reached during the meeting to transform the Dutch ALF network into a registered association to simplify future leadership transitions, enable easier funding (including potential ANBI status), and increase diversity of members.

First meeting of the Governance Board of the Dutch Anna Lindh Foundation Network on 29 January 2025, with members Dr. Elizabeth Martejijn (University of Groningen), Rianne C. Ten Veen (Green Creation), Feri de Geus (Le Grand Cru-Global), Ola Olajide (GREAT The Hague), and Kees Hulsman & Romana Moussa (Arab-West Foundation). Rob Meyer (Stichting Layan Foundation) was absent due to illness.

Second meeting of the Governance Board of the Dutch Anna Lindh Foundation Network on 17 April 2025, with members Dr. Elizabeth Martejijn (University of Groningen), Rianne C. Ten Veen (Green Creation), Feri de Geus (Le Grand Cru-Global), Ola Olajide (GREAT The Hague), Koen Vliegenthart, Kees Hulsman & Romana Moussa (Arab-West Foundation), and new member Margreeth van der Oord (SPIRIT). Rob Meyer (Stichting Layan Foundation) was absent.

dialogue, the thematic priorities for 2025 were shifted to three new pillars—Peacebuilding, Shrinking Civic Space, with a subcategory of ent global and domestic contexts affecting civic n received positively by the network.

the second national network meeting to ed association (vereniging). This transition aims ligibility for Dutch fundraising channels emocratic participation among network

5. ALF-Network Development

The Dutch ALF network has grown significantly (of which only roughly 50% were active). **By August 2024, there were 100 member organisations** — an increase due to in Kees Hulsman and Romana Moussa.

Thanks to the Municipality of The Hague, the city we received office space in the The Hague Hum other civil society organisations in The Hague w opportunities.

On November 25, 2024 — First National Network



The first ALF National Network meeting was held on The Hague, titled "MESSAGES OF HOPE AND PEACE: 1

The first national Dutch ALF Network meeting under Executive Director Josep Ferré of the Anna Lind Netherlands and attended. In the evening, we on between people sympathising with Israel and oth negotiator Jossi Beilin and Palestinian lawyer Hi from Itach Ma'aki attended in person. From the P

ment and Events

On December 31, 2024, it counted 40 members
August 1, 2025, the number had grown to 65
extensive outreach and revitalisation efforts by

y of peace and justice, starting October 1, 2024,
anity Hub. This is a shared office space with
which also provides excellent networking

ork Meeting



November 25 2025 at the Humanity Hub in the
Connecting for a Just Future for Palestine-Israel”.

nder the new leadership was held in The Hague.
h Foundation flew for this occasion to the
rganised a well attended dialogue meeting
ners with Palestinians. Former Israeli peace
ba Hussein participated online. Stav Salpeter
Palestinian side we were very pleased to have

Jozef Attawil of the European Alliance in Defence, Senator Hanneke Gelderblom, former ministers, retired ambassadors and representatives of a wide range of civil society organizations followed the dialogue principles of the Quakers with a view to reaching an agreement. Jan van Zanen opened the meeting: <https://janvanzanen.nl> expected that participants would come to an agreement. The meeting was a success, with participants willing to listen to the other and talk which is much more than many meetings.

On November 28, 2024 — Day of the Mediterranean



On November 28th, Kees Hulsman and Romana Hulsman presented the Day of the Mediterranean, an initiative of the Anna Lindh Foundation. The event focused on cultural heritage, and intercultural dialogue across the Mediterranean. The 2025 edition in the Netherlands will be held in the city of The Hague, under the leadership of Olaf van Goyen, highlighting diversity.

Participation in such events reinforces the importance of dialogue between members and contributes to the sustained strengthening of the network.

of Palestinian Detainees with us. Former
Jan Pronk and Laurens-Jan Brinkhorst, several
a variety of organisations attended. The event
who also led this session. The Hague Mayor Jan
[den Haag.nl/peace-networking-event/](https://www.denhaag.nl/peace-networking-event/) No one
reement, but important was all participants were
ch needed these days.

Mediterranean



*Romana Moussa and Kees Hulsman
represented the Dutch ALF Network
at the Day of the Mediterranean
event in The Hague, hosted by
GREAT The Hague under the
leadership of Ola Olajide.*

a Moussa participated in the Day of the
Foundation that celebrates shared identity,
ss the 43 member countries of the Union for the
nds was organised by Dutch network member
Olajide, and featured a community-based event

tance of mutual support among network
ngthening of partnerships within the Dutch ALF

December 12 2024 — First HoN meeting Attend



Kees Hulsman and Romana Moussa represented the meeting in Alexandria Egypt on December 12, 2024.

