

# Justice & Peace



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2025**

*This is the annual report of 2025  
of Justice & Peace Netherlands.*

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**Shelter City Nijmegen Solidarity Walk**

This year's Solidarity Walk was special because Shelter City Nijmegen is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

"Join the walk and support human rights defenders from all over the world. Together, we are literally taking steps in solidarity with human rights defenders; the distance isn't as far as it seems."

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# FOREWORD

Fourteen years ago, Shelter City started from a simple idea: freedom and human dignity cannot be taken for granted. They depend on people who are willing to stand up for human rights, and the structures that make that possible. Protection is something you organise. Solidarity is something you practice.

In 2025, we marked ten years of Shelter City in Nijmegen, Maastricht and Utrecht. These anniversaries offered a moment to reflect on what has been built, and on the context in which we work today. In many parts of the world, civic space is under increasing pressure, and public debates on human rights are becoming more polarised. In that context, temporary relocation offers more than safety. It provides time and space to reflect, to connect with others, and to return with renewed energy.

Justice & Peace's work, however, extends beyond supporting human rights defenders. Across the Netherlands, through Samen Hier, residents and newcomers come together to shape the first phase of a new beginning. What often starts as practical support, develops further into relationships based on shared responsibility and trust. Integration becomes something mutual: not a service delivered, but a relationship formed.

And in lecture halls and community centres, students dedicate their time to Move 4 Human Rights. They organise events, translate complex human rights issues into accessible conversations, and support local initiatives. In doing so, they learn that human rights are not only defined in treaties, but are shaped by everyday choices.

What connects these experiences over the past year is simple: people meeting, exchanging perspectives, and choosing to take responsibility together.

Across our partnerships, programmes and initiatives, we see how these encounters matter. When people meet across differences, a sense of responsibility begins to shift. Human rights move from principle into practice, as cities become partners, students become advocates, and neighbours become allies.

In a year marked by increasing pressure on human rights and growing societal divisions, we chose to invest in connection, protection and cooperation. Not as abstract principles, but as concrete practices.

This report reflects that work and our continued commitment to strengthening the conditions in which human rights can be protected and lived in practice.

Above all, it reflects the value of the partnerships that underpin our work, with cities, organisations and individuals who help turn these commitments into action.

Jan Henneman  
Chairman of the Board

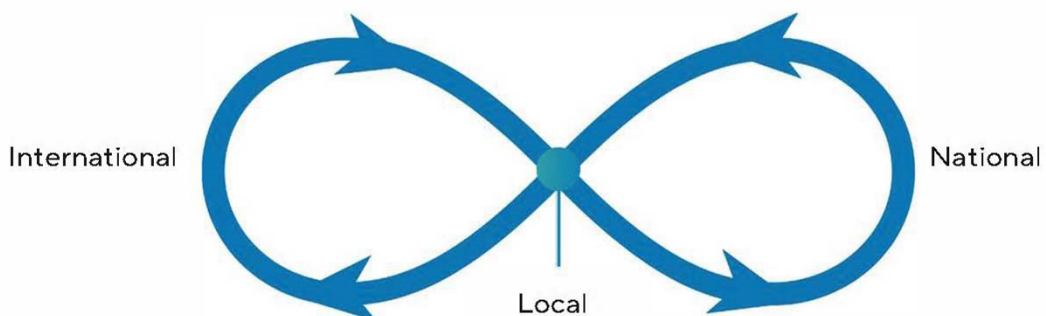
Marieke Ridder-Wiskerke  
Director a.i./External Advisor

# OUR APPROACH



*Shelter City knowledge exchange session.*

At Justice & Peace, we work from the conviction that freedom, human rights and solidarity are never self-evident. They require ongoing commitment and shared responsibility. In a time of increasing pressure on civic space and democratic values, this conviction shapes both our long-term direction and our daily work. We focus on strengthening the people, networks and conditions that make human rights protection possible in practice, always rooted in local realities.



