

IMPACT:
Center against Human Trafficking and Sexual Violence in Conflict
Annual Report 2021

Preface

2021 marked our 5 years anniversary, the first lustrum of IMPACT: Center against Human Trafficking and Sexual Violence in Conflict. A year that was again deeply influenced by COVID-19 and its restrictions. Our lustrum year became a year of reflection and restructuring for a sustainable and resilient future of IMPACT.

In this regard, we are very proud to announce that we, Anne-Marie and Eefje, founders and board members of IMPACT, have attracted three amazing and highly skilled women as external board members. Professor Alette Smeulers, who focusses in her work at the University of Groningen on perpetrators of international crimes and the international criminal justice system, is the new chair of IMPACT. Ingrid Straet, founder/director of the Institute of PsychoEconomics (IvPE), is now IMPACT's secretary. And Suzanne Hoff, International Coordinator of La Strada International, has become IMPACT's treasurer. With this step, the first preparations are made for us, Anne-Marie and Eefje, to officially step down as board members and become employed as co-directors of IMPACT, and as such be accountable to the newly established board from 2022 onwards.

Content-wise we also continued to make impact. One was the impact that we had by having our fifth successful edition of our summer school on justice for victims of human trafficking and sexual violence in conflict. It was the first activity IMPACT started with, and it is a great success ever since. The impact of education becomes increasingly clear to us with former students reaching out for recommendation letters to work in our fields and finally seeing them becoming professionals in the field. The seeds that we plant through education last a lifetime.

Second were the first steps in setting up the Huu: project which will be launched in 2022. In this project contemporary art is used to raise awareness about conflict-related sexual violence in an innovative way through a 3d virtual reality. The Huu: project is an audiovisual journey in which you can visit islands and hear the memories of 22 survivors of conflict-related sexual violence from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Rwanda. It offers a safe place where personal stories intertwine with the powers of plants/nature. Our hope is that this virtual reality will be extended to include memories of survivors from other countries and continents in the future.

What, finally, stood out for us in 2021, was the impact we managed to generate by co-authoring the Amicus Curiae on Forced Marriage in the ICC Ongwen case. As a result, our team had been invited to address the Court in February 2022 and explain our arguments, which is an amazing way of contributing to the development and coherent application of international criminal law.

We are very much looking forward to 2022, offering us new opportunities to continue to impact our fields in multiple ways.

Best wishes,

Dr. Anne-Marie de Brouwer

amBrouwer

Dr. Eefje de Volder

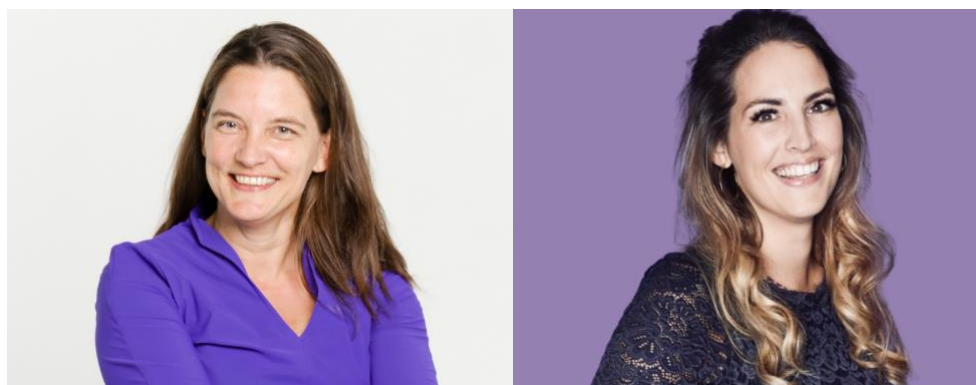
Eefje de Volder



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

Team

In 2021, IMPACT 's team was extended. Next to the founding board members dr. mr. Anne-Marie de Brouwer and dr. mr. Eefje de Volder, as of 17 September 2021, IMPACT attracted three additional external board members (Chair Alette Smeulers, Secretary Ingrid Straet and Treasurer Suzanne Hoff). All with the purpose of Anne-Marie and Eefje stepping down from the board in 2022 to formally continue as co-directors, and as such will be accountable to the external board.