AWF first took part in the international HoN Meeting where the new Dutch leadership was introduced

ended by the new Head of the Dutch Network



e Dutch Network while attending their first HoN

ting in Alexandria, Egypt in December 2024,
to the HoNs from other ALF national networks.

December 19, 2024 — Closing Event of the Year of the Czech Republic in Egypt

Closing event of the Year of the Czech Republic in Egypt

You are cordially invited to celebrating the Year of the Czech Republic in Egypt at the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Cairo. The event will include a cultural program, followed by reception. The event is organized by the Czech Centres, and supported by SIGMA Company. The event will be held with the event.

Performers:
Dina Iskandar
Shady Ishak

Date: Thursday, December 19, 2024
Location: Embassy of the Czech Republic in Cairo, 4, Al Dokki Street
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/...>

Please, RSVP by Wednesday 18 December 2024
Email: svaskova@...
WhatsApp: +202...



On 15 December, Romana Moussa was invited by the Czech Cultural Foundation, Jakub Chabr, to attend the Closing Event of the Year of the Czech Republic in Egypt, which took place on Thursday, 19 December 2024, at the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Cairo. The event included a Czech music performance by soprano Dina Iskandar, which was followed by a networking reception. This event was a significant milestone in the cooperation between the Czech and Dutch networks, fostering collaborations and embody the core mission of the network: to promote intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding.



the Year of Czech Music, Cairo Egypt

Year of the Czech Music

Czech Music in Egypt on Thursday 19 December 2024
closing event consists of 30 minutes of Czech music
used by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Cairo,
Many thanks to Maestro Nayer Nagui for his support
t dramaturgy.

rmers

ler, soprano
aak, cellist

ember 19, 2024, 5:00pm
e Czech Republic in Cairo
et, Cairo, Egypt
gl/1ricc8DuoKDrHuvv5

to Mrs. Tereza Svaskova via email or Whatsapp.

info@czechcentres.cz

0 12 05091675



by HoN of the Czech Network of the Anna Lindh
Event of the Year of Czech Music. The event
the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Cairo. It
to Dina Iskander and cellist Shady Ishaak, and
ent exemplified the strengthening of ties
ng connections that are valuable for future
the Anna Lindh Foundation to promote

HoNs Romana Moussa of the Netherlands and Jakub Chabr of the Czech Republic at the Closing Event of the Year of Czech Music in Cairo, celebrating cultural exchange and strengthening ties between their networks.

February 7, 2025 — “The Human Reality of Sub-Saharan Refugees in North Africa: Victims, Not Criminals”



Rekaya Hafi, a Tunisian humanitarian, leading a capacity-building session for migrants in North Africa on February 7, 2025 organized by the Anna Lindh Foundation. [Click here](#) for the video.

On December 19, Dr. Laoucet Ayari called Kees van Donge, a former Presidential candidate, had been arrested and taken back to Tunisia. He asked for a letter of invitation to the Netherlands to apply for a visa. On December 20, he received a letter of invitation.

AWF, in its capacity as the Head of the Dutch Network for Humanitarian Assistance, organized a meeting with the Tunisian humanitarian Rekaya Hafi (with her organization, the Tunisian network) on gender, youth, and dialogue. The meeting, titled “The Human Reality of Sub-Saharan Refugees in North Africa,” focused on exposing the systemic factors driving the widespread human rights abuses refugees endure, the prevailing criminalisation of migrants and emphasizing a rights-based approach aligned with the Anna Lindh Foundation. Topics included the root causes of migration such as climate change, as well as the harsh realities migrants face, including trafficking, and inhumane detention conditions.

Sub-Saharan Refugees in North Africa:



capacity-building session on the ongoing criminalisation
organised by the Dutch Network of the Anna Lindh

Hulsman since our mutual friend Rekaya Hafi,
met at Tunis Airport after her return from the USA
the Netherlands which would help her in
November 21, the Arab-West Foundation issued a

network, also hosted a webinar with Tunisian
MIRACLE FOR HUMANITY, a member of the
network in North Africa. The session “The Human
Story: Victims, Not Criminals,” led by Rekaya Hafi,
discussed migration from Sub-Saharan Africa and the
challenges during their journey. It challenged the
narrative and emphasised the need for a human-centered,
peacebuilding priority. Key
challenges such as poverty, colonial legacies, corruption, and
migrants face in transit, including violence,

