

IMPACT:
Center against Human Trafficking and Sexual Violence in Conflict
Annual Report 2020

Preface

In 2020 we entered our fourth year of IMPACT: Center against Human Trafficking and Sexual Violence in Conflict. A year that was marked by the outbreak of COVID-19 and its world-wide consequences.

Luckily for us, it did not have an impact on our workload. The projects planned could continue, and we even managed to start with some new ones. But what did change was the way in which we conducted our work. Working from home rather than from the office led to cooperation from a distance. And most of our education and training moved from on-site to online programs. This required some flexibility and adaptation but also allowed for new possibilities and skills.

Apart from COVID-19, three impactful milestones stood out for us this year.

One was the impact that we managed to realise through the official launch of our own Journal on Human Trafficking, Enslavement and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (JHEC), unique in its kind, with the first general issue being published in September 2021 and the first special issue on 'sexual terrorism' published in December 2021 (with Paris Legal Publishers).

Second was the contribution that we were allowed to make, in cooperation with MDF, in drafting the important and momentous fourth Dutch National Action Plan (NAP) 1325-IV (2021-2025), a partnership with joint commitments between various Dutch Ministries, the police and over 60 Dutch civil society organisations in implementing the UN Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda for the Netherlands. Being able to participate in the drafting of such an important document is the type of impact we had hoped and anticipated for when we started IMPACT a few years ago.

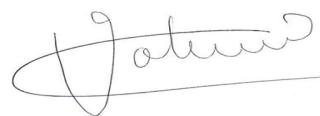
What, finally, stood out for us in 2020, was the impact we managed to generate by creating awareness about sexual terrorism. By publishing a joint article with Christophe Paulussen (T.M.C. Asser Instituut) in a top notch Journal, giving several lectures, contributing to webinars, having our special JHEC issue, having students write on the topic for their theses, and organising our own panel discussion, we managed to draw attention to - and getting the discussion moving on - the largely overlooked nexus between terrorism, human trafficking and conflict-related sexual violence.

We look with much confidence to 2021 and hope that also in the coming year we will be able to continue to impact our fields in various ways.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Anne-Marie de Brouwer' in a cursive style.

Dr. Anne-Marie de Brouwer

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Eefje de Volder' in a cursive style.

Dr. Eefje de Volder



Part 1: IMPACT: Center against Human Trafficking and Sexual Violence in Conflict

Team

In 2020, IMPACT's team consisted of two board members (Eefje de Volder and Anne-Marie de Brouwer) and one volunteer supporting with research (Orsi Szabó). More information about our current team members can be found on our website: <https://impact-now.org/who-we-are/team/>

Part 2: Annual Report 2020

Achievements 2020

Research & advice

Decent Work

At the end of 2019 we started with the implementation of several activities to contribute to realizing decent work in the Netherlands, as a way of preventing and responding to labour exploitation of migrant workers. This project continued in 2020 and is executed on behalf of the Coordination Center against Human Trafficking (CoMensha), that had received funding from the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (SZW).

Labour Exploitation

In 2020 the first steps were undertaken to set up a research project into the criminalization and enforcement of labour exploitation in the Netherlands. The research, that is executed partly on behalf of the Coordination Center Against Human Trafficking (CoMensha) and together with Tilburg University, aims at giving insight into the gaps that continue to exist in the successful investigation and prosecution of labour exploitation cases in the Netherlands.