We operate across local, national and global levels, and these levels constantly influence one another. Human rights defenders from countries all over the world engage with Dutch municipalities and local communities; community groups involved in our programmes bring their experience into national policy conversations; and wider national and international developments shape the choices we make in our work. This exchange allows us to connect protection, respect for human rights, community engagement and policy change in a practical and coherent way, inspired by Catholic social thought and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Within this broader approach, protection takes different but connected forms. Through **Shelter City** and the **Journalists' & Artists' Safe Haven initiatives**, we provide temporary relocation as a concrete protection pathway for human rights defenders, journalists and artists at risk. In close cooperation with Dutch municipalities, national authorities and local partners, these programmes offer immediate safety and space to recover, strengthen security practices and expand professional networks so human rights defenders can continue their work sustainably upon their return home.

Protection also requires long-term and structural solutions. Through **Samen Hier**, our community sponsorship model, local residents support newcomers rebuilding their lives in the Netherlands. By organising structured, sustained community involvement and working closely with municipalities and national authorities, we help strengthen regular and safe pathways and contribute to more durable, rights-based reception systems.

At the same time, we invest in the societal foundations that make protection possible. The consortium **Move 4 Human Rights** equips young people with practical tools to develop human rights initiatives in their own communities, fostering long-term civic engagement and a sense of shared responsibility all over the Netherlands.

**Advocacy and outreach** are closely linked to our practical work. We share lessons from our programmes with municipalities, policymakers and institutional partners to help strengthen protection and human rights mechanisms, improve pathways to protection and safeguard civic space. Through public events, media engagement and partnerships, we ensure that practical experience informs broader conversations and public understanding.

Across our programmes, the approach remains consistent: we connect actors across levels, reinforce their capacity to act and work towards conditions in which human rights are not only defended in moments of crisis, but sustained over time; in policy, in communities and in everyday practice.



*Human Rights exhibition Utrecht.*



*Shelter City guest at a networking event.*

To structure and strengthen our work, Justice & Peace operates through two programme pillars:

**1) The Human Rights Defenders & Security programme** focuses on the protection and strengthening of human rights defenders, journalists and artists at risk. Through the Shelter City and the Journalists' & Artists' Safe Haven initiatives, we provide temporary relocation, safety and security support, and facilitate access to professional and international networks that enable defenders to continue their work upon their return home.

**2) The Migration & Human Rights programme** focuses on regular and safe pathways for people in need of international protection, community sponsorship and civic engagement in the Netherlands. Through initiatives such as Samen Hier and Move 4 Human Rights, we work with local communities, young people, municipalities and institutions to support rights-based reception, inclusion and active engagement with human rights.

Together, these two pillars reflect our approach: combining immediate protection with long-term, community-based engagement and structural support for human rights.



# HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS & SECURITY PROGRAMME

In 2025, the global protection landscape for human rights defenders shifted dramatically. Across the world, anti-human rights and anti-NGO legislation intensified, severe funding cuts weakened civil society infrastructures and transnational aggression posed additional challenges to the work of human rights defenders.

The consequences for human rights defenders and the organisations that support them were immediate and visible. Shelter City Netherlands received an unprecedented 1400+ applications for just 21 available places in 2026. At the same time, Shelter City partners worldwide operate in increasingly challenging contexts. Nepal saw large-scale anti-corruption protests that led to the resignation of the Prime Minister. Tanzania and Uganda faced state-ordered violence and internet black-outs around the elections, and Georgia continued to face a turbulent year of ongoing protests while civil society organisations navigate their way around foreign agent laws.