The session also addressed legal and political factors contributing to the criminalisation of refugees in North Africa. Sessions focused on humanitarian aid and legal protection to long-term refugees, and governance improvements. Additionally, the session addressed the role of civil society by promoting collaboration between Dutch, European, and local actors to support refugees' integration and rights. By equipping participants with skills and fostering cross-border networks, the session contributed to a shift from securitisation toward solidarity and dignity. It also aimed at decolonising migration discourse, acknowledging the role of refugees. Overall, the session empowered participants to push back against shrinking civic space, and advance peacebuilding efforts at local and national levels.

failures, highlighting weak asylum systems and solutions discussed ranged from immediate reform proposals focusing on economic fairness and inclusion underscored the critical role of civil society in Europe, and North African organisations to supporting activists with practical advocacy tools and contributed to shifting migration narratives away from fear. It further stressed the importance of addressing historical injustices and foreign policy impacts. The report promotes humane migration policies, counterbalancing efforts on both regional and international

April 28, 2025 — Second National Network Meeting



*Second National Network meeting organised by the D...
Twente on April 28, 2025.*

The first national network meeting was followed
at the Syriac Orthodox Mor Ephrem Monastery. A
establish the association form (vereniging) of the

meeting



Dutch Network at the Mor Ephrem Monastery in

by a second national meeting on April 28 2025,
At this meeting, members officially voted to
e network.

May 9, 2025 — “It’s Time” Outreach Event



Outreach efforts — including the distribution of last-m... collaborating with the ALF Network. Materials were d

The network engaged in thematic activities that r
Vrouwen voor Vrede Den Haag, in partnership w
Arab-West Foundation) and Gate 48, hosted a h
Press Centre in The Hague, livestreamed from J
joint peace initiative in the Middle East since the
thousands of Israeli and Palestinian civilians, po
international guests including French President E
Vice President Kaja Kallas. Broadcast live in ove
and international peace narratives, fostering dial
while promoting awareness of the ALF Dutch Ne

The gathering emphasised female leadership in
was attended by Dutch and international particip
former Dutch Senator Hanneke Gelderblom-Lan
women from *Women Wage Peace* and *Women o*
Hague, including youth, diaspora representatives
event included an online discussion space to ext
distributing informational flyers (which were mad
reflective discussions helped connect the event t
or collaborating with ALF.



minute flyers— helped spark interest in joining or
designed by Network Coordinator Romana Moussa

reflect its renewed focus. On May 9, 2025,
with the Dutch Network (coordinated by the
hybrid event titled “It’s Time” at Nieuwspoor
Jerusalem. This event was part of the largest
October 2023 escalation, bringing together
political figures, women’s peace movements, and
Emmanuel Macron and European Commission
er 20 countries, the event aimed to bridge local
ogue on justice, reconciliation, and nonviolence
etwork.

peacebuilding and intercultural dialogue and
ants. The program featured a welcome by
khout and speeches by Israeli and Palestinian
of the Sun. About 40 participants joined in The
s, cultural professionals, and activists. The
rend engagement. Outreach efforts such as
e right before the event) and facilitating
to local realities and attracted interest in joining

Media attention was heightened by a column from [redacted] documented for future use. The event successfully



grassroots peace efforts, testimonies, and reinforced. Input gathered was shared with society groups like Jodel. Follow-up activities include Gaza and funding efforts, a meeting in Paris reaffirming the power of solidarity. This event exemplified empowering civil society in various contexts.



Outreach efforts — including the distribution of last-moment materials — were coordinated by collaborating with the ALF Network. Materials were distributed

from journalist Leonard Ornstein, and photos were
fully deepened public understanding of
, humanised the conflict through personal
ced the importance of nonviolent civil action.
ed with Dutch policymakers and echoed by civil
n zeggen Nee and MEP Thijs Reuten.
ide advocacy for humanitarian aid access to
s for the *Clean Shelters* initiative. A later
ned the fragility of the peace process but
grassroots mobilisation and intercultural
emplifies the Anna Lindh Foundation's role in
y and fostering hopeful narratives in conflict



minute flyers— helped spark interest in joining or
designed by Network Coordinator Romana Moussa

June 11, 2025 – “We Are The Story – Voices for Inclusion”

On June 11, 2025, the Dutch Network hosted “We Are The Story – Voices for Inclusion” at Wijkvereniging Zuiderpark in The Hague, The Netherlands. The Municipality of The Hague supported the event, with the Dutch Network acting as the coordinator with support from network member Zandvoort. The event was a community-based initiative aimed to promote dialogue and understanding in a diverse neighborhood, and was organized in collaboration with the Road to Summit for the Just Peace Festival.

