



Stichting Human Rights Watch Nederland

Annual Report 2018/2019

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1. WHO WE ARE

1.1 Human Rights Watch Inc.

Human Rights Watch Inc. is a non-profit, nongovernmental human rights organisation first established in 1978 and headquartered in New York that closely coordinates with a network of 31 regional offices around the world that share its name (hereinafter “Human Rights Watch”), including Stichting (foundation) Human Rights Watch Nederland.

Human Rights Watch is one of the world’s leading independent organisations dedicated to protecting the human rights of people around the world.

The organisation is made up of roughly 480 staff members representing 82 nationalities. Its staff consists of human rights professionals including country experts, lawyers, journalists, and academics of diverse backgrounds and nationalities.

Human Rights Watch is known for its accurate fact-finding, impartial reporting, and targeted advocacy, often in partnership with local human rights groups. Each year, Human Rights Watch publishes more than 60 reports, around 1,500 press releases and approximately 250 videos on human rights conditions in some 100 countries, generating extensive coverage in local and international media.

With the leverage this brings, Human Rights Watch meets with governments, the United Nations, regional groups like the African Union and European Union, financial institutions, and corporations to press for changes in policy and practice that promote human rights and justice around the world.

1.2 Stichting Human Rights Watch Nederland

Stichting Human Rights Watch Nederland is part of the international Human Rights Watch organisation. The Foundation participates in these activities whenever effective strategy calls for its involvement. For additional information about Human Rights Watch research on The Netherlands, please go to The Netherlands country research page at <https://www.hrw.org/europe/central-asia/netherlands>.

Stichting Human Rights Watch Nederland (the “Foundation”) is a foundation incorporated under the laws of the Netherlands, having its registered office in Amsterdam. The foundation is registered at the Commercial register of Chamber of Commerce under file number: 41216606.

ANBI Status

The Foundation has an ANBI (Algemeen nut beogende instellingen) status.
In English known as a Public Benefit Organisation (PBO).

RSIN number: 816121977

In November 1996, Stichting Human Rights Watch Nederland was founded (hereinafter “HRW Netherlands”). The foundation is part of the international Human Rights Watch organisation. The foundation’s primary purpose is to raise money in The Netherlands to support the worldwide operations of Human Rights Watch.

In January 2009, the Netherlands Committee of Human Rights Watch was founded, a group of volunteers who support the office through fundraising, outreach, and advocacy initiatives.

In September 2010, Human Rights Watch opened its Netherlands office in Amsterdam in order to support the work of Human Rights Watch worldwide, as well as to intensify its advocacy on key global human rights issues. The foundation is incorporated under the laws of the Netherlands. The main purpose of the entity is fundraising.

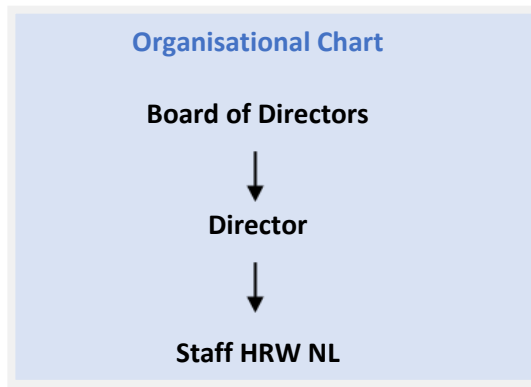
In 2018/2019, the staff in the Netherlands office consisted of a senior researcher for our Asia division, a senior press officer, a senior operations administrator and three development staff working on fundraising, outreach, and advocacy in the Netherlands.

Since its founding, HRW Netherlands has strengthened relations with those in the Netherlands financially supporting the organisation, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and members of Dutch parliament, among others.

1.3 Governance & Organisational Structure

Human Rights Watch has a rigorous self-governance system in place that includes the activities of our Board of Directors, Executive Management Team (EMT), and staff at large. Human Rights Watch's EMT (consisting of Executive Director Kenneth Roth and directors of Program, External Relations, Advocacy, Development and Global Initiatives, and Operations) is responsible for managing the day-to-day governance of the organisation and making decisions related to the size and allocation of the annual budget, among other responsibilities. Our executive director is accountable to and evaluated by the Board.

The organisational structure of HRW Netherlands in 2018/2019.



