

WE ACT & MAKE A PACT AGAINST
HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

Annual Report 2023

Center against Human Trafficking

Impact

& Sexual Violence in Conflict

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Preface

2023 was another year of meaningful impact in the field.

In 2023 we invested in education and awareness by making a start in the development of an online educational platform and e-modules (also together with students) as well as teaching our Summer School at Tilburg University and Maastricht University, and a course on conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) in Nairobi. We also started preparations for a Winter School in January 2024 and were involved in Postcare II, setting up, amongst other things, an online portal with information for posted third country national (care) workers in the Netherlands.

We continued to publish our *Journal on Human Trafficking, Enslavement and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence* and wrote a report for the Platform for Action on children born of CRSV. In addition, we continue to apply and look for funding; one time with better results than the other.

Besides we continue to share our expertise during important events, such as the event on trafficking in human beings (THB) in conflict and accountability of the UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons.

Finally, we keep on investing in ourselves by completing a NLP course (practitioner and master) and also by making an impact in the lives of survivors of CRSV and students, by making sure that part of our proceeds are also given to them.

Enjoy the read!

Best wishes,



Dr. Anne-Marie de Brouwer



Dr. Eefje de Volder

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

1.1. Team

In 2023, dr. mr. Anne-Marie de Brouwer and dr. mr. Eefje de Volder continued their work as Impact's co-directors. The board members of Impact - Alette Smeulers (Chair), Ingrid Straet (Secretary) and Suzanne Hoff (Treasurer) - also continued their work. In this year, Piet Gotlieb (intern) and Julia Penachioni (intern) worked with us on a project on the nexus between CRSV and THB and a project setting up e-modules, respectively.



Anne-Marie de Brouwer



Eefje de Volder



Alette Smeulers



Ingrid Straet



Suzanne Hoff

1.2. IMPACT's ambitions

In 2022, IMPACT's policy plan 2022-2025 was adopted by the board, which is therefore still applicable for 2023. It sets out the focus of IMPACT's work for a meaningful and unique contribution to the field.

Prioritisation of activities: in this period IMPACT focuses primarily on research and education, and secondarily on empowerment projects. Before starting new projects, IMPACT will check whether it can carry out a project based on the impact-criterion, its importance and how financially beneficial it is.

Systemic approach: IMPACT works from a systemic approach. IMPACT does so by:

- Increasing knowledge and creating awareness (being recognised and acknowledged as a centre of expertise on these themes after 5 years).
- Generating strategic impact (lobbying, adjusting legislation, etc).

- Contributing to improving the circumstances of victims/survivors and their families (effective access to facilities/rights), with an eye for a perpetrator perspective as well.

Geographic focus: although IMPACT has a global focus in its mission, in the coming period IMPACT will focus primarily on Europe and Africa.

Content focus: What makes IMPACT unique is the nexus between THB and CRSV (a niche within the field). For this period, in addition to the individual projects on THB or CRSV, IMPACT would like to focus on a number of areas in which IMPACT believes it can make a difference. In doing so, IMPACT focuses on systemic change (impact on multiple levels).

Focus areas: IMPACT will focus on the following areas:

- The nexus between THB and CRSV in the general sense (more attention for this in education and the public debate).
- The nexus between THB and CRSV in international crimes (enslavement/slave trade/forced marriage/sexual slavery).
- The nexus between THB, CRSV and terrorism ('sexual terrorism').
- Continued provision of expertise in dealing with the individual crimes, with specific attention to the role of victims/survivors, awareness and prevention.

2. Annual Report 2023

2.1. Achievements 2023

2.1.1. Research & advice

Expert intervention during the convening event on conflict-related trafficking and accountability of the UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons (20-21 March 2023)

In March, Impact has participated in a two-day hybrid event on conflict-related trafficking and accountability which was organized by the U.N. Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons (TIP), especially women and children, and Duke University School of Law International Human Rights Clinic. During the session on "the forms of trafficking in persons in conflict, including of vulnerable groups", IMPACT contributed as panelist, highlighting the fact that increasingly migrants are unaccounted for in being recognized as victims of human trafficking, the selectiveness of accountability in (post)conflict settings, and the challenges in ensuring that criminal acts are correctly "labelled", documented and accounted for when there is a nexus between various crimes, The insights shared during this event have been used by the UN Special Rapporteur on TIP for her thematic report on the issue, which was published 13 July 2023.

Research into access to legal protection for victims of trafficking into the Netherlands

In 2023, as a follow-up to the research into the prosecution of labour exploitation in the Netherlands, we started a research on the extent to which the current access to legal protection for victims of trafficking in the Netherlands is in line with international, regional and national obligations. This research is conducted together with dr. Gerrie Lodder of the Open Universiteit, and the research will be finalized in 2024.

