

Stichting Geloofsinburgering

Organization of Faith Integration - Connected

2020 year report



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Stichting Geloofsinburgering is classified as ANBI/PBO (public benefit organization).

Introduction

'Connected', is what we have titled this year report. This word has been very important for us in the past year, a year that was characterized by the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic. During the past year we have made it our mission to stay connected with migrants in the Netherlands and accompany them, helping them to find answers to questions about faith. The pandemic was an extra challenge, because we had to find out new (digital) ways to facilitate our work. We provided one-on-one support (in person) and went on lots of walks, but also set up many digital activities and were active on social media. This appeared to be very important work, because many migrants and refugees were even more vulnerable than usual during these hard times, because social networks and a stable economic and societal position is often lacking for them.

The year of 2020 was, to our surprise, also a year in which the organizations experienced a lot of growth. A new country team was started, new volunteers joined us and we launched new course material around the theme of trauma and healing for refugees. We also had the chance to spend time reflecting on everything we have been doing, and training the people who had just joined us. We hope to be starting up real-life group events soon, when the health situation allows us to.

We thank the Lord that has blessed us so much this past year, and are excited to continue our journey into the next year.

1.1 Our mission

Integration is very important, but is often thought about to be just about learning a new language and understanding a new culture. However, migration is about so much more than that! Migrants take their beliefs with them on their journey. Once they arrive in the Netherlands questions of these types may arise: How do I relate to the Dutch culture? How can I be a believer in a secular country? How does my faith take shape here? How do I make connections with other Christians?

The organization of Faith Integration wants to help migrants find answers to these questions. Our mission is very relevant in 2020. There are almost 4 million people with a migration background in the Netherlands. More than 1.3 million of them are Christian and aside from them there are many migrants with other religious backgrounds. We want to help them by connecting Dutch and Migrant Christians. We also want to offer our help to migrants that want to know more about the Christian Faith.

We do not just want to be there for the migrants themselves. Dutch Christians

and Dutch churches often have questions too, about how to connect with migrants and refugees in the right way. We offer trainings at schools and higher education for them. Aside from that, we advise and supervise churches whenever they have questions about specific situations or specific people groups.

1.2 The board

The board of the organization consists of four members:

Chair: Eric Begeer

Secretary: Bas Plaisier

Treasurer: Peter van Duijn

Member: Marion Huberland

Bas Plaisier started his work as the secretary in 2020.

The board members work as volunteers for the organization, without receiving financial compensation.

Aside from the board, the organization has four advisors: Rev. Dr. Lauran Bethell, Rev. Marien Kollenstaart, drs Arie de Pater and ir. Harm van Schie. All four of them have valuable experience and expertise in the field.

2. 2020 results

2.1 Supporting migrants and migrant churches

In 2020 we continued our work in supporting migrants.

1. Migrant Churches

Whenever a migrant church does not have a pastor, they can turn to us for ordained practices (like sermons, funerals, weddings, baptisms etc.). In 2020 we offered pastor services to multiple migrant churches, among which:

- Karen Church Ede
- Kachin Church Amsterdam
- Arabic Church Gouda
- Eritrean Protestant Church (location secretive)

Other than that, we advised migrant churches with regards to online presence and staying connected during the pandemic and lockdown and helped with online events.

2. Youth

It is really crucial for young migrants to have a safe space to ask questions about faith and life. A place where there is understanding towards their specific situation, as they are situated in between two cultures. We are thankful to say that in 2020 the young people that came to us with questions before, knew to find us again and kept coming back. In 2020 we offered:

- Online chat options for counseling and pastoral care
- Real-life one-on-one counseling sessions
- Practical help and advice with regards to school, internships, tutoring, administration, finding homes, finding jobs
- The last months of 2020: a youth group with meals and bible study

3. Adults

In 2020 we spent a lot of time on individual help for adults and families. 2020 was a year in which there was a lot more need for practical help than other years. Specifically as a lot of migrants were fired from their non-essential jobs and lost their income. We could function as mediators between refugees and the protestant church funds to help the Dutch churches help refugees. We were also able to offer our own help and support, especially when it came to questions about the pandemic, or issues that were related to the pandemic like domestic violence.

