

International Women's Day at Share-Net Netherlands



INTRODUCTION

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International Women's Day is a global day marking the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of all women. Today, on 8th of March 2021, Share-Net Netherlands joins the worldwide celebration of women's achievements, and creates awareness about meaningful narratives, resources and activities that can help combat gender inequalities as we lobby for more inclusive societies.

This overview provides you with more information about our Share-Net Netherlands members' and partners' work on principal areas where sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and gender equality and women's rights (GEWE) intersect; as well as a selection of resources and online activities about how feminism, gender equality and SRHR can be addressed politically in the Netherlands and worldwide.

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MENSTRUAL HEALTH AND HYGIENE

Established in 2008, Population Services International (PSI) - Europe is a locally registered non-governmental organization based in Amsterdam. PSI-Europe offers European organizations, companies, and governments the opportunity to reimagine healthcare to meet the actual health needs of people in developing countries.

On Women's Day 2021, our member organisation [PSI-Europe](#) chooses to challenge the notion that menstruation is a women's issue. Menstrual Health & Hygiene (MHH) is about the well-being of women, girls and all people who menstruate around the world. This also includes transwomen, womxn, femmes, non-identifying and non-binary individuals who may be impacted by particular health or equity issues due to their sex or gender identity.



Furthermore, PSI-Europe chooses to challenge the perception that MHH is too difficult or not important enough to fund. With key partners and in consultation with donors, implementers, governments, women and MHH advocates, PSI-Europe produced a [report that makes the case for investing in MHH](#) by elaborating on why and how we should fund multi-sectoral and holistic MHH programming.

They choose to challenge the idea that menstruation is a small women's issue. In fact, menstruation is a critical component of SRHR, is an important predictor and indicator of health and well-being, and is a cornerstone for the fulfilment of human rights.

When people who menstruate don't have access to products, information, services, and spaces they need to manage their menstruation with dignity, they are being excluded from participation in daily life. By advocating for comprehensive and cross-sectoral MHH solutions, PSI-Europe is working toward building a more gender-inclusive environment, supporting women, girls and all people who menstruate to flourish.

Do you want to actively contribute to improved menstrual health for all?



Get in touch with or follow upcoming activities of our new [community of practice working on menstrual health](#) at Share-Net Netherlands.



Watch a video illustrating a recent work example from individual member Hadir Barbar: This [digital storytelling video of the Menstruation Shouts Project](#) explores challenges of a public health officer works and lives in Machakos County in Kenya.



Our new member organisation the [Neighbourhood Feminists](#) have launched their first-ever virtual campaign. 100% of the donations go to providing period products and essentials for at-risk people in Amsterdam who cannot otherwise afford them. Do you share their feminist values? [Become a monthly donor now!](#)

GENDER EQUITY WORK

Ipas' work is centered on the needs and perspectives of those who seek abortion care. And their comprehensive approach aims to address all the factors that impact a person's ability to access abortion—from individual health knowledge, to social and community support, to a trained health workforce, to political leadership and supportive laws. In short, they're working to ensure that all people have bodily autonomy and can access the essential health care they need.

Traditional male and female gender roles often deny women the power to make their own reproductive health decisions. While [Ipas](#) works to educate women about their reproductive rights and to ensure health services are available, these efforts alone do not guarantee a woman can access contraception or an abortion when needed. Deeper social change is necessary to create an environment in which women and girls have the agency and support to take control of their reproductive lives. That's why Ipas also works to educate men on the importance of gender equity and the crucial role they can play as partners, family members, community leaders and professionals.

Find out more about [Ipas' gender equity work in action](#) where they change through traditionally male-dominated spheres.

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Throughout February, the achievements, excellence, culture and history of Black Americans were being recognised and celebrated in the United States. At Share-Net Netherlands (SNNL) we used this opportunity to highlight the history of the movement for reproductive justice, a term coined by African American women which embeds reproductive rights within a social justice framework.

With the unequivocal call for the right of all women to have or not have children and to nurture children in safe and healthy environments, black, indigenous and women of colour (BIWOC) and the LGBTI+ community have come together in solidarity to redefine reproductive freedom. On Women's Day we invite you to revisit this [blog providing you with a brief history of the reproductive justice movement](#), rounding it off with some resources that further highlight the history and experiences of black women and LGBTQ+ people in the fight for reproductive justice.

Our member organisation [Ipas](#) further invites you to watch this [video](#) that explains the Helms Amendment, a law barring U.S. foreign assistance from being used for abortion services, and why it is crucial to be repealed. Ipas will be re-introducing the Helms repeal bill in the US House of Representatives (www.repealhelms.org) and will offer communications and focus on that on our various platforms. In commemoration of International Women's Day and the Abortion is Health Care Everywhere Act which repeals the Helms Amendment, please join Ipas in a discussion on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 16:00 CET on "Protecting Bodily Autonomy: Let's Get Rid of the Helms Amendment Once and For All".

