

Annual Report 2017



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PREFACE



In 2017 we finally did it. From a joint passion, vision and mission we have started our own organisation: IMPACT: Center against Human Trafficking and Sexual Violence in Conflict.

Finding your true passion is not an easy task, finding a partner with a similar passion and vision is nearly impossible to realise. We have been lucky to cross each other's paths and to be able to put to practice our common belief that if we all contribute, we can make this world a better place for everyone.



Human trafficking and conflict-related sexual violence are not 'easy going' subjects. Why decide to specialise in these phenomena? Whether it is for profit, power or for demoralising purposes, in both of these crimes human beings are the targets. Vulnerable people – men, women and children – fall victim of the cruel intentions of others. We have taken this intrinsic injustice of being targeted for the simple reason of being in a more susceptible position than others at heart and it has motivated us to contribute to addressing and combatting these crimes and to support and give voice to those who are unable to fight against this injustice alone.

Since a few years we have been contemplating setting up a center of expertise. Even though we both were already doing research, giving advice, offering training and education, and implementing empowerment projects in our particular field of expertise, we felt that we could accomplish even more when we would join forces.

While human trafficking and conflict-related sexual violence may, at first glance, appear to be very distinct wrongdoings, in practice the underlying issues are the same, particularly when focussing on human trafficking for sexual exploitation. The forms of sexual violence that may come into play, the stigma that is still persistent in relation to female perpetrators and male victims, the difficulties children face that are born as a result of the crimes are just a few of the cross-cutting issues that both phenomena share.

2017 was the year in which we have started to embark on our journey to contribute to eradicating human trafficking and sexual violence in conflict. We have set up some new projects, concluded others, and made ourselves known to our network. The first steps have been taken!

For all of us who have supported our work: thank you for making it possible to make an IMPACT together! Specifically, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to Freek Dekkers (Freek Dekkers Financiële Dienstverlening), Marcello Misiedjan, Jeroen Quist (Quist ICT), Laura van Waas and Mark van Waas (Institute for Statelessness and Inclusion) and Dirck van den Berg who have in kind contributed to a great start of our organisation.

Best wishes,

Dr. Anne-Marie de Brouwer

Dr. Eefje de Volder

By combining the knowledge of two distinct fields, we believe to be able to contribute in a distinct way to the quest to combat both crimes and to offer justice to victims.