Dutch National Action Plan 1325-IV (NAP1325-IV)

In 2020, we were involved as consultants, together with MDF, in the development of the Dutch National Action Plan (NAP) 1325-IV (2021-2025). NAP1325-IV is a partnership between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Education, Culture and Science, Justice and Security, the police and over 60 Dutch civil society organizations. The NAP1325-IV contains their joint commitments to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and its successive resolutions, as well as other

international obligations and commitments on 'Women, Peace and Security' (WPS). With the NAP1325-IV, Dutch government and civil society organisations have committed to support women, men and youth in conflict affected countries, but also within the Netherlands, in their efforts for inclusive peace and security. Impact is one of the signatories of the NAP1325-IV. The NAP1325-IV can be found here: https://www.nap1325.nl/assets/Women-Peace-and-Security_NAP-1325-IV_2020_Eng_versie.pdf

Journal of Human Trafficking, Enslavement and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

In 2019, we started with the preparations – together with Paris Legal Publishers – to set up a new multi- and interdisciplinary journal on the nexus between human trafficking, enslavement and conflict-related sexual violence: The *Journal of Human Trafficking, Enslavement and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence* (JHEC). JHEC became operational as of early 2020. Each year a general issue on one, two or all three crimes (summer) and a special issue on a specific theme (winter) will be published. For the 2020 special issue edition, the topic of 'sexual terrorism' was selected. This topic was chosen because of the vast increase of the systemic use by terrorist organizations of human trafficking and conflict-related sexual violence as a tactic of terrorism.



Article on 'Sexual Terrorism' with Journal of International Criminal Justice

In 2020, our joint article (with C. Paulussen) on 'sexual terrorism' with case studies on Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab was published with the *Journal of International Criminal Justice*. The United Nations Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict and the *Journal of International Criminal Justice* presented this special issue on 'Justice and Accountability for Sexual Violence in Conflict: Progress and Challenges in National Efforts to Address Impunity' as part of the commemoration of the 10-year anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1888 (2009). Resolution 1888 (2009) created the dedicated mandate of the Special Representative of the UN

Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Team of Experts. The special issue includes many interesting contributions, amongst which ours. The full details of our article are: Anne-Marie de Brouwer, Eefje de Volder and Christophe Paulussen, 'Prosecuting the Nexus between Terrorism, Human Trafficking and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence before National Courts: Case Studies of Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab', (2020) *Journal of International Criminal Justice* (18)(2), 499-516.

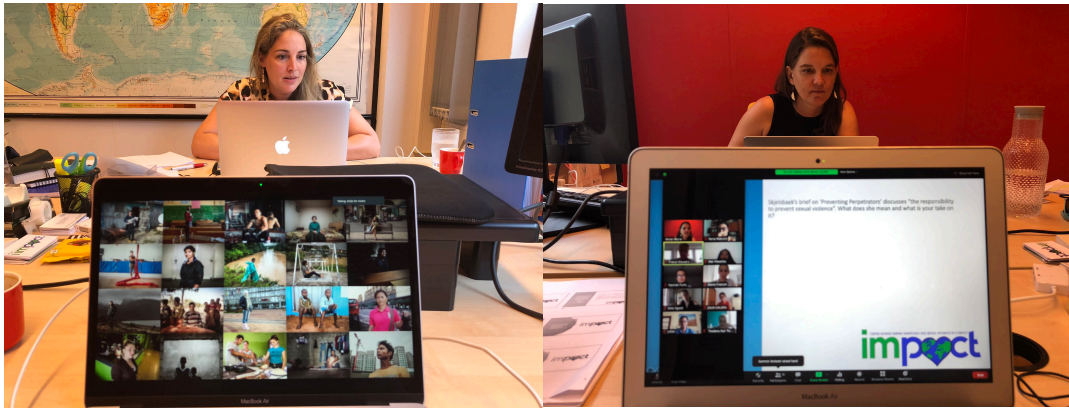
Advice to Institutions and Interviews to Students/Professionals

In 2020, we provided advice to several organizations, including on sexual terrorism for the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) and on the Murad Code, a Global Code of Conduct for Documenting Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, for the Institute for International Criminal Investigations (IICI), the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative of the UK Government (PSVI) and Nadia's Initiative. In addition, we provided input on PhD proposals in the field of international criminal justice, victims' rights/needs and/or conflict-related sexual violence. Finally in 2020, we have given several interviews to professionals and students about human trafficking and/or conflict-related sexual violence.