[Register to the webinar here.](#)



MATERNAL HEALTH

Individual Share-Net member Merette Khalil calls your attention to obstetric violence: “Obstetric violence is a systemic and institutional problem, the silent epidemic in Egypt’s maternal health system.”

You can access [Merette’s commentary on Obstetric Violence in Egypt’s Maternal Health System here](#) to learn more about social practices and health systems which in reality become an (institutional) violation of women’s rights.

Furthermore, over the next few months, [YourEgyptianDoula](#) will be hosting 2 trainings for anyone interested in becoming a birth doula or childbirth educator; scholarships are available for participants based in Egypt and other LMICs in the MENA Region. These trainings are hosted in partnership with DONA International (the world’s leading birth doula organization) and Lamaze International (the oldest and most evidence-based childbirth education platform).



Merette Khalil also presented her research on Obstetric violence during the Share-Net Netherlands’ 9th annual meeting on Linking research, policy and practice in 2020. We invite you to read back on her and the 15 more inspiring research projects related to SRHR and gender equality here in this [one-issue-only magazine “Linking Research, Policy and Practice to Critical Creativity”](#).

STREET HARASSMENT

Our member organisation Fairspace is launching a nationwide campaign, podcast and workshop series on bystander intervention against street harassment in collaboration with L’Oréal Paris. They encourage you to join the movement by following the training at www.standup-nederland.com and information about the training to share on social media, with a 5D’s hand gesture and the hashtag #WeStandUp.

(Sexual) street harassment is a persistent problem - also in the Netherlands. Research in Amsterdam in 2018 showed that 81% of women and girls between the ages of 15 and 34 have experienced street harassment at least once in their lives or more. In Rotterdam, a research from 2017 showed that 94% of women between the ages of 18 and 45 have experienced at least one form of harassment.

Do you want to learn more about gender-based violence related to sexual harassment?



In December 2020, our Share-Net Netherlands’ community of practice working on gender-based violence hosted an online meeting called “Unpacking sexual harassment: What can the Netherlands learn from Egypt and Belgium?”. In case you missed it, [re-watch the recording here](#) and stay tuned for a forthcoming policy brief on that matter!



L’Oréal Paris, in collaboration with LINDA.meiden, developed a high-profile podcast in which Geraldine Kemper interviews women like journalist Tatjana Almuli and editor-in-chief of LINDA.meiden Yeliz Cicek about their experience with street harassment. The podcast can be heard – in Dutch - from March 22 via www.standup-nederland.com.

HIV JUSTICE

The HIV Justice Network is a global information and advocacy hub for individuals and organisations working to end the inappropriate use of the criminal law to regulate and punish people living with HIV.

Gender inequality increases the vulnerability of people living with HIV. On Women's Day, our member organisation HIV Justice Network encourages you to also examine and consider the effects of HIV criminalisation on public health and human rights. Therefore, our member [HIV Justice Network](#) is pleased to present their HIV Justice Toolkit that aims to support advocates to oppose HIV criminalisation at all levels – from educating communities and lawmakers to defending individual cases. It includes all kinds of resources from all over the world that they hope will be useful depending on your advocacy targets (such as lawmakers; communities, prosecutors and judges; police; and the media).



Potential advocacy targets for HIV criminalisation: from the [GNP+/HJN Advancing HIV Justice 2 report](#)

[Enter the full toolkit here.](#)

END CHILD MARRIAGE

The More Than Brides Alliance (MTBA) consists of Save the Children Netherlands, Oxfam Novib, Simavi and Population Council. With funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs this alliance was implementing the Programme 'Marriage: No Child's Play' (2016-2020) with the aim to reduce child marriage and its adverse effects on young women and girls in India, Pakistan, Malawi, Niger and Mali.

Every year, 12 million girls are married, but by 2030, an additional 13 million child marriage are expected due to the impacts of COVID-19. In the past 10 years, significant progress has been made to reduce child marriage, but COVID-19 threatens to stall or even reverse these advancements.

Beyond commonly discussed drivers of child marriage such as poverty, insecurity, and lack of education, a significant link to child marriage that has been less explored is how norms and values around the sexuality of girls drive child marriages. [Explore this page](#) to learn more about the link between child marriage and sexuality and common barriers to address sexuality in programs.

The question on International Women’s Day to you is: Will you help the More Than Brides Alliance? Join the “Are you Listening?” campaign and demand policymakers putting girls at the centre of the COVID-19 response and to accelerate efforts to end child marriage! Sign their call to action, it just takes 2 minutes. You can sign as an individual or as an organization!