Board of Directors

Legal Representatives

Mr. Chuck Lustig

Member since 1 November 2016

Chair

Deputy Executive Director for Operations, HRW

Mr. Justin A.J.W. Nieuwenhuys

Member since 27 November 1996

Secretary

Director, Fair Capital Partners

Mrs. Janet Visbeen

Member since 15 March 2019

Member

Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers

Mrs. Michele A. Alexander

Member since 15 June 2010

Member

Deputy Executive Director for Development & Global Initiatives, HRW

Ms. Aissata Bangoura

Member since 1 October 2013 (Resigned per 30 April 2019)

Treasurer

Associate Director European Accounting, HRW

Netherlands Director

Authorized representative

Mrs. Katrien van de Linde

Since 3 December 2018

Senior Associate Director for Development & Global Initiatives

Mrs. Tammy Parrish

Resigned per 14 December 2018

Associate Director for Development & Global Initiatives

Fixed staff

Senior Researcher

Asia Division

Senior Europe Press Officer

Communications

Senior Officer

Development & Global Initiatives

Senior Associate

Development & Global Initiatives

Senior Operations Administrator

Operations

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of Human Rights Watch Inc. is the international board overseeing the financials of the entire organisation. Human Rights Watch Netherlands is also represented by a local Board.

- The Board of Directors of the foundation consists of at least three persons.
- Directors are appointed for a period of one year. After this period, they can be reappointed.
- Directors are appointed, suspended and dismissed by the chair of HRW Netherlands.

Responsibilities of Board Members

- The Board is responsible for managing the organisation's assets and ensuring they are used to fulfil its mission.
- The Duty of Care requires Directors to be familiar with HRW's finances and activities, and to participate regularly in its governance.
- The Duty of Loyalty requires Directors to act at all times in the best interest of HRW and to act with particular openness and sensitivity with respect to any matter that might present a conflict of interest.
- The Duty of Obedience requires Directors to ensure that HRW complies both with applicable laws and regulations and with its internal governance documents and policies.

Expectations/Roles and responsibilities of Board Members

- Support the organisation to carry out its mission
- Ensure fiscal compliance with organisation's stated mission
- Approve the annual budget of the office prepared by the Finance division
- Approve the audited accounts
- Support Human Rights Watch's programmatic efforts by participating in advocacy or outreach projects, as appropriate and necessary
- Contribute expertise through participation on at least one Board, Council or Advisory Committee or in special projects
- Share networks and help raise funds
- Attend and participate in Board meetings, if possible, in person, or by phone or videoconference
- Attend an annual dinner
- Make Human Rights Watch a philanthropic priority

Director

Until December 2018 this role was partly executed by the Associate Director, Mrs. Tammy Parrish, who temporarily took over the responsibilities in the role of Netherlands Director.

In December 2018 the new Netherlands Director, Mrs. Katrien van de Linde started. The Netherlands Director reports to the Managing Director based in London.

Staff HRW NL

Development and Global Initiatives

Globally, the Development and Global Initiatives Department is led by the Deputy Executive Director (DED) of Development and Global Initiatives and handles the fundraising and outreach activities of Human Rights Watch.

The Amsterdam office represents HRW in the Netherlands. The office consists of a small team including the Associate Director, Senior Officer, and Senior Associate. The team is primarily responsible for activities pertaining to fundraising (development), but also engages in press and advocacy work.

The Managing Director of the division, based in London, also oversees the Amsterdam office.

Communications/Media

The Media Department is primarily responsible for the communications, public relations and media aspects of HRW. Globally, the Department is led by the Deputy Executive Director (DED) of External Relations and consists of Digital, Multimedia, and Online Divisions.

The Senior Press Officer Europe is part of the Communications Division. The Senior Press Officer is based in Amsterdam and not only oversees media work in The Netherlands but also work in several other European countries. He reports simultaneously to the European Media Director.

Program

The Asia Division is a part of the Program Office. The Program Office consists of regional and thematic divisions and oversees research, reporting, and various other work. The Asia Division works to advance human rights in Asia and conducts a wide range of work, including investigation, report writing, advocacy, and media work.