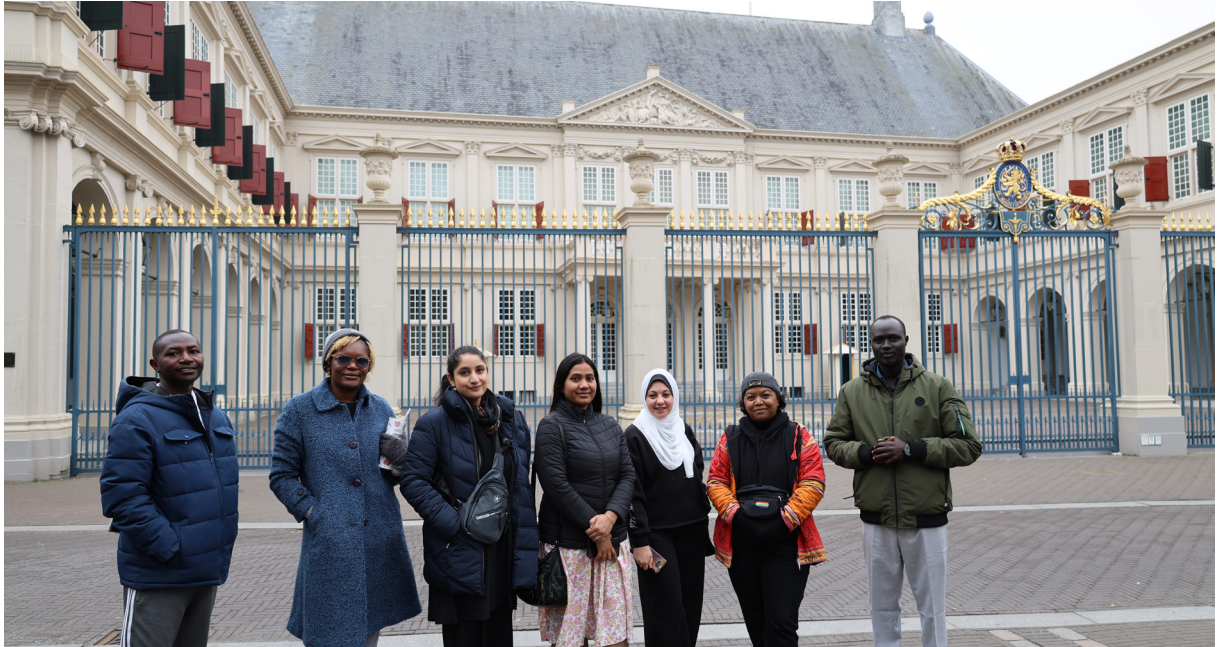
Against this backdrop, temporary relocation programmes have proven all the more urgent to effectively mitigate risks and enable human rights defenders to continue their work. Yet in this context, relocation alone is not enough. What is needed is a resilient protection ecosystem, one that withstands the many challenges the sector is currently facing; one that is locally anchored yet internationally connected.

As such, 2025 taught us an important lesson: protection cannot rely solely on international mechanisms. It must be embedded within cities, communities, and local infrastructures. In addition to providing safe spaces to human rights defenders at risk and supporting our temporary relocation partners, this has been our strategic focus throughout the year.

## **Shelter City** Netherlands

In 2025, we facilitated the temporary relocation of 34 human rights defenders from 21 countries - including Bangladesh, Belarus, DRC, Egypt, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, India,

Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Pakistan, Palestine, South Sudan, Turkey, Ukraine, Venezuela, Vietnam, Zimbabwe - across 13 cities in the Netherlands. Four cities committed to hosting additional guests this year.



HRDs at The Hague walking tour.

*“I walked a lot—about 6 to 10 kilometers a day—read books and started writing fiction. It was a break from the repressive environment I come from. Unlike a vacation, this was a structured experience with workshops and group activities. I had a lot of time to reflect on myself, my work, and my relationships. I consider this a psychological recovery.”*

*Human rights lawyer*

In The Hague, we hosted 11 human rights defenders, five of whom were accompanied by their dependents.

An important part of our temporary relocation programme is **knowledge exchange**. Building on previous experiences and evaluations, we piloted a new approach this year. Instead of organising three separate training weeks during the three-month stay, we introduced a five-day retreat focused on activist care and co-creation with Shelter City guests. The retreat was followed by a networking day, during which human rights defenders exchanged with the relevant Ministry of Foreign Affairs country- and desk policy officers, as well as with inspiring allies, including this year’s panel guests - Dutch author and human rights lawyer, Nani Jansen, Human Rights Policy Officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hanne Küpers, a human rights lawyer from Egypt and moderated by The Hague city council candidate for Groenlinks-PvdA, Fenna Timsi.