2.2 Material: Freedom Focus (course)

In the year of 2020 we developed new course material: the 'Freedom Focus for Men' course. Refugees and migrants have to go through a lot on their journey to finally settle in the Netherlands. They face violence, war and abuse. Therefore, it is no surprise that a lot of migrants arrive to the Netherlands in a traumatized state. Once in the Netherlands, they can start processing all that has happened.

However the way to Dutch psychological and psychiatric health care is not easy for migrants. They are often held back by taboos, language and cultural differences between them and their therapist. Other than that, the secular health care system in the Netherlands has often no understanding for the deep religious beliefs of refugees. A lot of migrants are left with unresolved trauma, leading to many issues, the main one being substance addiction.

In the Freedom Focus course, we offer the chance to at least start talking about the issues and problems and take steps towards healing.

The course lessons were written in 2020 and tested in a pilot with, among others, Arab and Myanmarese men. The course was highly successful, as it was especially designed for this target group of refugee men. During the sessions, time was spent on mental health basics and psychologic needs, but also on the role of the Christian faith in the healing process.

After the pilot, the materials were re-assessed and are now published and made available to other organizations and churches on our website (in Dutch). In 2021 we have started working on a version of the course that is targeted towards refugee women.

2.3 Education

It is important to us to encourage awareness of the issues around migrants, beliefs and connection in the Netherlands. One thing we do to enhance that is make our expertise available through education.

Guest lectures

In 2020 we offered multiple guest lectures and sessions on the High School classes of the Wartburg College. We shared information and had refugees tell their stories. It was wonderful to see how much of an impact it had on the students.

To our disappointment, but very understandable, all other guest lectures on schools were canceled because of the national lockdown.

Conference for pioneers in Germany

During and online conference we had the chance to help equip and prepare our German colleagues that work for All Nations about intercultural churchplanting. We talked about the chances being a multicultural community offers but also about th(sometimes less obvious) pitfalls.

Exchanging knowledge

As a result of our collaboration with 'Kennisinstituut Christelijke GGZ' and its department at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam we hosted an expert meeting for professionals about mental and spiritual wellbeing.

2.4 Country teams

The country teams are an important part of our organization. They collect knowledge, organize activities and build up networks. They are also a source of information for other people and organizations that want to start up work among migrants. In 2020 we made an arrangement with the Pioneer department of the Protestant Church Netherlands (PKN). Both our Arabic team and our country team did become interdenominational pioneer project of this collaboration.

Arabic country team

This team started up in 2020. The volunteers have Syrian and Iraqi backgrounds. The local church of Waddinxveen supports this team. Over the past year the activities have mainly been online. As of shortly, the real-life meetings have started up as well, as an Al Massira group. We are so thankful for this team coming together and that it is recognized as an official pioneer project by the Protestant church.

Chinese country team

The Chinese team was very strong and inspiring during the lockdown, in coming together online and keeping in touch with everyone. The Chinese group meets up twice a week and has grown a lot over the past year. During lockdown, there was a big need for community and meaningful conversations. This team reaches mainly Chinese women. They are very excited about the project and excite others for it in their turn.

Eritrean/Ethiopian country team

For the Eritrean team, the switch towards only community was a lot harder, because of characteristics of the target group. Our volunteers Rahwa and Mehret did however handle the situation very well, by mainly keeping up one-on-one and individual contacts with the Eritrean women. In this way help could be offered in a personal way, which turned out to be very crucial during lockdown. Aside from the individual support, the Eritrean team also hosts biweekly Buna meetings, which are centered around language-learning and societal participation.

Sharing bread team.

In 2020 Sharing Bread was an online presence, posting interviews, photos and other intercultural content. They also hosted two very successful online women's events with music, dancing and conversations. Margriet Shein, who was one of the main volunteers for the project, had to stop because of health reasons. Joëlle van Schie, Arianne Boog and Seng Hkwan are continuing her work.