Education & awareness

Summer School at Tilburg University

In July 2020, we taught for the fourth time our two-week Summer School course at Tilburg University on preventing and addressing conflict-related sexual violence and human trafficking for 27 bachelor/master students representing 7 different nationalities and a multitude of disciplines. During these two weeks the opportunities and challenges in addressing both crimes were discussed from both a theoretical and practical perspective. Due to COVID-19 the course was offered online. Rather than visiting relevant institutions, several guest lectures were given, including by a translator/lawyer at the ICC Ongwen case, a psychologist from ARQ Centrum '45 who treats victims of THB and CRSV in the Netherlands, a researcher on terrorism and international crimes from the T.M.C. Asser Instituut and a member of the Dutch Armed Forces.



Justice for victims of conflict-related sexual violence and human trafficking?

How can victims of conflict-related sexual violence and human trafficking get any form of justice? Around the world every day, countless human beings - men, women, boys and girls - suffer the harsh consequences of conflict-related sexual violence and human trafficking. During this intensive two-week course you will delve into the opportunities and challenges in addressing both crimes.

Start date: Monday July 6, 2020
Duration: 2 weeks | ECTS: 6
Faculty: IMPACT
Contact: summerschool@tilburguniversity.edu

[Find out more information here](#)

Summer School 2020
Tilburg University *Serious fun!*

Tilburg University Summer School (TUSS) combines challenging courses with a fun-packed social program. Study at our beautiful green campus with excellent facilities and nearby accommodation. Become part of our diverse community, meet people from all over the world and explore the Netherlands under the guidance of our TUSS buddies.

www.tilburguniversity.edu/summerschool

TILBURG UNIVERSITY Understanding Society



“The Summer School course on “Justice for victims of conflict-related sexual violence and human trafficking?” was an all-over perspective-changing experience. Although I did not come from a background in law, I was able to follow and enjoy the course and even appreciate how conflict-driven situations may lead to a substantive change in legislation. To anyone thinking about participating in this course, I genuinely recommend it. The teachers are inspiring and highly invested in the field, and it definitely serves an opportunity for personal growth.”

Emilia Sekillioglu, psychology student and participant in the Summer School in 2020

Summerschool at Maastricht University

In August 2020, we taught an intensive one-week online Summer School at Maastricht University on human trafficking and sexual violence in conflict to 16 participants representing 8 nationalities and with different educational backgrounds.

How would you rate the course overall?

4.73 out of 5 (15 responses out of 16) ★★★★★

Question from the Summerschool at Maastricht University course evaluation 2020



Maastricht University
Maastricht Summer School
www.maastrichtsummerschool.nl

*We're going to teach at
Maastricht Summer School!*

GMSI: Introduction to International law and Thesis Cycle

In 2020, we taught the course introduction to international law to first year students of the bachelor 'Global Management of Social Issues' of the Department of Organizational Studies at the Tilburg School of Social and Behavioral Sciences of Tilburg University. Further, we supervised four bachelor students in their third year of the aforementioned bachelor in a bachelor thesis cycle on 'Organizational Manifestations of Sexual Terrorism and Justice for its Victims'. Due to COVID these activities took place online.

"I just wanted to thank you for one of the most interesting courses so far. Of course, I wished it would not have been online but looking at the circumstances, it was organized and taught well."

Laura Mikkola, student GMSI course Introduction to International Law

Guest Lecture MVO

In 2020, we have offered a guest lecture to students of Graphic Lyceum Sint Lucas (Boxtel, the Netherlands (MBO-level)) on becoming and being social entrepreneurs.