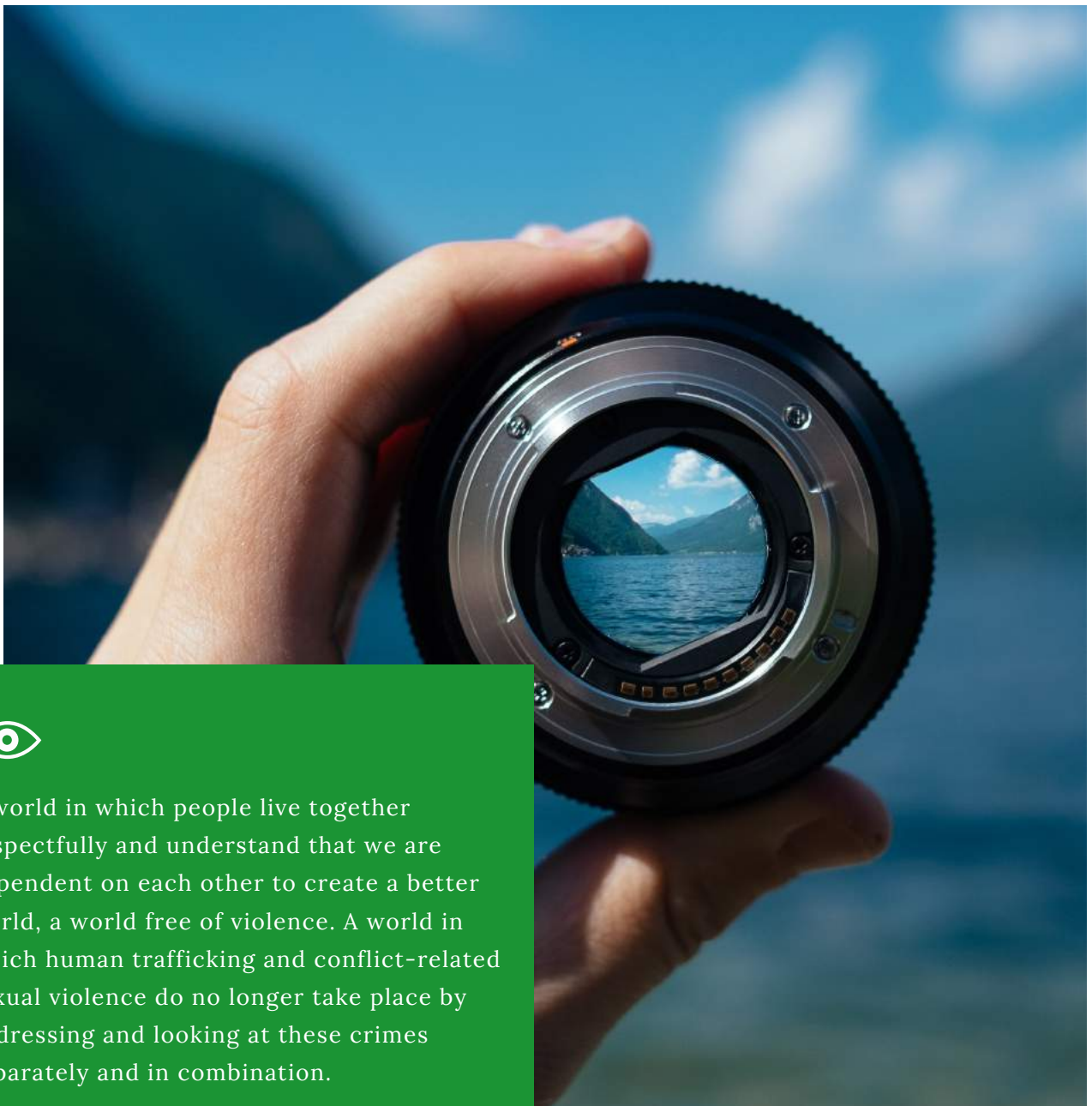


PART 1

**IMPACT:
CENTER AGAINST HUMAN
TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL
VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT**