This shift reduced disruption to Shelter City guests’ programmes, strengthened peer-to-peer relations and increased strategic engagement with institutional and local allies.

*“Safety, training, and emotional support make Shelter City unique. When you plant a seed, care for it, and water it; It’s only natural it will grow.”*

*Ezequiel, human rights lawyer from Venezuela  
(Shelter City Maastricht guest, Autumn 2025)*

Shelter City Amstelveen officially launched as the 14th Shelter City in the Netherlands, coordinated by Lawyers 4 Lawyers in partnership with the municipality of Amstelveen and the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Through the expertise Lawyers 4 Lawyers brings into the network, human rights defenders hosted in the Netherlands will have access to a larger legal network. They hosted their first guest in the Autumn.

We also celebrated 10-year anniversaries of Shelter City Nijmegen, Maastricht and Utrecht. For the past decade, all three cities have fostered a safe and welcoming space for human rights defenders from around the world.

*“When I came in March, the green outside was not there. All dead trees but slowly, you could see the green coming. It was like my life, there was hope in my life and I could see myself growing together with this season, within Nijmegen. I have met wonderful people, lovely people, a great team. Whoever came up with the idea of Shelter City, was truly inspired from above.”*

*Henry, disability rights activist from Zimbabwe  
(Shelter City Nijmegen guest, Spring 2025)*

By bringing together diverse actors who all contribute to hosting human rights defenders in all three Shelter Cities, these anniversaries highlight the impact locally embedded initiatives can achieve.



*Shelter City knowledge exchange session.*

*“Without all social networks, local NGOs, universities, people who open their homes, Shelter City would not be possible.”*

*Professor Rianne Letschert, Maastricht University*

The anniversary also provided an important moment to reflect and look ahead of what is needed to ensure the continuation of Shelter City and its ability to adapt in light of global challenges. This was highlighted by the Human Rights Ambassador at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Wim Geerts, during the celebration of 10 years Shelter City Nijmegen:

*“Flexible visa arrangements, a strong alumni network, digital security, regional cooperation, and long-term protection: thanks to the unique collaboration within Shelter City, I am confident that the programme will continue to grow and evolve in the years to come.”*

To strengthen the ecosystem across the Netherlands, we organised a Shelter City Netherlands network meeting with 32 partners present focusing on joint advocacy, and on how to support Shelter City alumni in a way that is equal and fair.



*Launch Shelter City Amstelveen.*

## Global

Internationally, Shelter Cities Leipzig and Montevideo officially joined the Shelter City network, and a letter of intent was signed for Shelter City Brazil. Shelter City Leipzig, coordinated by the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom, brings in over a decade of experience of supporting journalists at risk. Shelter City Uruguay, coordinated by Instituto de Comunicación y Desarrollo, and Brazil, coordinated by Justiça Global, bring much needed regional expertise, as South America continues to be the deadliest place for human rights defenders to operate.

*“Opportunities are shrinking. But solidarity is one thing we can still engage in. The more we collaborate, the more sustainable our support will be, foremost for the human rights defenders and the work they do.”*

*Alina Toropova, Journalists-in-Residence Programme Manager at ECPMF*



*Shelter City Global Partner meeting in Rome, Italy.*

*“Global relocation is important, but to have regional relocation options can unlock this space for human rights defenders that cannot travel to Europe or further away, offering a nearer stable option.”*

*Ignacio Gómez, Shelter City Costa Rica*

In both Leipzig and Montevideo, the city itself was closely involved in the realisation of the Shelter City, embedding the work of human rights defenders within the infrastructure of the city. In addition to our Dutch partner meeting, we hosted our annual Shelter City Global Partner Meeting in Rome, together with Un Ponte Per, our Shelter City Rome partner. This meeting brought together 14 Shelter Cities from 12 different countries and highlighted the unique added value the network brings to the global protection ecosystem with its proximity to defenders across the world and its broad, diverse, global network. During the meeting, we strategised on how to strengthen collaboration to respond collectively to the increase in relocation requests and current global challenges.