Platform for Action: promoting the rights and wellbeing of children born of CRSV

In 2023 we drafted a report on progress made by stakeholders in the Platform for Action: Promoting the Rights and Wellbeing of Children Born of CRSV for the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative (PSVI).

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 2023 editions included topics as: ‘comfort women’ and gender persecution in international law; European State and non-State stakeholder views on awareness of and campaigns on THB; the OSCE/ODIHR Code of Practice for ensuring the rights of victims and survivors of THB from a survivor perspective; and children born of CRSV: a review of interdisciplinary responses to their needs and experiences (all of which appeared in our regular issue in July 2023). In 2023 we also worked on our Special Issue, together with guest editor Patricia Viseur Sellers, on the nexus between slavery, the slave trade and human trafficking. This issue will be published in 2024.

Advice to institutions and interviews to students/professionals/journalists

In 2023, we also gave several interviews to professionals, journalists and (PhD) students about human trafficking, conflict-related sexual violence and/or sexual terrorism.

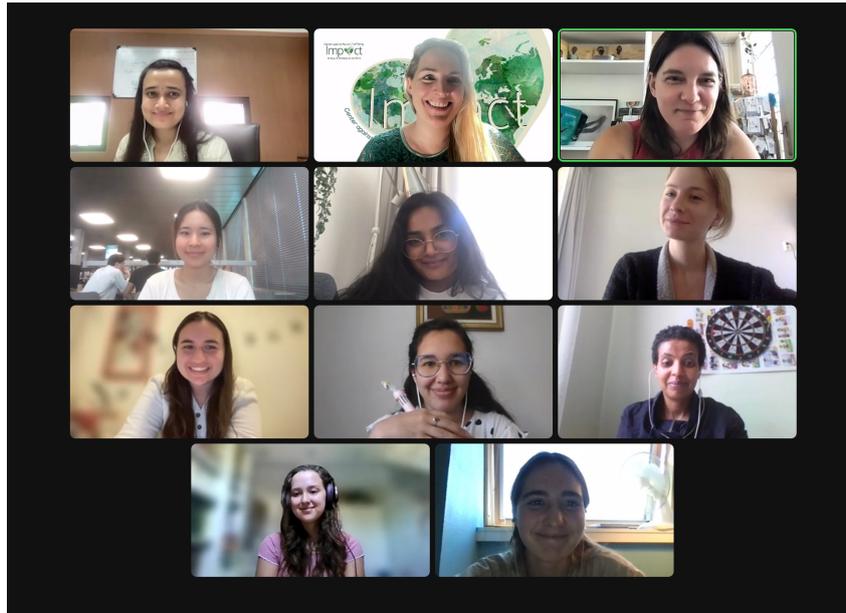
2.1.2. Education & awareness

Postcare II: posted third country care workers

In 2023 Postcare II continued, in which we partnered again with La Strada International. The follow-up project to the Postcare I project aims to improve the information position of posted third country national (care) workers in the Netherlands. For this purpose, an online portal (information center) will be set up, (digital) leaflets will be developed and information sessions will be organised.

Summer School at Tilburg University

In July 2023, we taught for the sixth time our two-weeks Summer School course on preventing and addressing conflict-related sexual violence and human trafficking, together with Tilburg University Outreaching Honors Program. The course was taught online for 11 bachelor/master students and professionals representing 11 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. In addition, several guest lectures were given, including by a clinical psychologist from ARQ Centrum ‘45 who treats victims of THB and CRSV in the Netherlands; a survivor of human trafficking; a professional of La Strada International, an anti-trafficking organization; a team member of the UN Team of Experts on CRSV; and a gender advisor/instructor of the Dutch armed forces.



Average score given by the participants for the Summer School 2023: 4.86 (out of 5)

Course participant 2023: "It was excellent and I'll recommend it for sure to students, as well as practitioners."

Course on Sexual and Gender Based Violence at Strathmore University

In October 2023, we taught an intensive 6 days course on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (as part of the LLM on International Criminal Justice) at Strathmore University in Nairobi, Kenya. The course dealt with definitions of crimes, evidence, procedure, prevention, terrorism, and reparation, amongst other things.

Summer School at Maastricht University

In June 2023, we taught an intensive one-week online Summer School at Maastricht University on human trafficking and sexual violence in conflict to 33 participants representing 10 nationalities and with different educational backgrounds.