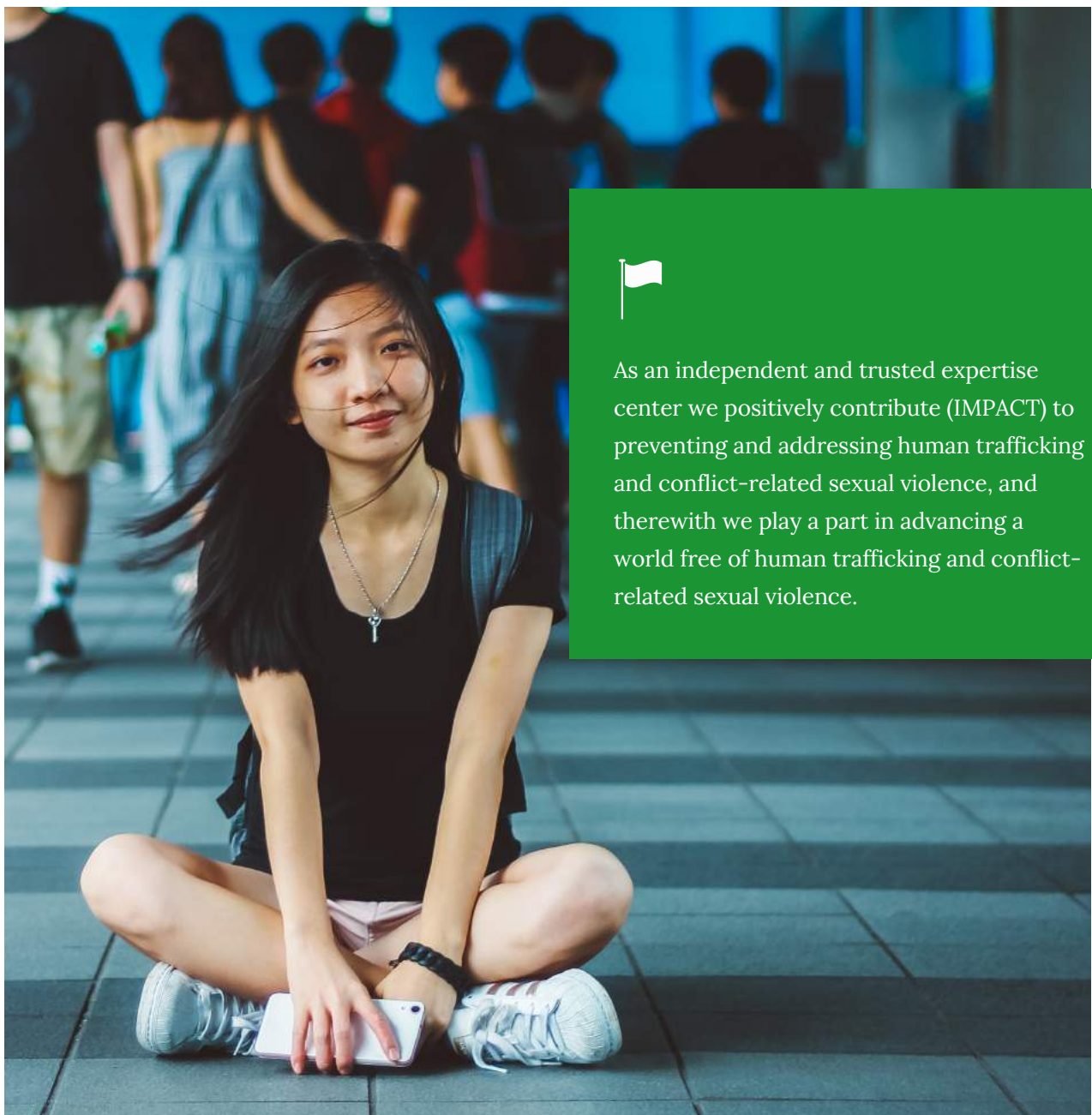
Vision



A world in which people live together respectfully and understand that we are dependent on each other to create a better world, a world free of violence. A world in which human trafficking and conflict-related sexual violence do no longer take place by addressing and looking at these crimes separately and in combination.



Mission



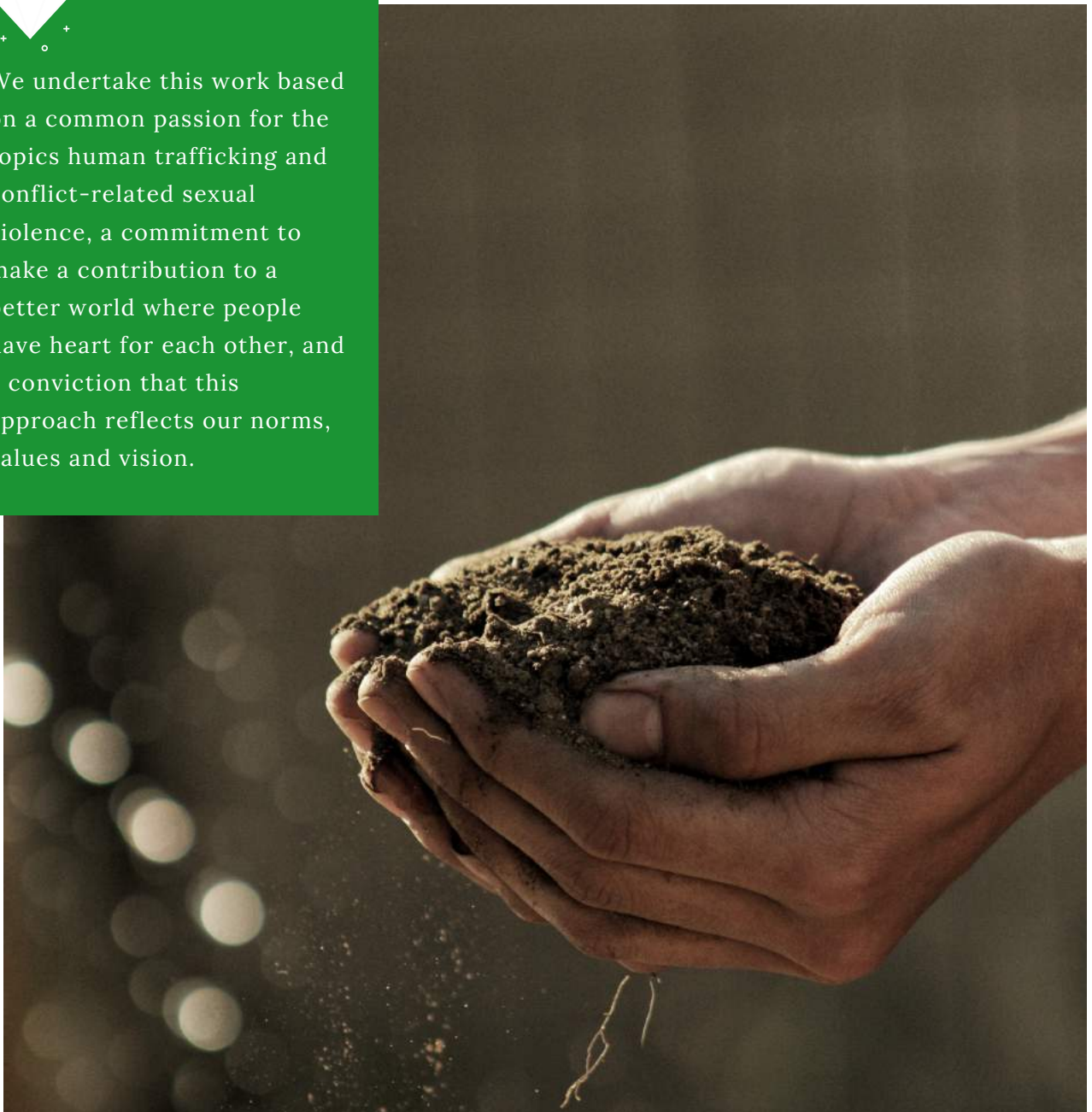
As an independent and trusted expertise center we positively contribute (IMPACT) to preventing and addressing human trafficking and conflict-related sexual violence, and therewith we play a part in advancing a world free of human trafficking and conflict-related sexual violence.