## **Journalists' & Artists' Safe Haven**

In 2025, we hosted two journalists under the Journalists' Safe Haven Initiative, including a journalist and writer from Egypt, and an independent journalist from Vietnam. Furthermore, we hosted two artists under the Artists' Safe Haven Initiative (ASHI), including a spoken-word poet from Kenya, and a performing artist from Indonesia.

We showed the artworks of ASHI alumni in various places across The Hague, including Het Nationale Theater (Press Freedom lecture of 2025), Amare (Just Peace Festival) and Paard (Party 4 Peace).




*Queertopia at The Grey Space in the Middle.*





*Willie's performance at The Grey Space in the Middle.*


## Advocacy & outreach


In 2025:

 we organised 102 outreach moments reaching a total of 7414 participants. Highlights included the Shelter City Nijmegen solidarity walk, Broodje Vrede en Recht at Nieuwspoor, and human rights defenders giving guest lectures at schools including Leiden University College, The Hague University of Applied Sciences, and the Rotterdam International Secondary School.

 we participated in a The Hague municipality [welcome video](#) for the new members of Parliament.


 we organised two sessions with Dutch diplomats to explain the role of Shelter City within the context of shrinking civic spaces, as well as the role that embassies can play in the security network of human rights defenders. We have noticed that this led to an increased effort from diplomats globally to be involved in the work of human rights defenders connected to Shelter City.

 34 human rights defenders had individual meetings with the relevant country or policy desk officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.


 we attended a Ubuntu Hub Cities Coordinators Workshop in Durban, South Africa in September, organised by our partner African Defenders. This workshop strengthened ties with the implementing partners of the Ubuntu Hub Cities and also gave an opportunity to exchange with the Dutch Embassy in Pretoria.



*Shelter City partners at Dutch Embassy in Pretoria.*

 we participated in the first ever panel on shrinking civic space at the annual Open Government Partnership conference in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Basque Country, in October. During the panel, Programme Manager, Maral Khajeh, spoke of the momentum for cities to take action for human rights:

*“The answer is in the cities. We see that more and more cities are pushing for human rights. We see a rise of voices calling for action to protect human rights defenders. Cities complement civil society’s role in protecting human rights globally.”*

 we attended the regional temporary relocation gathering in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, hosted by Shelter City Costa Rica and soon to be Shelter City Brazil. Central to this meeting was a shared call for stronger regional collaboration, and interregional protection collaboration where needed, to counter violence against human rights defenders in the region and transnational aggression threats.



*Maral speaking at OGP conference in Vitoria-Gasteiz.*



## MIGRATION & HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMME

In 2025, the Dutch refugee protection landscape hardened significantly. New asylum legislation aimed at limiting status security and tightening access to protection, combined with funding cuts to civil society organisations and reduced municipal capacity, narrowed the space for rights-based reception and resettlement. Across Europe, similar restrictions have led to the scaling down of sponsorship and resettlement schemes.

In this context, our Migration & Human Rights programme focused on what remains possible: strengthening community-based support, maintaining coalitions and demonstrating that protection rooted in solidarity is both practical and necessary. At the same time, we invested in sharpening our role, tools and partnerships to ensure long-term sustainability in a restrictive environment.

### **Samen Hier**

Although reduced government resettlement missions meant no new families were matched in the first half of the year, active Samen Hier groups in Den Helder, Emmen and Rotterdam continued to support newcomers. In Den Helder, partners completed an impact study demonstrating the added value of structured community involvement for both newcomers and volunteers. Community events in The Hague and Den Helder strengthened local ownership and visibility.

As Marlies, partner in Den Helder, reflected:

*“What we witnessed in Den Helder shows what becomes possible when a community truly opens its doors to newcomers. Friendships formed between children and between adults; exactly as you hope when developing a programme like this. It’s the kind of outcome you dare to dream about.”*



*Samen Hier group in Den Helder.*

Behind the scenes, we worked to strengthen the foundations of the model. Together with OpenEmbassy, we finalised an updated monitoring and evaluation framework. We revised training and communication materials, initiated the rebranding and website renewal of Samen Hier, and held bilateral conversations with national authorities and municipal partners to clarify expectations and redefine our coordinating role.