2.5 Hub Mentall wellbeing christian migrants

This knowledge network is centered around the interaction of psyche, faith, migration and multiculturalism. The goal is to bring together and train pastors, mental health professionals and researchers that work with Christians with a migration background. We pay attention to questions around Christian migrants with mental issues, migrant pastors that have to do counseling in the Dutch context and caretakers that want to learn more about multiculturalism of their clients.

The organisation of Faith Integration works together with Prof. Dr. Hanneke Schaap, rector of the Kennisinstituut Christelijke GGZ and professor by special appointment of clinical and religious psychology at VU Amsterdam. We also work with Dr. Daniëlle Phillips-Koning, who conducts research about migrants churches, counseling and mental health care for the Center for Theology and Migration at VU University.

In 2020 we hosted a network meeting for all professionals involved.

2.6 Special projects

Multicultural Choir

- One of our projects was this song. At the begin of lockdown we brought together migrants of 40 different nationalities to sing this song of hope together. The video has been viewed almost eight thousand times. It is available to listen to through this link:

[Dutch Multicultural Virtual Choir - Jezus, hoop van de volken - YouTube](#)

Live stream in 7 languages

In collaboration with local multicultural church ICU in Gouda we offered Sunday services online in seven languages: Dutch, Tigrinya, English, Chinese, Burmese, Arabic and Karen, for migrants that were not able to join church meeting because of lockdown. This was very meaningful, especially during the first lockdown. During the second lockdown it became of somewhat less important, because migrant churches started to be able to host more of their own online presence. We helped many migrant churches to get together their live stream services and online activities.

Advent Calendar

During Advent 2020 we launched a hybrid (both online and offline) advent calendar. It consisted of a physical calendar with 25 daily boxes that contained presents, bible verses and some type of assignment to complete. It was complemented by daily Youtube videos of music, testimonies and dance from all types of different cultures. The calendar was available in five different languages. A big intercultural team helped putting together, wrapping and delivering the calendars.

Finance

Financial statements 2020

Balance

Balans per 31 december	2020		2019		2018		2017	
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
ACTIVA								
VLOTTENDE ACTIVA								
I. Kortlopende vorderingen en overlopende activa	1.089		2.627		3.285		-	
II. Liquide middelen	41.874		30.623		28.824		27.440	
Totaal		42.963		33.250		32.109		27.440
PASSIVA								
I. Reserves								
Continuïteitsreserve	34.938		23.350		26.556		22.343	
II. Voorzieningen								
Kortlopende schulden en overlopende passiva	8.025		9.900		5.553		5.097	
Totaal		42.963		33.250		32.109		27.440

Income statement

RESULTATENREKENING	2020		2019		2018		2017	
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
BATEN								
Donaties kerkenovertuigingen	44.545		37.623		29.166		22.061	
Consultancy migrantenkerken			714		4.995		-	
Subsidies	36.900		25.000		15.000		15.000	
Giften van particulieren	2.153		2.164		5.817		3.625	
Preekbeurten			-		122		100	
Giften m.b.t. Al Massira	1.232		-		700		-	
Donatie voor vrijwilligers St. Ds Van Dijk			-		5.000		-	
Totaal baten		84.830		65.501		60.800		40.786
LASTEN								
Salariskosten predikant	57.853		53.988		49.989		16.280	
Kosten vrijwilligers	7.431		6.530		1.852		-	
Bijdrage Al Massira uit giften 2018			600					
Algemene kosten	7.961		7.542		4.749		2.163	
Totaal lasten		73.245		68.660		56.590		18.443
Rentebaten		-2		-2		-3		-
Resultaat		11.587		-3.157		4.213		22.343
Bestemming van het resultaat boekjaar								
Toevoeging aan Continuïteitsreserve		11.587		-3.157		4.213		22.343