Bosnia and Rwanda project

In the year 2020, we started exploring, with Justice for Women (The Netherlands), Medica Zenica (Bosnia) and Solace Ministries (Rwanda), a project that would help us to gain more in-depth understanding of how victims/survivors in both Bosnia and

Rwanda have experienced sexual violence in conflict and how they, their families and society are dealing with it afterwards. Since both Rwanda and Bosnia have over 25 years of experience in dealing with trauma from mass violence – being the first countries coming from a conflict situation that received worldwide attention and for which the first ad hoc Tribunals were set up since World War II – many lessons can be learned from the impact of conflict-related sexual violence and their treatment approaches, not only for the countries concerned, but for countries all over the world dealing with this issue. The project is divided in three sub-programs: (1) sexuality education; (2) treatment; and (3) awareness raising through art to break through stigma. In 2021, we intend to make a start with the latter project.

Participation in Conferences/Webinars

In 2020, we co-organized and/or participated in several conferences/webinars. In the following webinars, we had an active role as speakers:

(1) *Digital Dialogue on 'Human Trafficking in a Pandemic Landscape: Implications for Children and Forced Migrants'* (30 July 2020), organized by the Irish Centre for Human Rights and the Refugee Law Project. Speakers included: Rachel Bikhohle (Anti-Trafficking in Persons Department of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Uganda), Eefje de Volder (Impact), and Siobhán Mullally (then incoming UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children), and Chris Dolan (Refugee Law Project). The recordings of the Digital Dialogue can be found here: https://refugeelawproject.org/index.php?option=com_yendifvideoshare&view=video&id=14

4:human-trafficking-in-a-pandemic-landscape-implications-for-children-and-forced-migrants

(2) *The Digital Dialogue Series on 'Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Committed in the Context of Terrorism: What Can Justice Look Like?'* (27 October 2020), organized by the UN Team of Experts on Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict in collaboration with: Institute for Public Health, Washington University in St. Louis; Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, Harvard University; the Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University; and the School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute. Speakers included: Fionnuala Ní Aoláin (Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism), Azadeh Moaveni (International Crisis Group), Chioma Onuegbu (Public Prosecution, Ministry of Justice, Nigeria), Rhoda Preval Tyoden (International Federation of Women Lawyers, Nigeria), and Anne-Marie de Brouwer (Impact). The recordings of this webinar can be found here: <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/our-work/team-of-experts/>

(3) *And I Live On: The Resilience of Rwandan Genocide Survivors of Sexual Violence* (1 December 2020, World Aids Day, Orange the World), organized by Grandmothers

Advocacy Network (GRAN), HIV Legal Network, Solace Ministries, Impact, and Mukomeze Foundation. Speakers included: Mama Lambert (Solace Ministries), Samer Muscati (Human Rights Watch), Sandra Ka Hon Chu (HIV Legal Network), Eefje de Volder (Impact), and Anne-Marie de Brouwer (Impact and Mukomeze Foundation).

(4) *'Sexual Terrorism' (10 December 2020, Human Rights Day)*, organized by T.M.C. Asser Instituut together with Impact. Speakers included: Lauren Aarons (Amnesty International), Adejoké Babington-Ashaye (World Bank), Sofia Candeias (UN Team of Experts on Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict), Eefje de Volder (Impact), Anne-Marie de Brouwer (Impact), and Christophe Paulussen (T.M.C. Asser Instituut). The recordings of the meeting can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2f8z4qXsO0&t=7s>



Training & capacity building

TAIEX Kosovo

In 2020, we have joined a group of experts to Kosovo to assess the performance - specifically the protection of victims - by Kosovo authorities in the fight against trafficking in human beings in the context of Kosovo's application for EU membership and the Post-Visa Liberalization Monitoring Mechanism (PVLMM). TAIEX is the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument of the European Commission. TAIEX supports public administrations regarding the approximation, application and enforcement of EU legislation as well as facilitating the sharing of EU best practices.

Lecture Sexual Terrorism for Professionals

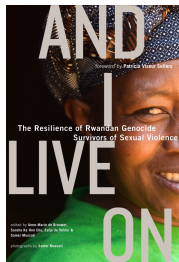
In 2020, we have given a guest lecture on 'Terrorism, Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and Human Trafficking: Boko Haram, Al-Shabaab and ISIS' as part of the Advanced Summer Programme on Terrorism, Counter Terrorism and the Rule of Law of T.M.C. Asser Instituut and the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT), an educational program for professionals.