In light of uncertainty around government resettlement policy and reduced capacity among key partners, we began repositioning Samen Hier more broadly as a model for community-led support, regardless of entry route. This broadening of scope aims to secure long-term relevance, reduce dependency on a single policy instrument and ensure feasible implementation within a restrictive environment. Simultaneously, we prioritised efforts to structurally embed community sponsorship within national and municipal policy frameworks, positioning financial sustainability as a core advocacy objective for 2026.

### **Move 4 Human Rights**

As a member of the Move 4 Human Rights consortium, led by the Human Security Collective, we continued to mobilise young people to take action on migration and human rights in their own communities.

In 2025, we worked with more than 170 young people through social service time (MDT) trajectories and partner collaborations. Across these trajectories, participants developed research projects, local campaigns and volunteer initiatives focused on migration, inclusion and human rights. Through The Hague Changemakers and the Youth Trajectory for Change, young people translated complex policy debates into concrete local action.



Move 4 Human Rights event

As one participant, Mari-Luz, shared:

*“Through the trajectory, I discovered that meaningful change can begin with something simple. Our Game & Connect event created the delicate beginnings of what feels like ‘home’: space where neighbours and newcomers connected naturally. The programme gave me the tools and confidence to make that happen.”*


To reach young audiences more effectively, we updated our communication strategy and strengthened media outreach, including radio features and targeted recruitment campaigns.




M4HR students received their certificates.


## Advocacy & outreach

Alongside implementation, we actively maintained and strengthened coalitions around community sponsorship and safe pathways. In 2025:


 we contributed to the national evaluation of the VluchtelingenWerk community sponsorship pilot and participated in discussions with COA, the Ministry of Asylum & Migration and civil society partners on the future of sponsorship in the Netherlands. In March, we organised a strategic donor meeting to reassess direction and secure continued commitment

 Amongst other public outreach, Samen Hier was featured in *De Correspondent*, and we engaged audiences through public events and media appearances, keeping community-led protection visible and credible in a restrictive political climate.

At European level:

 we took part in the COMET closing conference in Barcelona and a migration policy week in Brussels, exploring future cooperation and alternatives such as education pathways for Palestinian students. Given the significantly reduced policy space for complementary pathways, we made a strategic decision to temporarily prioritise consolidation of existing models over launching new pilots to complementary pathways.

Looking ahead:

 we joined a broad coalition preparing a national training and strategy weekend in 2026 aimed at strengthening alternative narratives on migration and equipping participants with practical tools to shift public discourse.



*M4HR students presenting their projects.*







## OUR ORGANISATION

### Governance

The composition of the Board of Justice & Peace underwent a change in 2025. The term of our Treasurer, Herman van der Laan, concluded at the end of the year. Board member Lia van Broekhoven will succeed Herman der Laan as Treasurer of the Board. The board is further supported by an advisory board (also known as the Justice and Peace Commission).

Board composition in 2025:

-  Chairman: Jan Henneman
-  Treasurer: Herman van der Laan
-  Vice Chairman: Rien van der Velden
-  Board member: Lia van Broekhoven

In addition to the change in the Board, the management structure also saw some changes. Following the director, Sebastiaan van der Zwaan's, sick leave in March 2025, the Board had to take over management and introduced a pilot Management Team. After an intensive recruitment process, the Board appointed Marieke Ridder-Wiskerke as external advisor/interim-director in the summer. With her expertise in change management, she focuses not only on ensuring organisational continuity, but also on guiding the organisation through necessary transition and on strengthening leadership skills across the Management Team. The Management Team consists of the (interim-)director, two Programme Managers and the Head of Programmes. Following a positive evaluation of the pilot Management Team, the Board formally established the Management Team in November 2025.

As of 1st January, 2026, internal changes were introduced to further strengthen the organisation's resilience and make the organisation more cost-efficient. The position of Head of Programmes was transformed at the same time into that of Manager Fundraising & Operations/Deputy Director.