Toelichting Activa

Balans per 31 december	2020		2019		2018		2017	
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Liquide middelen								
Bankrekeningen								
NL59 RABO 0318 1255 28	4.874		10.623		2.574		5.940	
NL81 RABO 3318 7466 06	37.000		20.000		26.250		21.500	
	<u>41.874</u>		<u>30.623</u>		<u>28.824</u>		<u>27.440</u>	
Debiteuren								
Debiteuren	-		540		3.285		-	
Overige vorderingen	1.089		170		-		-	
	<u>1.089</u>		<u>710</u>		<u>3.285</u>		<u>-</u>	
	<u>42.963</u>		<u>31.333</u>		<u>32.109</u>		<u>27.440</u>	

Toelichting Passiva

Reserves								
Continuïteitsreserve								
Saldo per 1 januari	23.351		26.507		22.343		-	
Resultaat	11.587		-3.157		4.164		22.343	
Saldo per 31 december	<u>34.938</u>		<u>23.350</u>		<u>26.507</u>		<u>22.343</u>	
Kortlopende schulden en overlopende passiva								
Crediteuren	2.869		3.106		996		121	
Overlopende passiva			-		125		-	
Reservering vakantiegeld	1.830		1.716		1.425		794	
	<u>4.699</u>		<u>4.822</u>		<u>2.546</u>		<u>915</u>	
Loonheffing								
Belastingdienst	3.326		3.161		3.056		2.010	
	<u>3.326</u>		<u>3.161</u>		<u>3.056</u>		<u>2.010</u>	
Pensioenpremies								
Pfzw	-		-		-		2.172	
	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>		<u>2.172</u>	
Totaal	<u>42.963</u>		<u>31.333</u>		<u>32.109</u>		<u>27.440</u>	

Explanation continuity reserve

The continuity reserve of 2020 consists of funds that have already paid for the 2021 financial year. These amounts have been attributed to various projects and will be used for these projects in 2021.

4. Sponsors and partners

Our organisation depends fully on donations. We thank our sponsors:

- Maatschappij van Welstand
- Cedar Springs Presbyterian church
- De Verre Naasten
- Ds. J. Van Dijkstichting
- Commissie Rentebaten Regio Gelden
- Diaconie PG Gouda
- Diaconie Kerk in Nesselande
- Diaconie PG De Rank
- Stronck Kempfonds

And all of the individual donators.

Partners

We are part of the Migrant Expert Network and work together with Protestant Church Netherlands (PKN), Intercultural Church Plants (ICP), Stichting Gave, Stichting Evangelie & Moslims and Intercultural Impact.



5. Terugblik en vooruitkijken:

In the previous year report we described our goals for 2020:

- continuing activities
- developing course about healing from trauma and addiction
- more coaching for future pastors
- hosting a large youth conference with 'connecting' as a theme
- continuing the country teams and start new ones

We are very grateful to see that most of these goals became reality even though we had a global pandemic. The Freedom Focus course was finished and is used by multiple churches and organizations as of now. We did guest lectures in pastor training and lectures for our German colleagues. Aside from that we started a new country team and continued our previous ones. We got together professionals to discuss the intersection of counseling, migration and mental health. The youth conference could not take place, for obvious reasons.

We have the following goals for 2021:

- continuing activities
- continuing the country teams and start a new one if we have the resources
- developing the Freedom Focus course women's special, and make it public
- focus more on training and teaching Dutch pastors and churches about our migrant and refugee brothers and sisters

6. Team and contact

Board

Chair: Eric Begeer
Treasurer: Ir. Peter van Duijn
Secretary: Rev. Bas Plaisier
Member: Marion Huberland

Advisors

Rev. Dr. Lauran Bethell
Rev. Marien Kollenstaart
Ir. Arie de Pater
Ir. Harm van Schie

Team

Director: Rev. Esther van Schie
Fundraising/correspondence: drs. Arjanna Flier-
Honkoop
Chinees country team: Amber Hwan
Angie Balvers
Yang Yang
Ethiopian/Eritrean team: Mehret Asayango
Rahwa Yonas
Miranda Glasbergen
Arabic Team : Lamaii Gehazi
Klazina Begeer
Sharing bread team: Seng Hkwan
Arianne Boog
Joelle van Schie
ds. Marien Kollenstaart
Jemima Chandoe
Desing: ir. Loek Balvers
Website: Nettie Blom
Accountant:



