



Stichting Global Network of Women's Shelters Longrangeplan 2020 t/m 2022

GNWS Vision:

An equal world where women and their children live free from violence.

Our Purpose:

To unite the women's shelter movement globally to end violence against women and their children.

Goals Global Network Women's Shelters

- ❖ To be a strong and active global network with a recognized international voice.
- ❖ To ensure global awareness of violence against women and their children.
- ❖ To support and strengthen the women's shelter movement.
- ❖ To promote effective policies and their implementation in order to prevent violence and protect and empower women and their children.
- ❖ To promote social change that ends violence and oppression against women and their children. The GNWS holds a World Conference of Women's Shelters to support and strengthen the women's shelters movement and promote the social change necessary to end violence and oppression against women and their children.

Background

The Foundation Global Network of Women's Shelters (GNWS) was founded in 2014 in the Hague¹.

The goal of the Foundation GNWS is to support the organization of the worldwide network of Women's Shelters (GNWS) and if possible obtain the necessary finances for project and activities of the global network. At the 1st World Conference of Women's Shelters in 2008 in Edmonton Canada, women from shelters of 51 countries all over the world gathered for the first time. The slogan of this conference: ONE MESSAGE, ONE VOICE was the inspiration to found a worldwide network. A group of initiators – formed at the conference - gathered again in 2009 in Ottawa, and this as the start of the Global Network of Women's Shelters.

In 2012, at the 2nd World Conference of Women's Shelters, in Washington DC, the next step was taken: members of the GNWS-interim board presented themselves at the Conference. The slogan: CONNECT, LEARN, SHARE, was exactly what happened between participants of this conference.

In 2015 the 3rd World Conference of Women's Shelters took place in the Hague. Participants came from 115 countries. During this conference the Foundation GNWS was founded. The municipality of the Hague was glad to welcome this new organization in her city and supported it with financial means. At the conference in the Hague, two more networks – The MENA (Middel-East and North Africa) and the network of First Nations Women's Shelters - joined the GNWS network, following the slogan of the Conference: Connect and Act.

In November 2019 the 4th World Conference of Women's Shelters took place in Kaohsiung (Taiwan). The slogan: IMPACT*SOLIDARITY.² About 1000 participants from about 75 countries were present in Kaohsiung. This time there were a lot of new participants from Asian countries. The still young but active Asian Network of women's shelter was strengthened by new participants. The Global Network of Women's Shelters, with representatives from all parts of the world, unanimously decided in their meeting in Taiwan to adopt the Worldwide Women's Helpline Project as their most important activity in the coming 3 years (2020-2022).

Working together at a safe world for women and children.

GNWS was founded to unite and strengthen the worldwide network of women's shelters, with the ultimate goal to end violence against women and their children. We urge governments of all countries in the world to take action to prevent violence against Women and their children and to organize support for survivors of this violence. In order to reach this goal we urge governments to (financially) support organizations that work on the elimination of Violence Against Women and their children and support victims practically and emotionally to overcome this violence.

Shelters make Violence Against Women and the de impact it has on women and their children visible. Founding of shelters (or e.g. Helplines) for women that need help because of violence of their partners in a lot of countries – including the Netherlands where the GNWS Foundation is founded – was the result of political action. In a lot of countries this combination of political action and the founding of women's shelters has created awareness about the extent and impact of the violence and the necessary support for victims/survivors. This awareness is necessary to create a fruitful ground for support centers -amongst which women's shelters - and to start with prevention and elimination of the Violence. This process is still ongoing in most countries of the world.

¹ www.gnws.org

² <https://fourth.worldshelterconference.org/>

Shelters can be considered as the thermometer for what happens in society. Women that are given shelter are often an exponent of what happens in society: the position of women in general, inequality of the sexes, marginalization of minority groups, armed conflicts and war, economical migration and , streams of refugees from certain countries, women trafficking and the criminal networks that trade women, corruption, negative stereotypes, insufficient work of police and justice etc.

These experiences are concrete and can be directly translated in measures and actions of governments.

A worldwide network of these grassroot-organizations and caretakers can contribute to this actions. Their knowledge, concrete experience and involvement can – through direct exchange – be connected with policymaking and with national and international advocacy. Women’s- and human rights, solidarity **and** impact are worldwide connecting values.

Often difficult circumstances; the importance of world-conferences.

Worldwide most of these – often small-scale – initiatives, have to do their work with little resources and in many cases without governmental support. Their work often has to be done secretly in difficult circumstances. Therefore the GNWS network chose for a very light organizational structure. There is no membership fee and the Foundation does not ask for a financial contribution. Participants of the world-conferences can apply for a scholarship if necessary, because they are the most important people in the network and at the conferences. The world conferences are important events to learn from each other, to support each other and to stay connected, even in difficult circumstances. Solidarity is the key-word. The conferences are organized by the national organization, - which is also responsible for the necessary financial means - in close cooperation with the Global Network of Women’s Shelters.