Educational platform and e-modules

In 2023, we continued with developing the contents for an educational platform on THB, CRSV and the nexus between those crimes. The aim of the platform is that it can be used for teaching purposes in the near future, in particular for university students. In 2023, we also started with the development of e-modules on the same topic to be used for students, in addition to the educational platform. The project has been funded by the Emanuel Snatager Foundation.

Ilab on THB and e-modules

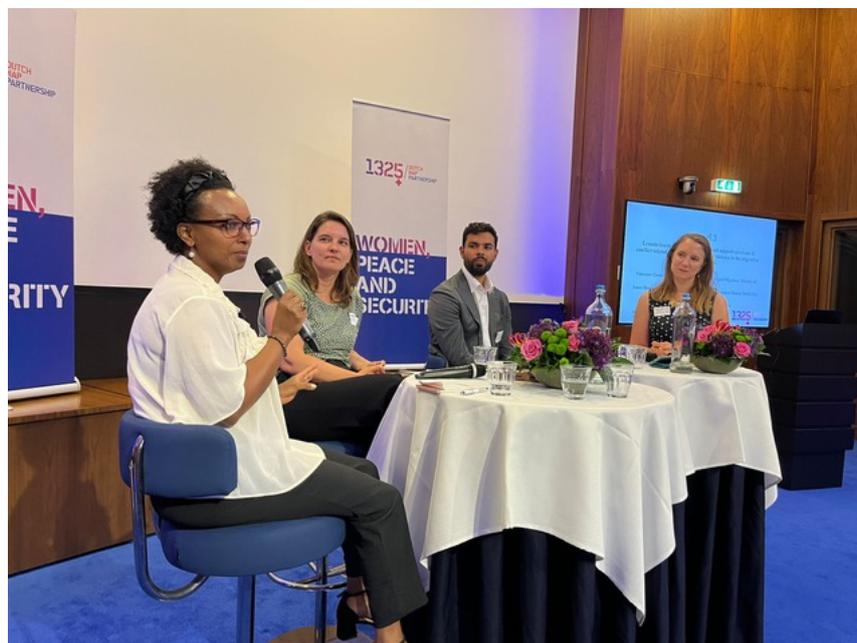
In 2023, we ran two Impact Labs (“Ilabs”) for students from Tilburg University as part of the Outreaching Honors Program. In the Ilab on THB research was undertaken to find out what content should be included in the educational platform with regard to THB. In the Ilab on e-modules students had to think about how they themselves would like to see e-modules on CRSV, i.e. what kind of e-modules platform and materials (articles, video, audio), topics and assignments would they like to use when they themselves would be students in a course on CRSV. The results of this Ilab are supportive of our larger educational platform project (see above).

PhD and master theses supervision

In 2023, we supervised (as external supervisors) several students from the University of Amsterdam who wrote their theses in the field of international (criminal) law and criminal law. In addition, we joined the supervisory Committee of the PhD trajectory on “Exploring the aftermath of human trafficking at the intersection of judicial and personal life spheres - A study at the crossroads of trauma psychology and narrative victimology” at Catholic University Leuven.

Participation in events and networking

In 2023, we participated in several conferences/webinars/events/lectures/roundtables, such as our lecture on human trafficking and CRSV for the Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) (India) and a presentation for students from the VU (Amsterdam Free University) on dealing with emotions and ethics when conducting research on international crimes. On another occasion we participated in the bi-annual event of signatories of NAP1325 on 12 June at the Dutch Ministry of Justice and Security, organized by WO=MEN, on protecting women and girls in and from conflict situations. Our contribution during a panel discussion focused on the nexus between trafficking, enslavement and CRSV, with a particular focus on why survivors of sexual and gender-based violence should be identified in a.o. the Dutch asylum and migration chain, also in relation to fighting impunity.



School for International Training (SIT) Guest Lecture

In July 2023, we gave a guest lecture during SIT's summer program 'Human Trafficking, Sex Trade, & Modern Slavery in Europe' in Amsterdam for international students discussing more on human trafficking, conflict-related sexual violence and its nexus.

2.1.3. Training & capacity building

In 2023, activities on training and capacity building were included in some of the other projects already mentioned above (under 'research and advice' and 'education and awareness').

2.1.4. 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 2023, 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 usually meet twice a year and the meeting is hosted by one of the members. In 2023, we didn't meet due to time constraints.

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 2023, we continued to work with our partners in this project (Solace Ministries, Medica Zenica, Justice for Women, Kuma International, Pure Web, Nada). The launch was anticipated in 2022/23, but due to some technical and manpower setbacks, the official launch is now planned for 2024.