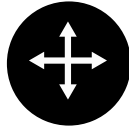


Values



We undertake this work based on a common passion for the topics human trafficking and conflict-related sexual violence, a commitment to make a contribution to a better world where people have heart for each other, and a conviction that this approach reflects our norms, values and vision.





Impact Criterion



IMPACT stands for making a positive contribution to preventing and addressing human trafficking and conflict-related sexual violence. IMPACT is the criterion that we test against to decide whether the proposed activities match the identity and core mission of IMPACT.

Team

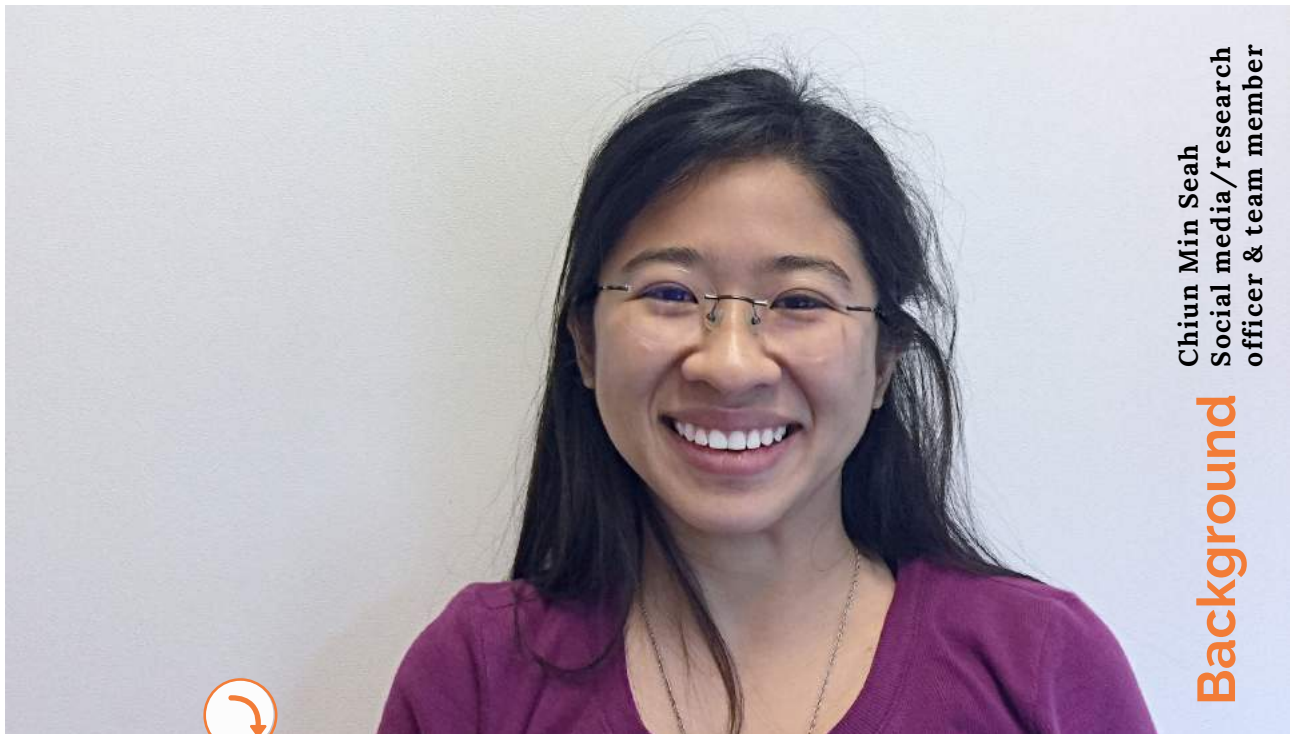
In 2017, IMPACT's team consisted of two board members and a social media & research officer (volunteer).