One employee reporting to the Asia Division was based in the Netherlands office: Senior South Asia Researcher Tejshree Thapa. Human Rights Watch mourns the loss of Tejshree, who passed away on March 26, 2019, from an illness at the age of 52. Tejshree was a passionate human rights lawyer whose work spanned crises and conflicts in the Balkans, Nepal,

Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. She had broad expertise in human rights law, international and domestic politics, post-conflict justice, and reparations mechanisms, and had also worked for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on violence against women. Her research for Human Rights Watch, starting in 2004, involved interviews with victims of human rights abuses—and those responsible for committing them. She often shuttled between interviews in remote areas of Nepal and Sri Lanka to the highest levels of government and the UN, briefing diplomats, government officials, the media, and local activists worldwide. For more information, please read the New York Times [article](#) about Tejshree.

Operations

The Operations Department is led by the Deputy Executive Director (DED) of Operations and includes the Finance and Administration, Global Human Resources (HR), and Information Technology (IT) Divisions.

The Senior Operations Administrator based in Amsterdam is responsible for Finance, Human Resources, Facilities Administration, and IT related duties of the Amsterdam office. She reports to the Associate Director in charge of the European offices in the Operations department.

Compensation information

The compensation reflects fiscal year 2018/2019 ending 30 June 2019.

All compensation is in accordance with the compensation regulations (Regeling belonging directeuren van goededoelenorganisaties) set by branch organisation Goede Doelen Nederland.

- The members of the board did not receive any kind of financial compensation for their role and activities on the board.
- The gross salary of the acting Director including all benefits and holiday allowance was € 90,000 (1 FTE).

The compensation for employees is based upon the following standards:

- Equal secondary employment conditions for all employees.
- Salary increases based upon the result of annual performance evaluations.
- Overtime is not paid out. Employees can take time off in lieu.

1.4 The Netherlands Committee

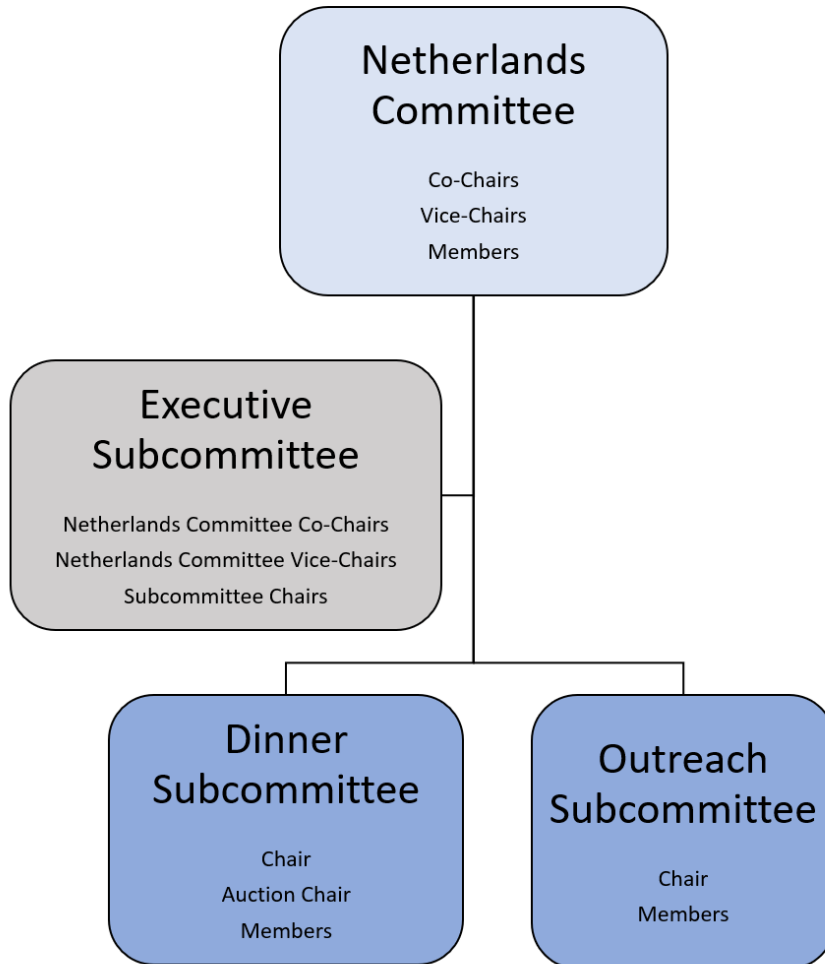
The Human Rights Watch Council is a network of 1,100 philanthropists, investors, and influencers who raise awareness of local and global human rights issues.