[Sign the Call to Action here.](#)

COVID-19, SRHR & GENDER EQUALITY

To respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak on SRHR and gender equality and ensure the inclusion of a gender perspective in response and recovery planning, Share-Net International set up an international community of practice (iCoP) on COVID-19, SRHR and Gender Equality in April 2020.

The [Share-Net International](#) iCoP enabled collaboration between Share-Net members from all country hubs, as well as international members. Organised in thematic subgroups, the iCoP members have developed and implemented their small grant projects over the last couple of months. In the light of Women’s Day, Share-Net International warmly invites you to join the two upcoming dissemination meetings with the two-fold aim to

- present and discuss new knowledge around COVID-19, SRHR and gender equality and
- stimulate critical discussions around research methodologies and ethics in times of a pandemic.

Please RSVP to the two event-series parts

- on 9 March 2021, 09.00 – 11.00 CET [via this link](#) and
- on 25 March 2021, 10.00 – 12.00 CET [via this link](#).

[You can download the full invitation and programme for both days here.](#)

In a side-event at CSW65, the importance of Gender Equality/Equity in Healthcare will be discussed, from the perspective of the patient as well as the professional. Furthermore, lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic will be presented and the upcoming report of the Lancet Women’s Commission on CV health will be highlighted.

Speakers at the CSW65 side-event on Gender Equality/Equity in Health care on Tuesday, 16th of March at 13.00 CET will include:

- Minister of Education, Culture and Science (The Netherlands)



- Dr Angela Maas, Cardiologist, Radboud University Medical Center, NL and UN Women’s representative
- Dr Vijay Kunadian, cardiologist Newcastle upon Tyne, UK
- Dr Roxana Mehran, cardiologist, Mount Sinai Medical Center NY, US and Chair Lancet Women’s Commission.

[For more information and registration click here.](#)

INVESTMENT IN WOMEN AND GIRLS

The Women’s Rights and Gender Equality Taskforce (TFVG) constitutes an integral component of Dutch foreign policy. The Dutch commitment to improving the position of women is encapsulated in the following four goals: prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls, a fair share in political and decision-making power; economic empowerment and self-reliance; and a fair share in conflict-resolution, peacebuilding and reconstruction.

The [Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) invites you to join their campaign on the 8th of March 2021 under the hashtag [#NLourgenderchampions](#), where they encourage missions and departments to draw attention to International Women’s Day by putting a spotlight on a gender champion (m/f/x) in their country or context.

Share-Net
Netherlands
The Knowledge Platform on
Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights

Investing in women and girls is one of the smartest things we can do to tackle poverty and protect our global health. By investing in women and girls, we invest in millions of potential female doctors, nurses, entrepreneurs, politicians and scientists – and leaders we need to jointly address global crises like Covid-19. Investing in women is not only the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do!

PASCALLE GROTENHUIS,
AMBASSADOR FOR WOMEN’S
RIGHTS & GENDER EQUALITY

#ChooseToChallenge

USE YOUR VOICE TO ADVANCE GENDER EQUALITY & SRHR IN THE UPCOMING DUTCH GENERAL ELECTIONS

There is no country in the world where women are not disadvantaged. The rights of more than half of the world's population are systematically undermined. For our Dutch members, the time has come to elect the members of the House of Representatives between 15th and 17th of March 2021 and we invite you to reflect on how the political party and candidate of your choice will address gender equality in the Netherlands and worldwide.

On March 4th, Share-Net Netherlands and the SRHR lobby group organised an election debate with MPs discussing the future of SRHR in Dutch development cooperation policy. You can watch the [recording in Dutch here](#).

Furthermore, with the help of the Gender Equality Voting Advice from [WOMEN Inc. and Atria](#) you can quickly and easily gain insight into the extent to which parties are working on gender equality. But there are also other factors that can weigh in your choice, such as combating racism, diversity in the room, mental health care and LGBTI + rights.

Voting guides
collected by
WOMEN Inc. and Atria
to help you make
an informed choice

(in Dutch)

- [Stem op een Vrouw](#): At the moment only 31% of the people in the House of Representatives are women. This can change positively by smartly voting for a woman. How to do this and why this is important can be found on this website, along with a list of all the women running for election on March 17th.
- [De Politieke Sekswijzer](#): This voting guide was developed by our member organisations [Rutgers](#), [Aidsfonds](#) - [Soa Aids Nederland](#), [Amref Flying Doctors](#) and [CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality](#). With 15 statements, the pointer shows how parties think about topics related to sex, relationship and intimacy.
- [De Feministische Partijwijzer](#) by ActionAid: Have a look at the positions of the parties on topics such as gender equality, a healthy climate and fair power structures.
- [Justine van de Beek](#) created the mental election guide called [De mentale kieswijzer](#). In this way, she provides insight into how the political parties view all kinds of topics that are important within mental health care, such as the waiting list problem within mental health care and suicide prevention.
- Not only are there too few women as members of parliament, there are also too few black people and people of color represented within this administrative body. Have a look at the [which women of color are eligible on the electoral lists](#) of the various parties.
- [RainbowVote](#): The interests of the LGBTI community are also at stake in the elections. This website provides more insights about how parties think about LGBTI issues per position, motion, party and per candidate.