Eefje de Volder (Ph.D., LL.M., M.Sc.) is chair and team member of IMPACT. In 2017, Eefje successfully defended her PhD thesis that looks into the functioning of the collective security system of the African Union. Eefje conducted research for several regional and international institutions and organizations (EU, EUI, Council of Europe, OSCE) on human trafficking. Also, she has acted as moderator of international dialogues on human trafficking, including the expert meeting of the EU-ACP Dialogue on Migration and Development. She developed and taught several courses at various levels (university, college and lower education), both in the Netherlands as well as abroad. Since 2010, she is a board member of the Mukomeze foundation, which aims to improve the lives of those who survived sexual violence during the genocide in Rwanda. As of 2017, she is appointed at the interim board of LaStrada International, a leading European network of NGOs that provide support to trafficked victims. Eefje works part-time at the NGO CoMensha, coordinating the assistance and support of victims of labour exploitation in the Netherlands. In addition, she is a research fellow with the International Victimology Institute Tilburg (INTERVICT) and part-time lecturer at Tilburg University. Eefje studied cultural anthropology, with a specialization in gender studies (Radboud University Nijmegen), Dutch and International and European Law, Human Rights Law (Tilburg University) and Research in Law (Tilburg University, Catholic University Leuven, Belgium).



Anne-Marie de Brouwer (Ph.D., LL.M.) is secretary/treasurer and team member of IMPACT. Her PhD - “Supranational Criminal Prosecution of Sexual Violence: The ICC and the Practice of the ICTY and the ICTR”, which was awarded with the Max van der Stoep Human Rights Award 2006 – is widely used as a reference for understanding the investigation and prosecution of conflict-related sexual violence by researchers and practitioners all over the world. In more than a decade of working on the issue of conflict-related sexual violence, with an international and interdisciplinary approach, Anne-Marie has carried out a wide array of research, teaching, training and empowerment projects, including within/for academia, (international) courts, governments, international organisations and NGOs. In 2013, she was awarded the Viva400-Award for her efforts to improve women’s health as well as received a high Royal distinction – “Ridder” (“Dame”) – in the Order of Oranje-Nassau for her academic and societal work concerning conflict-related sexual violence. Anne-Marie previously worked as an Associate Professor in international criminal law (Tilburg University) and Associate Legal Officer (Women’s Initiatives for Gender Justice). Anne-Marie is also the Chair of the Mukomeze Foundation, which improves the lives of survivors of sexual violence during the 1994 Rwandan genocide, and a research fellow with the International Victimology Institute Tilburg (INTERVICT) at Tilburg University. Anne-Marie studied Dutch Law, International Law and International Human Rights Law at Tilburg University, La Sapienza and the University of Essex.



Chiun Min Seah (LL.B., LL.M.) is the social media & research officer and team member of IMPACT (volunteer). Chiun Min obtained her Bachelor of Laws (Hons) at the University of London and Master in International Criminal Law at the Irish Centre for Human Rights, National University of Ireland. Throughout her LL.M. studies, she tailored her focal point on conflict-related sexual violence in the subjects and essays she wrote. Her LL.M. thesis focussed on sexual violence against child soldiers and its development in international criminal and humanitarian law (Wolf Legal Publishers, 2018). During her studies at the Irish Centre for Human Rights, Chiun Min was the HQ Liaison Officer at National University of Ireland Fáilte (Welcome) Refugees Society. Chiun Min's previous professional experiences include being a HG Liaison Officer at National University of Ireland Fáilte (Welcome) Refugees Society; legal intern with Michael Musa-Obregon Associates and a legal assistant from 2014 - 2016 for The Women's Lawyer. She also presently works with Justice for Women where she develops and creates video contents to support victims of the Bosnian and Herzegovinian victims of sexual violence and to reconstruct the way victims are perceived.