Empowerment & advocacy

Book “And I Live On”

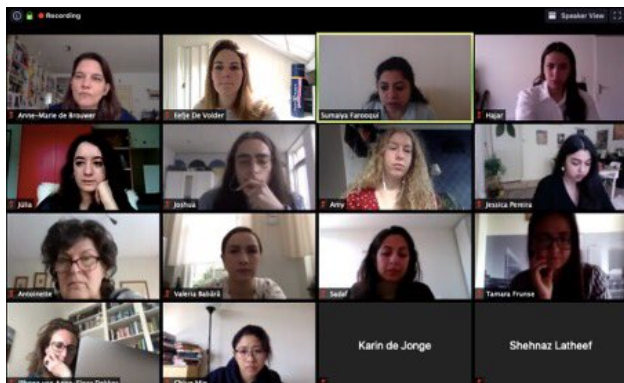
In 2020, we realized, together with Digi Courses, the publication of the Epub of “And I Live On” so that it is now easily accessible. The Epub can be bought online at: <https://digi-courses.com/and-i-live-on/> In 2021, we intend to make available podcasts of the testimonials included in this book.



CRSV Network NL

In 2018, we set up the CRSV Network NL to provide NGOs based in the Netherlands (NL) and working on conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) the opportunity to get an insight on each other’s work and share knowledge on various issues related to sexual violence in conflict. The aim is to strengthening communication and cooperation between NGOs in the Netherlands working on the issue of CRSV. In 2020, the members of the CRSV Network NL included: (1) The Centre for African Justice, Peace and Human Rights; (2) Civitas Maxima; (3) Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation; (4) Equator Foundation; (5) IMPACT: Center against Human Trafficking and Sexual Violence in Conflict; (6) Mukomeze Foundation; (7) Sterk Huis; (8) Women’s Initiatives for Gender Justice; (9) IFHHRO: Medical Human Rights Network; and (10) Redress. The members meet twice a year and the meeting is hosted by one of the members. In 2020, we held both meetings (9 April and 19 November) online due to Covid-19. During the first meeting we discussed the topic of sexual violence against the male gender, which was introduced by several staff members and volunteers of the Centre for African Justice, Peace and Human Rights. During the second meeting we discussed

again a specific theme, namely 'sexual terrorism', which was introduced by Impact and a researcher from T.M.C. Asser Instituut.



Network

In 2020, we sustained our network. One of IMPACT's board members continued to be on the board of La Strada International (LSI), a leading European NGO Platform of NGOs that support trafficked persons at the local level throughout Europe. Further, we chair, on behalf of CoMensha, the quarterly Dutch Strategic meetings on Human Trafficking (SOM), which is a strategic meeting of NGOs in the Netherlands who provide support to victims of trafficking. In 2020, we further replaced the chair of the meeting of care coordinators for victims of trafficking twice.

Signatory of the Dutch National Action Plan (NAP) 1325-IV

On 16 December 2020, we signed the Dutch NAP 1325-IV on Women, Peace and Security. This shows our commitment to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and its successive resolutions on 'Women, Peace and Security'. See for more information on NAP 1325-IV above, under 'research & advice'.



Media & publications

Anne-Marie de Brouwer, Eefje de Volder and Christophe Paulussen, 'Prosecuting the Nexus between Terrorism, Human Trafficking and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence before National Courts: Case Studies of Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab', (2020) *Journal of International Criminal Justice* 18(2), 499-516.

Anne-Marie de Brouwer and Eefje de Volder, [Dampak dari Proses Pengadilan mengenai Kekejaman Skala Besar dan Sistematis yang dilakukan oleh Tentara Belanda di 'Hindia Belanda' antara 1945- 1949](#) (Nuhanovic Foundation, March 2020). Indonesian translation of: *The Impacts of Litigation in Relation to Systematic and Large-Scale Atrocities committed by the Dutch Military Forces in the 'Dutch East Indies' between 1945-1949* (International Litigation Series no. 3, Nuhanovic Foundation, 2019).