Part 2: Annual Report 2021

Achievements 2021

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 2021 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 we set up a research project into the prosecution of labour exploitation in the Netherlands and the compliance with European and international law. In 2021 we started the research, which is commissioned by CoMensha and FNV (Dutch Trade Union), and is executed together with Professor Conny Rijken of Tilburg University. The research aims to give insight into the gaps that continue to exist in the prosecution of labour exploitation cases in the Netherlands.

Postcare: Posted Care Workers

In 2021 we started, together with La Strada International, the project Postcare in which we conduct research on posted third country national care workers in the Netherlands. This 18-months project, which started on 1 March 2021, focusses on research related to the posting of third-country nationals in European care services. Funded by the European Commission, the project is implemented by an international consortium of trade unions, universities and research institutes and expert organisations in 8 European countries; Italy, Spain, Serbia, Slovenia, Poland, Germany, Greece and the Netherlands. Results foreseen include improved awareness of employers, social partner organizations and public authorities on the implementation of EU law on posting of workers and on trends in posting of third-country nationals and their potential future repercussions.



Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC)

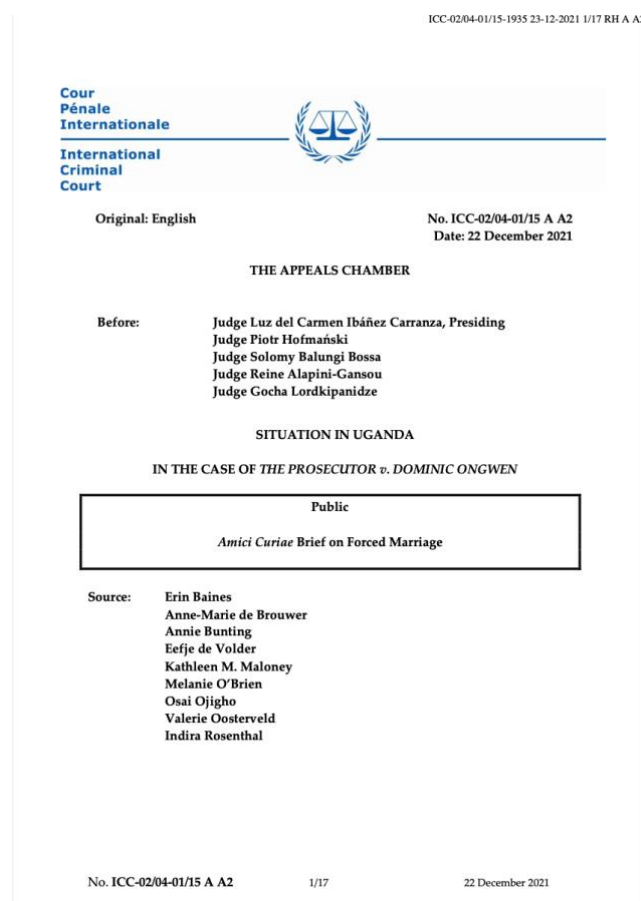
In 2021 we were involved in supporting the drafting of a part of an ECCC Supreme Court Chamber Judgement. In particular on the issue of whether “other inhumane acts” as crimes against humanity include male victims of forced marriage who were coerced to have sexual intercourse without their free consent under the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia.



Ongwen Case at the International Criminal Court (ICC)

The ICC’s Appeals Chamber issued its call for expert observations on sexual and gender-based violence, including forced marriage, in the case of Prosecutor v. Ongwen, in 2021. With a team of experts, including – apart from ourselves – Erin Baines, Annie Bunting, Kathleen M. Maloney, Melanie O’Brien, Osai Ojigbo, Valerie Oosterveld, Indira Rosenthal, we submitted

an amicus curiae brief covering the issue of forced marriage under international criminal law. We submitted that forced marriage is not a “new” crime; that it is a violation of relational autonomy and associated harms; that the “other inhumane act” of forced marriage is a continuing crime; and that forced marriage raises distinct considerations for sentencing and reparations. Our team was subsequently invited to give oral presentations before the Appeals Chamber in 2022.