Work Methods

Research & Advice

Target groups:
organizations,
governments,
institutions

Education & Awareness

Target groups:
society, youth,
students

Training & Capacity Building

Target group:
professionals

Empowerment & Advocacy

Target groups:
victims/survivors,
politicians, policy
makers



Research & Advice

We conduct (interdisciplinary) research into and give advice about the phenomena of human trafficking and conflict-related sexual violence. The results from research are used to change policy and practice in the field of human trafficking and conflict-related sexual violence, where needed.

Target groups: organizations, governments, institutions.

Education & Awareness

By informing people and educating them on human trafficking and conflict-related sexual violence we raise awareness on these two phenomena and inspire them to take action.

Target groups: society, youth, students.

Training & Capacity Building

By training professionals who work in the field of human trafficking and/or conflict-related sexual violence, we contribute to deepening their knowledge and skills in this area, building capacity, and a better approach to dealing with these crimes. One can think of: lawyers, social workers, psychologists, medics, academics, NGO staff and policy makers.

Target group: professionals.

Empowerment & Advocacy

We contribute to the empowerment of victims/survivors of human trafficking and conflict-related sexual violence by putting their interests and wishes first. We do this in so-called 'empowerment projects' and by advocating on their behalf on the national, regional and international level. Our aim is for victims/survivors to regain their dignity and to find recognition in what has happened to them.

Target groups: victims/survivors, politicians, policy makers.

PART 2

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Achievements

Research & Advice

Target groups:
organizations,
governments,
institutions

Education & Awareness

Target groups:
society, youth,
students

Training & Capacity Building

Target group:
professionals

Empowerment & Advocacy

Target groups:
victims/survivors,
politicians, policy
makers

Media & Publications

"Group dynamics within large groups of victims of labour exploitation have proven to influence victims' willingness to cooperate with the investigative and prosecutorial authorities, but also influences their acceptance of support and care."

RESEARCH & ADVICE

Group dynamics in labour exploitation cases

In 2017, we started our research into group dynamics among groups of victims of labour exploitation.

The research includes desk research and interviews with chain partners working with victims of labour exploitation.

The research intends to provide recommendations to chain partners on how to minimize negative effects of group dynamics within groups of victims of labour exploitation. This project is executed for the Coordination Center against Human Trafficking (CoMensha), that received funding from the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (SZW).

Prevention through knowledge transfer, awareness raising and information provision on labour rights for asylum seekers/refugees

In 2017, we started a project that looks into the level of knowledge of asylum seekers/refugees about their labour position in the Netherlands.

Although asylum seekers/refugees seem to be informed about many different issues in the Netherlands (e.g. health insurance, opening a bank account), they are not sufficiently being informed about their labour rights.

Since asylum seekers/refugees are at risk of being trafficked for labour exploitation, being informed is key to prevent them from ending up in such a situation. In this project we look how asylum seekers/refugees can best be informed about their labour rights, develop the content and inventorise how a module on labour rights for asylum seekers/refugees can fit within the currently available modules for asylum seekers/refugees.

This project is executed for the Coordination Center against Human Trafficking (CoMensha), that received funding from the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (SZW).

Prevention of labour exploitation by including knowledge modules thereof in higher education

In 2017, we started a project that seeks to enhance knowledge about human trafficking (particularly for purposes of labour exploitation) among the future legal professionals. This project invests in mapping out the lacunas in the educational offer in courses on human trafficking and labour exploitation in the Netherlands (MBO, HBO, University levels) and in proposing modules that can be used to better educate students in the field of human trafficking, and particularly labour exploitation. This project was executed for the Coordination Center against Human Trafficking (CoMensha), that received funding for this project from the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (SZW).

Social Venturing at Tilburg University

In 2017, we were invited to become members of a working group at Tilburg University that is looking into opportunities of setting up a social entrepreneurship construction for both students, employees, alumni, and externals, such as ourselves. The main goal is to better align theory and practice so that complex societal issues can be tackled and/or advanced.

Combating impunity of conflict-related sexual violence: Rwanda's lessons for the Great Lakes Region and beyond

In 2017, we have worked on a grant application, in cooperation with the Asser Institute, the University of Rwanda and Overseas Strategic Consulting, aimed at analyzing how Rwanda has combatted CRSV in the context of both informal and formal justice systems so that lessons learned on how to combat CRSV can be distilled and can inspire and be implemented in other countries confronted with CRSV.