Eefje de Volder, 'Global Convening on Trafficking in Women in the Context of Migration', *The Platform For Law Justice and Society* (2020)(51), 44.

Eindhovens Dagblad, 'Rapport Oost-Europese werkers vaak uitgeknepen: Brabant moet werk maken van misstanden' (30 januari 2020).

Journal of Human Trafficking, Enslavement and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, General Issue (2020)(1)(1).

Journal of Human Trafficking, Enslavement and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (JHEC), Special Issue, *Sexual Terrorism* (2020)(1)(2).

GLOBAL CONVENING ON TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBAL MIGRATION (DECEMBER 2019, KENYA)

By Dr. Eefje de Volder

Between 24-26 December 2019, the 2nd Global Convening on Trafficking in Women in the Context of Global Migration, organized by the International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP Asia Pacific), the Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women (GAAW) and FEMNET, was held in Nairobi, Kenya.

The purpose of this convening was to provide input from the Global South to the 3rd General Recommendation on Trafficking of Women and Girls in the Context of Global Migration, which is currently developed by the 3rd Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), after consulting a consultative panel. The 3rd Committee opened up the opportunity for interested parties to submit contributions to the draft. Another goal of the convening was to make the two present CEDAW committees manifest cases of the impact of trafficking on human trafficking not only from a criminal justice perspective, but from a social justice perspective (i.e. women's rights, labour rights, migration, rights for marginalized groups).

The Global Convening in Nairobi built on the analysis shared and recommendations developed at the 1st Global Convening on Trafficking organized by IWRAP Asia Pacific and GAAW in January 2019 in Bangkok. At the Nairobi Global Convening 32 representatives from women's rights, labour rights, migrant rights and sex workers movements, primarily from the African and Asian continent, contributed to the collective process of analyzing evidence and information to the ongoing development of a CEDAW General Recommendation on Trafficking in Women and Girls in the Context of Global Migration.

The Global Convening consisted of several workshops on topics as human trafficking, forced labour and contemporary forms of slavery in the global economy. Re-examining the gender dimensions of trafficking, human trafficking and women's labour migration from Africa and South Asia to the Middle East and Europe into trafficking. The session on rights for women in conflict, women's labour public services and social infrastructure, improving access to justice and compensation for services of human trafficking and community based responses to trafficking.

The Global Convening made Recommendations to the CEDAW to elaborate state obligation under Article 2 of the CEDAW convention (3) to develop



The first draft of the CEDAW General Recommendation on Trafficking in Women and Girls in the Context of Global Migration is now expected to be published in February/March 2020. After a period of further consultation, the final version is expected to be published in November 2020.

Dr. Eefje de Volder (MSc, LL.M., PhD) is a senior lecturer of Gender Studies at the University of Amsterdam. She is also a senior research officer at the Center for Gender Studies and a senior research officer at the Center for Gender Studies and a senior research officer at the Center for Gender Studies.