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

Our *Journal of Human Trafficking, Enslavement and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence* (JHEC), a multi- and interdisciplinary journal on the nexus between human trafficking, enslavement and conflict-related sexual violence, became operational as of early 2020. Publications in the 2021 editions included topics as preventing secondary victimization, social stigma and sexual terrorism, reparations for sexual violence before the ICC, implications of the ICC Ongwen case, the importance of strategic litigation, women as key socialization actors in terrorist organisations and the exploitation of street-involved children.

Advice to Institutions and Interviews to Students/Professionals

In 2021, we provided advice to several organizations, including on sexual terrorism for the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), on the Murad Code - a Global Code of Conduct for Documenting Conflict-Related Sexual Violence - for the Institute for International Criminal Investigations (IICI), and on the Convention on CRSV for the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative of the UK Government (PSVI) and Mukwege Foundation. 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 2021, we gave several interviews to professionals and students about human trafficking and/or conflict-related sexual violence.

Education & awareness

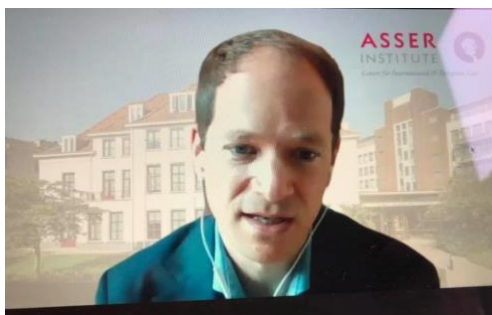
Summer School at Tilburg University

In July 2021, we taught for the fifth time our two-weeks Summer School course at Tilburg University on preventing and addressing conflict-related sexual violence and human trafficking for 37 bachelor/master students representing 9 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 an independent victims' rights expert at the ICC Ongwen case, a clinical psychologist from ARQ Centrum '45 who treats victims of THB and CRSV in the Netherlands, a survivor of human trafficking, a researcher on terrorism and international crimes from the T.M.C. Asser Instituut and a member of the Dutch Armed Forces.

Average score given by the participants for the Summer School 2021: 4.8 (out of 5)

Course participant 2021: "The best course I have ever attended."

Course participant 2021: "It was one of the greatest experiences I've ever had. Here in Italy, especially in the field of law, we're not really used to have such interactive lessons. So, thank you for creating such an amazing space for debating."



GMSI: Introduction to International law and Thesis Cycle

In 2021, 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.

Guest Lecture MVO

In 2021, we offered a guest lecture to students of Graphic Lyceum Sint Lucas (Boxtel, the Netherlands (MBO-level)) on becoming and being social entrepreneurs.

Participation in Conferences/Webinars

In 2021, we participated in several conferences/webinars. In the following webinars, we had an active role as speakers:

(1) *Justice Conference: 25 Years of Partnership between the Netherlands and the Ministry of Justice in Rwanda*, organized by the Ministry of Justice Rwanda and the Dutch Embassy in Rwanda (1-2 June 2021, Kigali, Rwanda). Together with Felix M. Ndahinda, Anne-Marie de Brouwer presented on 'proximity justice', in particular the gacaca courts post-genocide, which inspired some other, still evolving, current mechanisms aimed at addressing dispute settlement procedures within society that are aimed at fostering dialogue and reconciliation (i.e. the Abunzi (mediators), Inama z'Umuryango (family councils), Inteko z'Abaturage (citizens' forums) and the Umugoroba w'Imiryango (families' evenings)). They also wrote a paper on this topic, which they aim to publish in the near future.

(2) *'Aper  du droit Europ en: Falling Through the Cracks? Improving Access to Protection and Remedy for Victims of Trafficking'* (24 June 2021, online), organized by the Institute of European Studies of the University of Brussels and the Center of European Law. The webinar presented a recent ILO study examining access to protection and remedy for victims of human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation available in Belgium and the Netherlands. Eefje de Volder presented on Access to protection and remedies for victims of human trafficking in Belgium and the Netherlands'.