Nuremberg Academy Guiding Principles and Recommendations on Cooperation between Civil Society Actors and Judicial Mechanisms in the Prosecution of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

In 2017 we advised in expert workshops in Nuremberg (Germany) of the Nuremberg Academy on the topic of cooperation between civil society actors and judicial mechanisms in the prosecution of CRSV. This resulted in a report with the same title (under the auspices of Ellie Smith, Farah Mahmood and Josephine Ndagire).

EDUCATION & AWARENESS

Summer School on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and Human Trafficking at Tilburg University

In July 2017, we taught for two weeks an interactive Summer School course at Tilburg University on preventing and addressing conflict-related sexual violence and human trafficking for bachelor/master students from all over the world and of any discipline. During these two weeks the opportunities and challenges in addressing both crimes were discussed from both a theoretical and practical perspective. The course also included group assignments and visits to the International Criminal Court and the Coordination Center against Human Trafficking (CoMensha).

Name: Sophie De Spiegeleir
Country: Belgium
Year of birth: 1992
Field of study:
 Anthropology and Victimology



"This Summer School was an eye-opener."

During 2 weeks, I could involve my two degrees and favourite fields of study (Anthropology and Victimology) while discussing and sharing with very smart and inspiring people about conflict-related sexual violence and human trafficking. I feel even more inspired now to make a difference, to make an IMPACT and so especially in my own country."

Name: Mridula Shobinath
Country: India
Year of birth: 1995
Field of study: Social Sciences



"I will always be grateful for these 2 weeks, more so than I can explain."

This course provided me with valuable insights on these complex topics, and it has renewed my passion and energy to fight against THB and CRSV. I have also had the opportunity to meet inspiring people from around the world, and from various fields of study."



TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING

Training Course on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Uganda

In May 2017, we trained for 2 days court officials (Judges, Prosecutors, Victim Representatives, Defence Lawyers) of the High Court (International Crimes Division) and civil society on prosecuting conflict-related sexual violence in the Kwoyelo case. The training was organised by Avocats Sans Frontières and the International Center for Transitional Justice.



EMPOWERMENT & ADVOCACY

Mobile Theatre Preventing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Rwanda

In the fall of 2017, we worked on a grant application that involved the setting up of a mobile theatre with the aim of preventing sexual and gender-based violence in the countryside of Rwanda. Through mobile theatre our aim is to reach thousands of Rwandans and to create awareness of and to educate them on the genocidal sexual violence and the spill-over effect in post-genocide Rwanda, where domestic and sexual violence is frequently taking place. For this, we applied to a fund together with a Rwandan director, script writer, actors as well as counsellors. The grant application was submitted to the Sexual Violence Research Initiative and World Bank Group in October 2017.