Key Values

GNWS has formulated her vision, leading principles and values in line with the worldwide experience of women’s shelters and based on the [United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women](#). Our key values are: accessibility, autonomy, dignity and respect, empowerment, equality, inclusion, integrity, safety, solidarity and transparency. We work with the knowledge that Violence Against Women is a manifestation from the historical unequal power balance between men and women, through which violence against women and discrimination of women continues.

Results of our work.

It is very clear that the Global Network of Women’s Shelters and the World Conferences of Women’s Shelters meet a need. Despite the limited means GNWS keeps growing and sees results of her work. A few examples:

July 2017: first conference of the network of Women’s Shelters in the Mena regions, organized by ABAAD in Libanon and facilitated by Fatima Outaleb from Morocco. Fatima Outaleb is GNWS contactperson for the MENA region. Theme: *What are the criteria for a Women’s Shelter*. Important issue: Violence of women does not stop at country-borders. Women’s Shelter should be able and allowed to give shelter to refugee women and their children who flee from violence against women/domestic violence: *‘we need shelters without borders, because violence against women has no country’*. See for a report of this conference: www.gnws.org (News).

At the 3rd World Conference of Women’s Shelters in The Hague (the Netherlands) in 2015, Maya Groff from HCCH (The Hague Conference of International Private Law) addressed the problem that a street or contact ban only is legitimate in the country where the court-order was issued. The legal protection fails if the victim – usually a woman – travels or moves to another country. At the conference the

existing focus-group was extended with experienced practitioners. Goal of this focus-group is to investigate how national protection orders can get international legitimacy.

In the United States, NNEDV (National Network to End Domestic Violence) developed SafetyNet. Goal of Safety Net is digital safety of women and children in the women's shelters (and afterwards if they move to their own place). An important principle of Safety Net is: not to deny women and their children access to internet. NNEDV started spreading their knowledge which resulted e.g. in SafetyNet (the Netherlands), Safety net Australia and SafetyNet Ireland. In more and more countries the concern about digital safety and stalking/harassment through social media and technology is growing. Every year NNEDV is organizing an update-conference in San Francisco. NNEDV is since that start of GNWS closely associated with GNWS.

In Asia the Garden of Hope in Taiwan was the initiator of the Asian Network of Women's Shelters. Since the start this Asian network in 2014 the network yearly gathers. At the yearly conference in 2017 a representative of the Blijf Groep (The Netherlands) gave a presentation about the methodology of the Oranjehuis (a new concept of a women's shelter). A representative of WAVE (Women Against Violence Europe) talked about The Istanbul Convention and GREVIO at a meeting of the Asian Network with the vice-president of Taiwan. At the same meeting a boardmember of the GNWS Foundation talked about the importance of the World Conferences of Women's Shelters and the (financial) support needed by the Taiwanese government for the organization of the 4th World Conference of Women's Shelters (4WCWS) was held at 4-8 November in Kaohsiung in Taiwan, with the financial support of the Taiwanese government and an inspiring speech by the – female – president of Taiwan.

Activities 2020 - 2022

GNWS wants to be an active worldwide network and aims to become stronger and more visible. During the international boardmeeting of GNWS at the 4th World Conference in Taiwan (4WCWS) it was therefore decided to work together at a joint project as the main activity of GNWS: the worldwide Women's Helplines project.

GNWS wants to promote that crucial first aid for violated and/or threatened women is worldwide available and embedded in an adequate offer of crisis help and women's shelters.

a. Worldwide Women's Helplines Project

In 2019 the GNWS Foundation received a starting donation from Uber to develop a projectplan and to undertake first actions for the worldwide helplines project: to create a website of vetted information of (telephone) helplines in every country of the world for women who are victims of domestic and or sexual violence. Such a website doesnot yet exist. Through this starting donation we could hire a projectleader/quartermaster for the first phase of the project. At the first global inventory (Mainly at the 4th World Conference of Women's Shelters in Taiwan) it became clear that not every country in the world has a telephone helpline for women that are victims of domestic and/or sexual violence. Needless to say that this is unacceptable and has to be changed.

This resulted in the following three concrete ambitions for the project:

1. Developing a worldwide database with vetted information about (telephone) helplines in every country of the world: to be used and/or staffed by grassroot-workers and shelter organizations. But also – through a website – by the women involved: victims of domestic and/or sexual violence or their family members and friends. They might be inhabitants of a country, expats, tourist, students from another country etc.

2. Worldwide action to establish a (telephone) helpline in countries where such a helpline does not yet exist.
3. Data collection of e.g. the scope of the helplines, the questions callers have, the support that is needed. This information can be used for national and international advocacy.

The following activities will be launched to reach this.