Training & capacity building

Human Trafficking Fieldlab

Since 2021 Impact is involved in a human trafficking field lab on Asian cooks in the hospitality sector in the Netherlands. The purpose of the fieldlab is to engage with a multi-disciplinary team (involving in this case police, labour inspectorate, Public Prosecutor's Office, a municipality, and an NGO) to address a pressing human trafficking issue in the Netherlands in an innovative way, over a period of two years.

Empowerment & advocacy

CRSV Network NL

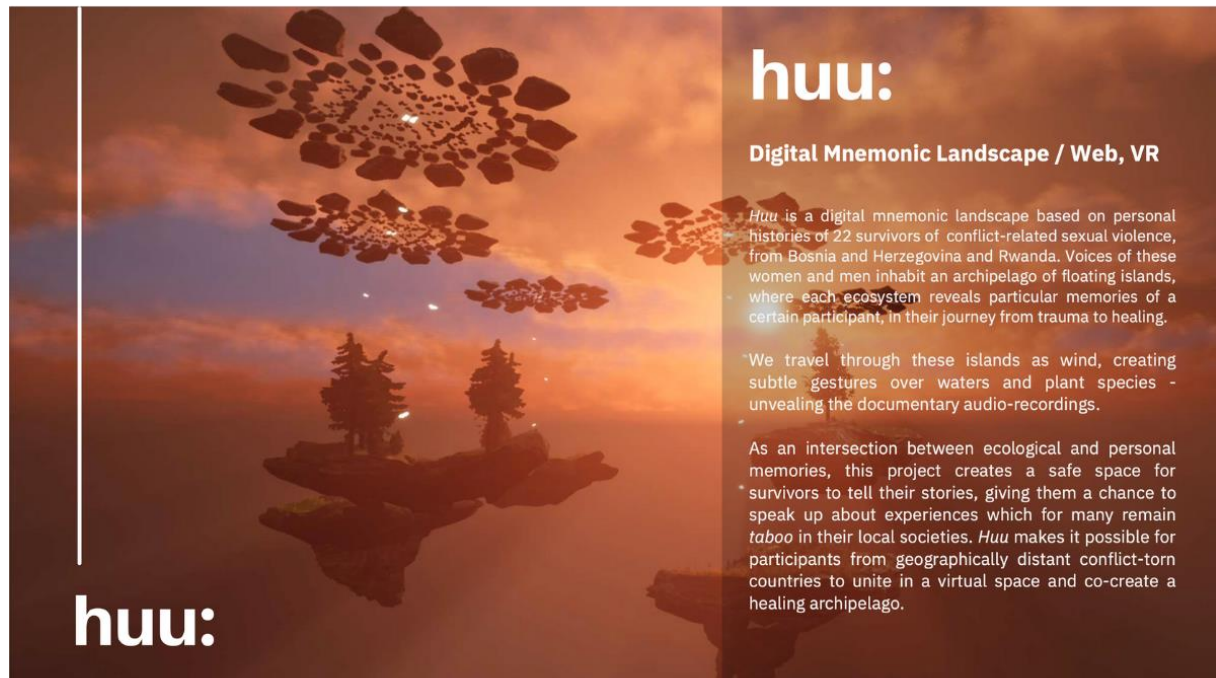
In 2018, we set up the CRSV Network NL to provide NGOs based in the Netherlands (NL) and working on conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) the opportunity to get an insight on each other's work and share knowledge on various issues related to sexual violence in conflict. The aim is to strengthening communication and cooperation between NGOs in the Netherlands working on the issue of CRSV. In 2021, 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 2021, we held both meetings (22 April and 11 November) online due to Covid-19. During the first meeting we discussed the topic of reparation (in)possibilities at the ICC for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in Uganda, with Alina Balta, Victoria Nyanyura, and Lorraine Smith van Lin. During the second meeting we discussed sexual violence taking place within humanitarian organisations, with presenters Jobar Oranje and Peter ten Hove (Gather4Humanity).