MEDIA & PUBLICATIONS

- **Nieuws.nl**

In de Spotlight: Eefje de Volder van Stichting IMPACT

3 June 2017

- **Gids: Organisaties in Nederland**

Tijdschrift Gender en Duurzame Vrede: Seksueel Geweld in Gewapend Conflict

najaar 2017, pp. 53-58

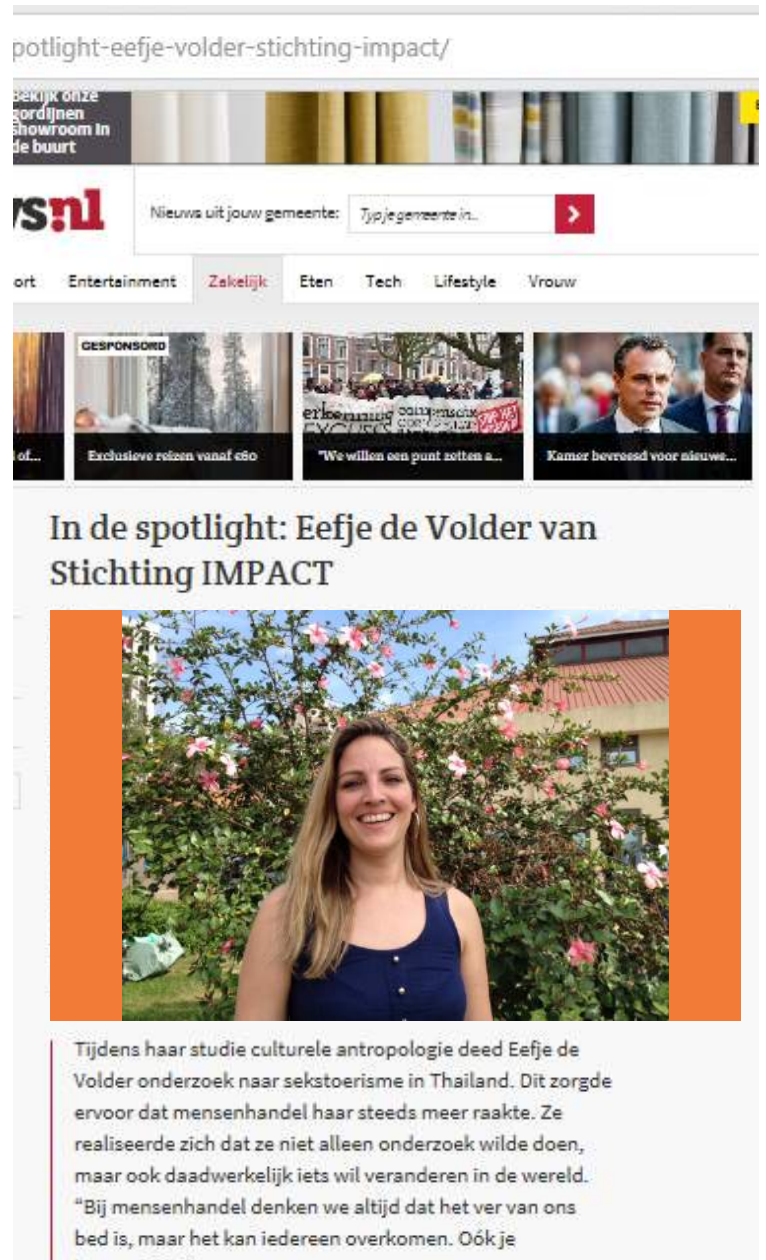
- **Supranational Criminology Newsletter Criminology and International Crimes**

Vol. 12, No. 1, December 2017, pp. 24-25

- **NPO Radio 1 (Nieuws en Co)**

Leger Myanmar verkracht stelselmatig Rohingyavrouwen

12 December 2017



Financial Statement 2017

	Costs (€)	Income (€)
Financial Costs	364.61	
Office Costs	1155.85	
Travel Costs	110.92	
Acquisition Research and Advice	10,989.67	
Acquisition Education and Awareness	19,660.50	
Acquisition Training and Capacity Building	1,080.00	
Empowerment and Advocacy	75.00	
Research and Advice		21,845.00
Education and Awareness		12,210.74
Training and Capacity Building		1,200.00
TOTAL	33,436.55	35,255.74
Balance	1,819.19	

Since IMPACT currently has no staff employed, it has contracted De Brouwer & De Volder Consultancy to implement the projects. 10% of all income is set aside for empowerment projects. In 2017, one empowerment project has been realized, in the form of a donation to sponsor a run of a survivor of human trafficking to create awareness about the phenomenon. The financial costs include costs for bank, accountant and administration. The office costs include costs for ICT, communication and representation.

Objectives for 2018

Communication:

- Elaborate an effective and regular communication strategy via social media, website, newsletter

Projects/content-related:

- Start with brown bag lunches discussing content-related issues
- Continue to invest, as a knowledge center, in content-related issues (e.g. our blogs, participation in articles, guest editing journals)
- Work out the meaning of the 'impact-criterion'

Internal organizational issues:

- Obtain an ANBI-status
- Set up a board
- Start with internal strategy days annually and throughout the year
- Allow for volunteer opportunities and establish a standard volunteer contract
- Allow for (personal) coaching in support of Impact's mandate
- Improve internal communication on the work to be done

Networking:

- Invest in broadening our network and making connections, such as by organising the first CRSV meeting for NGOs based in the Netherlands
- Explore existing and new networks and invest time in meeting up with them
- Become a member of interesting networks, such as WO=MEN

Funding:

- Start drafting annual (and financial) reports and the company policy plan
- Start with a crowdfunding campaign for one of our projects



impact

© 2018 IMPACT: Center against Human
Trafficking and Sexual Violence in Conflict
Ericssonstraat 2 - 5121 ML Rijen
The Netherlands



@impctnow

Web: www.impact-now.org

E-mail: info@impact-now.org