By distributing leadership responsibilities among multiple people with complementary mandates and expertise, and reinforcing accountability at multiple levels, the Board aims to ensure long-term sustainability. Previously, management was concentrated in the hands of the Director and Head of Programmes, supported by three coordinators. The Head of Programmes role is now embedded within the managers' and Deputy Director's positions, and these roles include broader management responsibilities.

Apart from holding its four regular meetings in 2025, the Board members consulted each other frequently in connection with the director's absence. In addition to reviewing and approving the annual accounts, annual report and budget, the Board's agenda included quarterly team updates and ongoing organisational developments. Marieke Ridder-Wiskerke participates in all Board meetings since her appointment.

Lastly, the Board remained actively engaged with the Justice & Peace team, meeting with them twice and attending several work events throughout the year, including the Shelter City anniversary gatherings.

**Staff**

By the end of 2025, our workforce consisted of 15 employees. This represented 14.67 FTEs. The average age of our employees is 36 years. Our team was supported by six committed and ambitious young human rights professionals through internships. In addition to this team, our initiatives rely on the commitment of volunteers in all cities we operate in.



*Team outing at an Alpaca farm.*

The absenteeism rate in 2025 rose to 14.8% from 5.9% in 2024. In addition to the Director's longer-term sick leave, this rise reflects the impact on mental wellbeing and workload caused by a challenging (geo)political climate that puts human rights work under increasing pressure. Consequently, the team faced both increased operational workloads and a demanding emotional toll. The Board and Management are prioritising improvement of structures contributing to clearer role divisions and efficiency, mental wellbeing and structural staff support in 2026 to restore organisational resilience and decrease absentee rate to less than 6%.


In an effort to strengthen collective capacities, we organised two all team trainings on AI & ethics and cultural sensitivity. Additionally, in response to increasing cybersecurity risks, two programme officers from the Human rights defenders & Security team followed an extensive training in digital security.

## Quality management


Our Quality Management System is designed to ensure that we deliver impact efficiently and effectively. It provides a framework for continuous improvement, stakeholder engagement and organisational learning, in line with the ISO 9001 standard.

## External standards

Justice & Peace adheres to international and Dutch NGO sector quality standards through the following certifications:

 ISO 9001

External audits in the framework of ISO certification are conducted on an annual basis by an independent and accredited agency. In addition to the external audit, each year, an internal audit is conducted. Due to changes in the Management Team, the annual internal audit was postponed to March 2026. As a result, the annual external audit will include an extra review in April 2026.

 CBF accreditation

Justice & Peace is a CBF-recognised charity organisation. In 2025, we conducted a self-evaluation. The assessment evaluated our compliance with standards across governance, supervision and accountability. Recommendations resulting from this assessment, such as strengthening the self-evaluation of the Board, sharpening policy regarding liquidity and expanding the content of our annual report, were followed up throughout the year. See also on [the website of CBF](#).

 ANBI

Justice & Peace is also an officially recognised ANBI charity organisation, allowing for tax deductible donations.

## Internal standards

For our internal quality management, we maintain a Quality Handbook. As several sections had become outdated, we began revising and updating various chapters in 2025. This process will continue and be finalised in the second quarter of 2026.

With regard to integrity and safeguarding, Justice & Peace received one complaint, which was addressed both by the interim-director and two members of the board. The complaint has been resolved to the satisfaction of both parties. Additionally, our external confidential counsellor was consulted once. This matter was also resolved to the satisfaction of those involved.

## Social responsibility

Our organisation is committed to acting responsibly and sustainably in all aspects of our work. To this end, we make deliberate choices to prioritise local small businesses and social enterprises for training venues, catering, the production of outreach materials and other services. Looking ahead, we aim to further embed these practices into our procurement and partnership processes

We also highly value the contributions of businesses to, as part of their social responsibility efforts, provide subsidised services to Justice & Peace. From OntwerpWerk developing new websites for Justice & Peace and Samen Hier, to The Hague-based venue and hotel room rental of de Gymzaal, Moxy Hotel, Bleyenberg, the Social Hub, Utopie and de Vaillant. This in-kind support serves as a good example of the broader human rights supporting community we operate in.