Rwanda & Bosnia project on CRSV called Huu:

The Huu: project is an audiovisual journey through the memories of 22 survivors of conflict-related sexual violence (both women and men); from the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina in

1992-1995 and the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda in 1994. An archipelago of islands where personal stories intertwine with healing powers of medicinal plants. A safe place. In 2021, we worked together with Solace Ministries in Rwanda to make sure that the 11 testimonials of genocide survivors of sexual violence were recorded for this project. The launch will be in 2022.



Network

In 2021, we sustained our network. One of IMPACT's co-directors 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. Further we became part of the Gather4Humanity network (G4H) and continued to be a member of WO=MEN and signatory to the 4th National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security (NAP-1325).



COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE
ADDRESSING
WAR CRIMES, GENOCIDE
CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

Media & publications

[Reach the Goal, SDG5 \(Gender Equality\) on NAP1325-IV on Women, Peace and Security](#) (podcast with Anne-Marie de Brouwer and Sam Boering, MDF podcast series Reach the Goal).

[Nauwelijks grip op uitbuiting arbeidsmigranten door uitzendbureaus](#) (radio interview with Eefje de Volder, Pointer KRO NCRV, 2 May 2022).

[Amicus Curiae on Forced Marriage](#), Situation in Uganda: in the case of the Prosecutor v. Dominic Ongwen, No. ICC-02/04-01/15 A A2, 22 December 2021 (Erin Baines Anne-Marie de Brouwer Annie Bunting Eefje de Volder Kathleen M. Maloney Melanie O'Brien Osai Ojigho Valerie Oosterveld Indira Rosenthal).

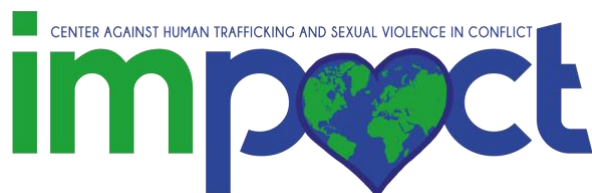




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What drives us to continue our work in combatting human trafficking and conflict-related sexual violence, is the impact that we generate. In 2021 we have had impact in several ways. We have witnessed the impact we generated through our research that has been picked up by policy makers, academics and others. For example, our work on sexual terrorism, the 4th NAP 1325 and our amicus curiae on forced marriage in the ICC Ongwen case. 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'. 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.

Revenues 2021



Since Impact (in 2021) has no staff employed, it has contracted De Brouwer & De Volder Consultancy to implement the projects. At IMPACT, 10% of all income is set aside for 'empowerment projects'. In 2021, 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.

Financial Statement 2021		
	Costs (€)	Income (€)
Financial Costs	209,67	
Office Costs	6583,46	
Travel Costs	325,45	
Acquisition Research and Advice	12654,49	
Acquisition Education and Awareness	31805,99	
Acquisition Training and Capacity Building	0	
Acquisition Empowerment and Advocacy	0	
Expenses (paid)	800	
Research and Advice		24980,59
Education and Awareness		34606,75
Training and Capacity Building		0
Empowerment and Advocacy		594,64
Donations		2000
Expenses (received)		1668
TOTAL	52379,06	63849,98
Balance	11470,92	

Objectives for 2022

Internal organizational issues:

- Further working out the external accountability structures of Impact (employment of co-directors, stepping down from the board)
- Allow for (personal) coaching in support of IMPACT's mandate
- Obtain an ANBI-status
- Expand the number of co-workers, if funding allows

Communication:

- Elaborate an effective and regular communication strategy via social media and our website
- Create a new and appealing website and design

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 and the nexus between human trafficking and conflict-related sexual violence
- Work out the meaning of the 'impact-criterion'

Funding:

- Draft annual (and financial) report and the company policy plan
- Ensure a solid financial basis for the coming years
- Draft a strategy plan for funding and invest in certain funding opportunities each year