From early evening to night, the community center was filled with the sounds of drumming, Balkan violin music, and shared international stories. People gathered in circles—creating an inclusive space where grassroots voices were heard. Volunteers connected across generations and cultures, fostering a sense of belonging.

The program was coordinated and led by Roman and co-coordinator Kees Hulsman and active participants. The attendance of neighborhood leaders underscored official support and local engagement. The event's success was due to the open flow of visitors, with the Dutch Network's connections and expanded participation beyond the initial group. While the event was challenging due to the open flow of visitors, with the Dutch Network's support, the events could benefit from simple registration tools to streamline the process without disrupting the welcoming atmosphere. Despite the challenges, the event was a pilot that embodied ALF's mission to unite cultures through community-driven dialogue and shared experiences.



for Peace and Inclusion”

We Are The Story – Voices for Peace and Inclusion, successfully securing a subsidy from the gemeente Den Haag thanks to Romana Moussa’s efforts as network member and Zebida Ramzan of ARQ Administraties. This event promotes dialogue, inclusion, and cultural understanding in collaboration with the Just Peace team as part of the Just Peace Summit held just before the NATO Summit.

The event came alive with cultural expression—djembe music, traditional meals, and informal dialogue between newcomers, grassroots members, local residents, activists, and community leaders.

Romana Moussa, with support from ALF NL and funding from network members and local residents, secured the event and a municipal representative as a guest. While the event fostered new community connections outside the formal network, tracking attendance proved challenging. With an estimated 80-100 participants. Future plans include improving attendance tracking without logistical hurdles, the event was a successful gathering to build connections and promote peace through dialogue and shared experiences.



June 17-22, 2025 – ALForum in Tirana, Alban



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At ALFORUM 2025 held in Tirana, the Dutch Ne parallel session titled “**Uniting Cultures: Dialog** session explored the complex and timely interse gender, history, religion, and sustainability. It offer discussion led by a distinguished panel of speak activism, and civil society leadership.

The session featured prominent voices including Shams University, Egypt, and a member of the H Christian leaders participate, who emphasised t and critical reflection on historical narratives to p Head of Communication Studies at Palacký Univ leadership in efforts to digitise and analyse the e a proposal to request EU Twinning Project supp accessible for research and education. Saida Ag Africa,” brought decades of experience as the fir African Union and founder of multiple NGOs adv women’s empowerment. Dr. Vincent Caruana, a insights from his 35-plus years in sustainable de European levels. Kees Hulsman, Dutch sociolog shared his expertise in intercultural media analys counter misinformation and ideological polarisati with warmth and strategic insight by Romana Mo

FORUM 2025 in Tirana, the Dutch Network hosted a dedicated session titled “Uniting Cultures: Dialogue Across Borders with the ALF,” bringing together experts from academia, activism, and civil society to explore the intersections of dialogue with education, information, religion, and sustainability.

The network had the honor of organising a dedicated session titled **Dialogue Across Borders with the ALF.** This session explored the intersections of intercultural dialogue with education, information, religion, and sustainability, offering a platform for rich, multi-disciplinary discussions. The session featured speakers rooted in academic research, grassroots

The session featured several speakers. Dr. Tarek Mansour, Professor of History at Ain Shams University, discussed the importance of interreligious understanding in the context of the House of the Family, in which Muslim and Christian families lived together. He emphasized the importance of interreligious understanding to promote mutual respect. Dr. Jaroslav Franc, a sociologist from the University of the Czech Republic, presented his work on the extensive Dialogue Across Borders archive, with a focus on the importance of dialogue in a world of increasing polarization. He also presented a report that aims to make this resource more accessible. Aya Ghabri from Tunisia, widely known as “Mama Aya,” shared her experience as the first African woman elected Commissioner to the National Council for Women, advocating for gender equality, peace, and justice. Dr. Maria Vassilakou, a lecturer and researcher from Malta, contributed to the discussion on the role of civil society in development and civil society activism at local and national levels. She is also a feminist and co-founder of Dialogue Across Borders, emphasizing the importance of dialogue and the critical role of fact-based dialogue to build trust and understanding. The session was organized and moderated by Dr. Hildegarde Boussa, Co-coordinator of the Dutch Network,