Network

In 2023, 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 continue to be a member of WO=MEN and signatory to the 4th National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security (NAP-1325). In 2023, IMPACT became institutional member of the Dutch Royal Association of International Law ('Koninklijke Vereniging Internationaal Recht') and the Coalition of the International Criminal Court (CICC). Lastly, in 2023 we signed a letter of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security together with many other NGOs, to lobby for a Crimes against Humanity Convention, including among others. the crime of forced marriage.

2.1.5. Media (TV and Newspapers) and Parliamentary Discussions

Trouw, *Opinie: Overlevers van seksueel geweld in oorlog en conflict worden wereldwijd in de steek gelaten* (Laila Ait Baali en Anne-Floor Dekker, 12 December 2023, referencing the work of IMPACT)

2.1.6. Publications

Journal of Human Trafficking, Enslavement and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, General Issue (2023)(4)(1).

2.1.7. Making an IMPACT

What drives us to continue our work in combatting human trafficking and conflict-related sexual violence, is the impact that we generate. As discussed in the above, we have had impact in 2023 in several ways. We have witnessed the impact we generated through our research that has been picked up by policy makers, academics and others.

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.

We continue to see the impact that 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 or even hiring them as interns ourselves. 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. And we are excited that the Snatager Foundation has given us the opportunity to expand our reach even further by providing funding for the development of an online educational platform on (the nexus between) CRSV and THB.

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.

2.2. Revenues 2023

2.2.1. Financial statement 2023

Financial Statement 2023		
	Costs (€)	Revenues (€)
Personnel costs	118.723,95	
Financial costs	420,52	
Office costs	5280,92	
Network and professional expenses	912,76	
IT-costs	1567,50	
Accountant and administration costs	2417,10	
Gifts and donations	2930,00	
Passing on costs		2449,05
VAT	1410,00	
Purchase Education and Awareness	297,94	
Revenues Research and Advice		4200,00
Revenues Education and Awareness		57.739,00
Revenues Empowerment and Advocacy		10.578,52
Revenues Rent office		2175,95
Revenues Donations		24,75
TOTAL	133.960,69	77.167,27
<i>Balance</i>		<i>-56.793,42</i>

2.2.2. Financial narrative

The personnel costs include such costs as salaries, holiday pay, pension, social security, travel, reimbursements for interns, and professional education and have increased since 2022, mainly because in 2022 we started to pay personnel costs since March (so not covering a full year), one staff member had an increase in days of work (from 2 to 3), increase from labour agreement, and an increase of NLP trainings for staff. Other costs concern financial costs, office costs, network and professional expenses (including such costs as subscriptions and networking activities), IT-costs, gifts and donations (see below for the amount set aside for empowerment projects), accountant and administration costs, and VAT. Most of these costs have increased in comparison with the previous year, although due to the delivery of services

by Impact for a project executed by VOF De Brouwer & De Volder (office, IT, personnel) part of these costs were also received back ('passing on costs'). For the latter project, staff at Impact worked on it, but since the funder could not pay Impact directly, the Impact staff was hired for the project as consultants via the said VOF.

In 2023, Impact's revenues increased for the pillar 'Education and Awareness' and decreased substantial for the pillar 'Research and Advice' and slightly for the pillar 'Empowerment and Advocacy'. More specifically, in 2023, the revenues Impact received for 'Research and Advice' related to the following projects: Journal of Human Trafficking, Enslavement and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence; and PSVI Platform for Action project. The revenues received for 'Education and Awareness' related to the annual Summer School on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and Human Trafficking at Tilburg University; a Winter School on the same topic at Tilburg University (taught for the first time); ILABs for the Outreaching Honors Program of Tilburg University; a guest lecture on human trafficking; a course on SGV at Strathmore University; theses supervision at the University of Amsterdam; and the development of an educational platform with funding from the Snatager Foundation. The Postcare II project was this year included under this pillar (instead of 'research and advice') since it better fits here. Under the pillar 'Empowerment and Advocacy', the Dutch Strategic meeting on Human Trafficking (SOM) is again included. This year also some revenues were received for rent of the Impact office from Bèkske: Rwandan Empowerment Coffee as they made use of part of the office.

At IMPACT, an amount of the result is set aside for 'empowerment projects'. Like in 2022, in 2023, Impact 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. In addition, we supported a student to attend Tilburg University via the "Have a Seat" program.

3. Objectives for 2024

Internal organizational issues:

- *Expand the number of co-workers, if funding allows*

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 and the nexus between human trafficking and conflict-related sexual violence based on IMPACT's formulated objectives 2022-2025*
- *Work out the meaning of the 'impact-criterion'*

Funding:

- *Ensure a solid financial basis for the coming years*
- *Invest in applying for larger grants each year*