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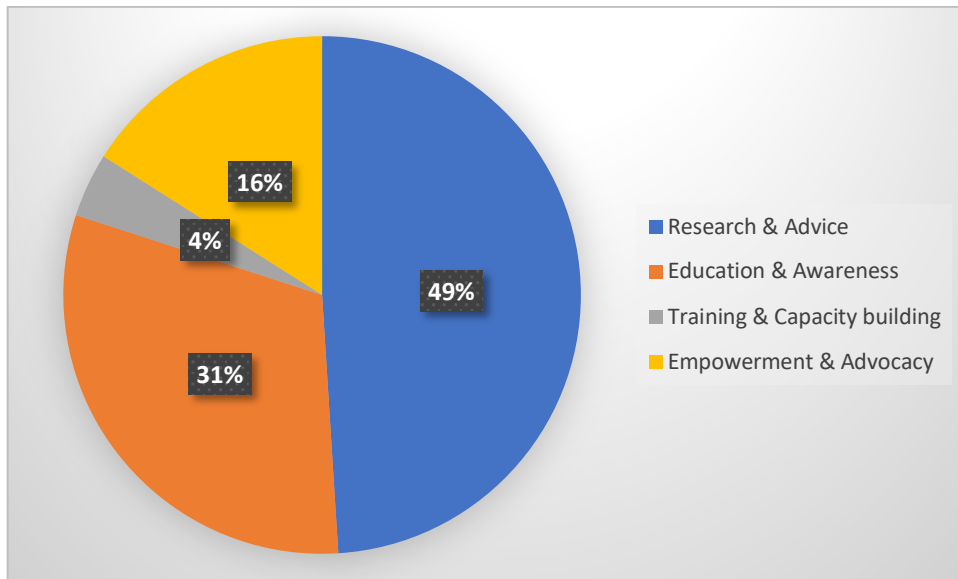
What drives us to continue our work in combatting human trafficking and conflict-related sexual violence, is the impact that we generate. In 2020 we have had impact in several ways. We have witnessed the impact we generated through our research that has been picked up by policy makers, academics and others. For example, our research on labour exploitation in the Netherlands, the NAP1325-IV on WPS, our very own

Journal on Human Trafficking, Enslavement and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, and our article on 'sexual terrorism'. We have furthermore witnessed the impact our education has on students of our Summer Schools. Several of these students have adjusted their further studies to continue studying in the domain of international justice/victims' rights and needs/THB and conflict-related sexual violence, while others found internships and jobs in these fields. Where possible, we support them with recommendation letters and advice in furtherance of their future studies or job applications. It is great to see that our goal of teaching the professionals of the future on the importance of tackling THB and CRSV, is becoming a reality. Being invited and recognized as members of an expert center on THB and CRSV and sharing our knowledge at high-level platforms, together with other experts, has also helped to move the discussion on topics such as THB, enslavement, CRSV, terrorism and its nexus further, for policy makers, students, professionals and the general public alike. Other impact that we have seen is with professionals working in the domain of terrorism, but not being much aware on the topic of 'sexual terrorism', but also with professionals working on THB in Kosovo, to enrich their understandings on 'sexual terrorism' and the protection of victims of THB even further, respectively. Finally, by being part of several networks, such as SOM, La Strada International and the CRSV Network NL, we strive to work together with other professionals in this field and to amplify the voices of survivors.

To keep our own energy level high, we also invest in ourselves. In 2020 we did this by inviting Kristen Jacobs to one of our 'Hay days'. During these days we look back on the previous year and forward to the next. Kirsten Jacobs (Iedereen aan Boord?!) gave us a coaching session on how we can achieve our aims more effectively: from thinking to doing.



Revenues 2020



At IMPACT, 10% of all income is set aside for 'empowerment projects'. In 2020, we supported the Mukomeze Foundation with an ongoing contribution, in support of three Rwandan children who lost their mothers as a consequence of the genocidal sexual violence committed against them and one male survivor of genocidal sexual violence, in basic needs, education in university and/or setting up their own business.

Objectives for 2020

Internal organizational issues:

- *Set up a board*
- *Allow for (personal) coaching in support of IMPACT's mandate*
- *Obtain an ANBI-status*
- *Ensure solid financial basis*

Communication:

- *Elaborate an effective and regular communication strategy via social media and our website*

Projects/content-related:

- *Continue to invest, as a knowledge center, in content-related issues (e.g. our blogs, participation in articles, interviews for radio, newspapers and magazines)*
- *Invest in projects on sexual terrorism*
- *Work out the meaning of the 'impact-criterion'*

Funding:

- *Draft annual (and financial) report and the company policy plan*

- *Ensure solid financial basis for the coming years*
- *Draft a strategy plan for funding and invest in certain funding opportunities each year*