(under the condition that the necessary finances will be obtained)

- 2019
- a. develop a projectplan
 - b. first inventory about (non-) existing (telephone) helplines during 4WCWS in Taiwan.
- 2020
- a. determine a project budget
 - b. fundraising
 - c. compose an international projectteam (regional projectleaders + overall projectleader and secretariat)
 - c. final composition database (including automatic update system)
 - d. collect information of helplines in as much countries as possible
 - e. the GNWS projectteam will develop general quality standard for womens helplines
 - f. regional network develop regional quality standards, based on the general quality standards of GNWS assumptions and values of GNWS.
 - g. regional and national networks will check the quality of the helplines in their region
 - h. set up the website
 - h. launch the website during Orange the World campaign (16 Days Against Violence Against Women).
- 2021
- a. design a communication strategy, aimed at a diversity of target groups
 - b. communication/PR campaign to promote the website worldwide
 - c. develop regional actionplans with/for countries where there is not (yet) a helpline for victims of domestic and/or sexual violence van regionale actieplannen
 - d. develop a 'toolkit women's helplines' to support the process of establishing those helplines
 - e. collect data about the impact of (telephone) helplines for women in an emergency situation
 - f. national and international advocacy for the need of women's helplines in every country
- 2022
- See 2021. Additional:
- g. research of the possibilities to develop a womens helpline quality certificate, in order to be able to guarantee the basic quality of a helpline.

b. Other activities of the GNWS Foundation.

The GNWS **Foundation** in The Hague will exist till at least 2023. Goal of the Foundation is to support the work of the Global Network of Women's Shelters (the network organization). It is possible that in the future a GNWS Foundation in another part of the world will create more opportunities to support het GNWS network. When it is clear where the 5th World Conference of Women's Shelters will be organized, the GNWS network will reconsider what the best place of residence will be for the GNWS Foundation.

Governmental obligations will be fulfilled. An application for an **ANBI status** was send to the Dutch taks departement. With an ANBI status future donors of the GNWS Foundation will get tax advantages. Fundraising will be a core-activity of GNWS Foundation and Network the in the comming years. First of all to finance the Helplines project but in future also for other activities and to strengthen the GNWS network. The GNWS Foundation is planning to form an Advisory Board or Network of Embassadors to support the work of GNWS. GNWS will ask them to: advise about future activities; to advise about

sponsors and donors and actively approach them; to advise about new partnerships and to actively approach new partners; to advise about possibilities to realise existing and new projects.\

In 2019 the GNWS Foundation got in touch with the Child Helpline International – based in Amsterdam - to learn about their experiences in set up of international helplines.

The GNWS Foundation is as **advisor** closely involved in the organization of the World Conferences of Women’s Shelters. The Fourth World Conference was held in 2019 in Taiwan. The GNWS Foundation **supports** the organization which will organize the next World Conference by means of exchange of information, monthly zoommeetings with organizers of former World Conferences, looking for possible sponsor and other funding possibilities, support PR for the Conference, support with the review the proposals for workshops etc.

The GNWS Foundation is the co-organizer of the international meeting of the GNWS network, the day before the start of the World Conference. Every regional or continental network of women’s shelters is present at these meetings.

The GNWS Foundation takes care of the internal **communication** within the GNWS Network. The GNWS Foundation is the owner and administrator of the GNWS website and social media like Facebook and twitter. Two of the board-members of the GNWS Foundation participate in the monthly Zoom-meetings of the international executive committee of the GNWS network organization.

The GNWS Foundation prepares **the yearly meeting** of the GNWS network in New York during the assembly of the Commission of the Status of Women (CSW) in March every year. The GNWS Foundation is also responsible for the organization of the **GNWS-parallel event** at the NGO-Forum. In 2020 the main subject of the parallel event will be the **World Wide Women’s Helpline Project**. The NGO-FORUM takes place in the same two weeks as the assembly of the Commission of the Status of Women.

Means

The GNWS Foundation has very limited means. Untill 2021 the Foundation can still use what is left of the starting grant in 2014 of the municipality of the Hague and incidental donations. The Foundation has the basic assumption to spend as little money as possible for organizational costs (network and foundation) and give priority to spend the available money at projects and activities concerning content.

For the years 2020-2022 the budget for the organization GNWS is as follows:

Budget 2020-2022	yearly
Income	
Donations	+2.500 euro
Expenses	
Volunteers-compensation	-2.500 euro
Organisational costs	-3.000 euro
Totaal	-3.000 euro

In 2020 the deficit can be compensated by the remains of the grant of the city in the Hague from 2014.

Project Women's Helplines

For the years 2020-2022 is the main and most important activity of GNWS the execution of the project Women's Helplines. For this project the GNWS Foundation received a starting grant from Uber in 2019. In the projectplan the necessary yearly means are estimated at 600.000 dollar. Fundraising, crowdfunding and getting the (financial) support of governments of as many countries as possible will be a very important activity in the coming years of the GNWS network organization as well as the GNWS Foundation.

The 5th World Conference of Women's Shelters.

In the GNWSmeeting in March 2020 the results of the Fourth World Conference of Women's Shelters in Taiwan will be discussed and evaluated. For members of the GNWS network there is the possibility to apply for the organization of the 5th World Conference of Women's Shelters. If they want to, they can apply in joint venture with an organization that is experienced in organizing Conferences.