*Kai's performance at The Social Hub in The Hague.*





## OUR NETWORKS & DONORS


### Networks


As a small to mid-sized human rights NGO, we believe in playing a complementary role within the broader human rights landscape, both in the Netherlands and globally. Networks are therefore central to how we operate, whether by founding and coordinating them, or by actively participating in them.

 **BMO:** Justice & Peace participates in the Breed Mensenrechten Overleg (Netherlands Human Rights Network).

 **EUTRP:** Justice & Peace participates in the European Platform for Temporary Relocation.

 **Shelter City Netherlands:** Justice & Peace coordinates this network consisting of all partners involved in the 14 Dutch Shelter Cities, from local host organisations to municipalities and government organisations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Dutch embassies abroad.

 **Shelter City Global:** Justice & Peace coordinates this network consisting of organisations involved in temporary relocation programmes across all 28 Shelter Cities in the Netherlands and abroad.

 **Samen Hier:** Justice & Peace coordinates this Dutch network for community sponsorship for refugees.

 **Move 4 Human Rights:** Justice & Peace is part of this Maatschappelijke Diensttijd Consortium, coordinated by Human Security Collective.

## Donors

Developments in the global and Dutch international cooperation and human rights funding landscape required moments of reflection and re-strategising. We are looking back on 2025 with all the more gratitude for the continued trust of and strategic partnership with both longstanding and new donors.

### Institutional donors

**The Ministry of Foreign Affairs** is one of our main institutional donors and invaluable Shelter City partners. In 2025, the Ministry supported the relocation of 34 human rights defenders to the Netherlands. Beyond financial support, the Ministry actively contributes to dialogue and collaboration within the Shelter City ecosystem, not only in the Netherlands, but also internationally. Through its Human Rights Department and embassies worldwide, it plays an important role as both grant-making partner and sparring partner for Shelter City Global programmes.

**Municipalities** are equally essential to making Shelter City possible. In 2025, Justice & Peace renewed its long-term collaboration with the **Municipality of The Hague** to relocate four human rights defenders to The Hague annually. With this long-term commitment, The Hague municipality contributes to Justice & Peace's sustainability goals and aims to inspire other donors to commit to long-term human rights protection support. Other municipalities, in partnership with local Shelter City partners, also fund and host Shelter City guests across the Netherlands.

Through **ProtectDefenders.eu**, Justice & Peace also receives funding from the European Commission for its temporary relocation efforts. Internationally, the **National Endowment for Democracy** is our key partner in ensuring the continuity of the work of the Shelter City Global Network.

Another important contribution came from the **Ministry of Education, Culture and Science** for the Move 4 Human Rights consortium, providing youth in the Netherlands the opportunity to engage in tangible and local human rights initiatives.

### Funds & foundations

In addition to governmental support, various Dutch and international foundations and funds enabled us to carry out our initiatives. As such, Adessium Foundation, VSBfonds, Oranje Fonds, Fred Foundation and Fonds 1818 demonstrated strong trust in our work on Migration & Human rights at a time when the space for humane refugee policy was under significant pressure. It is because of their support we were able to continue in creating welcoming communities through Samen Hier.

Furthermore, Vfonds contributed to facilitating connections between Shelter City guests and Dutch communities, while **Open Society Foundations** provided us with the opportunity to respond to the ongoing civic space crisis in Georgia.

Last but not least, 2025 brought the wonderful news that the **Postcode Lottery** granted Justice & Peace with a one-off donation €1 million over three years. This support allows us to strengthen Shelter City's infrastructure, invest in the foundations of the network and collaborate closely with the Samen Hier network, learning from its expertise in mobilising local residents to create welcoming communities for the temporary relocation of Shelter City guests to land in, especially in an increasingly hostile and polarised environment.



*J&P team receiving the donation from Postcode Lottery.*

*We work with many*



**Justice  
& Peace**