PARTICIPATE IN ONLINE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT GENDER AND POLITICS

In the period between Women's Day and the Dutch elections, several online discussions on the matter of feminism and gendered politics will be held. Here is a selection of terrific activities that are free for anyone interested to join and accessible online:

Female leadership in peacebuilding: What can we learn from women in the field?

The recent achievements of female leaders during the COVID-19 crisis have underlined the positive contributions and inclusive recovery female leaders can provide. Join the Panel Talk (YouTube Livestream) with Fleur Ravensbergen (Deputy Director and Co-founder of Dialogue Advisory Group), Cristina Petcu (Research Associate, STIMSON) and Aya Chebbi (African Union Youth Envoy).

- **When?** Monday, 8th of March at 14.00 CET
- **Where?** Online via Zoom
- **Language?** English

[Register here.](#)

United Nations Observance of International Women's Day 2021

The theme for the United Nations Observance of International Women's Day 2021 is "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world, on the way to the Generation Equality Forum." In addition to featuring and celebrating the tremendous efforts by women and girls around the world in shaping a more equal future and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the event will also 'lift the curtain' and bring increased attention to this year's Generation Equality Forums in Mexico City (29-31 March 2021) and Paris (June 2021).

- **When?** Monday, 8th of March at 16.00 CET
- **Where?** Online via UN web TV
- **Language?** English

[Register here.](#)

FemCity x NL Kiest: Women's March 2021: Global Sisterhood

Inclusive feminism doesn't stop at the border. What is happening abroad and how can we help? In this session, programming and campaigning experts from Action Aid, Humanistisch Verbond, Mama Cash, Amnesty International NL, Rutgers, Oxfam Novib and Hivos will be discussing global sisterhood.

- **When?** Monday, 8th of March at 20.30 CET
- **Where?** Online via the Pakhuis de Zwijger livecast
- **Language?** Dutch

[Register here.](#)

CNV Webinar Vrouwelijk Leiderschap

Dutch women are underrepresented in top positions in politics, business and trade unions. What is the impact of that? As part of International Women's Day, CNV is organizing a webinar on leadership. Three prominent women talk about their experiences of exercising influence in a predominantly male environment and how they found their personal style in it. Watch via livestreaming on Monday 8 March at 7 p.m.

- **When?** Monday, 8th of March at 19.00 CET
- **Where?** Online via Zoom
- **Language?** Dutch

[Register here.](#)

Niet over ons zonder ons – Gender MPI verkiezingsspecial

For four years, the Gender MPI has been committed to gender equality and women's rights in the House of Representatives, worldwide and in the Netherlands. Now with the elections approaching, it is time to take stock. Our partner [WO=MEN](#), Dutch gender platform, invites you to an interactive session unpacking: What have been the biggest successes of the Gender MPI, what did not work out unfortunately? What are the ambitions for a new term of office?

- **When?** Wednesday, 10th of March at 12.30 CET
- **Where?** Online via Zoom
- **Language?** Dutch

[Register here.](#)

HAGUE TALKS: How to encourage Women Leadership in times of Covid?

This year, the theme of UN International Women's Day is Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world. During this online Hague Talks, this theme will be further explored as they ask inspirational speakers how they try to help forge a gender equal world. The event is co-organised by RVO, Museon and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- **When?** Thursday, 11th of March at 16.00 CET
- **Where?** Online via Zoom
- **Language?** English

[Set a reminder here.](#)

Join Share-Net!

and become part of the knowledge platform on SRHR as either a member or a sponsor. When joining Share-Net, you will not only be contributing to our mission and vision, but you will also be able to enjoy specific member benefits:

- Have free access to all the meetings that we organise. (Non-members participate at cost-price)
- Participate in our working groups or CoPs, which is exclusive for members. These groups are crucial for agenda setting, organizing meetings and executing small research projects. For more information on the Share-Net Netherlands working groups and thematic groups please visit www.share-net.nl/working-groups.
- Be elected in one of our governing bodies, the Steering Committee of the Netherlands or the Board of Share-Net International. All members are invited to our annual business meeting.
- Be eligible for our yearly call for proposals for the Share-Net International Small Grants facility.

For more information about our work and how to get involved. Please contact our Share-Net Netherlands Coordinator, Meike Stieglis at info@share-net.nl