Council members are key to the organisation's ability to maintain its independence—Human Rights Watch does not accept government funding and relies exclusively on private donations to support its global work. The financial support of the Council provides over 90% of the organisation's budget, with roughly 135 donors contributing USD \$ 100,000 or more per year.

Within the Council, Committees are Human Rights Watch's most established membership group. They are formed through nomination by the Human Rights Watch Board of Directors. Committees are supported by a committee director or Human Rights Watch staff member based in-country who provides support and direction for committee activities. Each committee is responsible for producing a Voices for Justice Annual Dinner or flagship event to raise awareness and funding for the organisation. Members participate in local meetings and events in their city and make an annual donation to their capacity. Each committee is chaired by one or more volunteer committee leaders.

In the Netherlands the Council is represented by the Netherlands Committee. The Netherlands Committee was formed in 2010 and had 25 members in June 2019.

Netherlands Committee chart:



The Netherlands Committee leadership is formed by two Co-Chairs, two Vice Chairs, and the Chair of the Outreach subcommittee. The full Committee meets bi-annually, and members who want to be more involved can join subcommittees (currently Dinner and Outreach). Subcommittees can also invite non-Committee members to join. All subcommittees have chairs, and these chairs must be members of the Committee. Committee co-chairs and vice chairs together with the chairs of the subcommittees form an Executive subcommittee, which meets four times a year to support the HRW NL office and set the agendas for the full Committee meetings.

Netherlands Committee members serve three-year, renewable terms. New members are vetted by the Membership and Executive subcommittees and voted in by the full Committee. Subcommittee membership is revisited annually.

The Human Rights Watch Council is not a legal entity and its members do not have financial responsibility for the organisation.

The international Human Rights Watch Board of Directors supports the organisation to carry out its mission and is responsible for managing the organisation’s assets and ensuring they are used to fulfil its missions. The Board of Stichting Human Rights Watch Nederland carries out this work for the Netherlands office and is responsible for approving the annual budget and audited accounts.

2. HOW WE WORK

2.1 Mission Statement

Human Rights Watch defends the rights of people worldwide. We scrupulously investigate abuses, expose the facts widely, and pressure those with power to respect rights and secure justice. Human Rights Watch is an independent, international organisation that works as part of a vibrant movement to uphold human dignity and advance the cause of human rights for all.

2.2 Core Values

We are committed to our mission of defending human rights worldwide. Our work is guided by international human rights and humanitarian law and respect for the dignity of each human being.

- **Committed to our mission of defending human rights worldwide.** Our work is guided by international human rights standards, humanitarian law, and respect for the dignity of each human being.
- **Independent.** To ensure our independence, we do not accept government funds, directly or indirectly, or support from any private funder that could compromise our objectivity and independence. We do not embrace political causes and are strictly non-partisan. We maintain neutrality in conflict situations, refraining from commenting from who should be in power, but pushing all parties to uphold human rights and obey the rule of law.
- **Factual, accurate, and ethical in our fact-finding.** We are committed to maintaining the highest standards of accuracy and fairness. We seek out multiple perspectives to develop an in-depth, analytic understanding of the situations we report on. We recognize a particular responsibility for the victims and witnesses who have shared their experiences with us.
- **Focused on impact.** We succeed only when our actions lead to positive and sustainable change. We are never complacent, always on the lookout for new opportunities to advance our cause. We also are committed to working on difficult situations, where long-term attention is required for meaningful impact.
- **Dedicated to amplifying the voices of local partners and being part of a vibrant international human rights movement.** We work closely with a broad range of local and international civil society actors to maximize our impact. We speak out against attacks on civil society and defend the political space within which the broader human rights movement operates. We work to complement the role of humanitarian aid groups, who often cannot raise systemic rights abuses without compromising access to those who need their help.

2.3 Objectives

Human Rights Watch defends the rights of people worldwide. The organisation scrupulously investigate abuses, exposes the facts widely, and pressures those with power to respect rights and secure justice. Human Rights Watch is an independent, international organisation that works as part of a vibrant movement to uphold human dignity and advance the cause of human rights for all.

Our ultimate goal is to protect and promote human rights for all people, especially those most vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. We amplify the voices of those who may not have the power to speak for themselves. We fight for the vulnerable, and we engage the powerful in their defence.

Human Rights Watch Nederland (“HRW NL”) was founded through an initiative of Human Rights Watch Inc., USA, in 1996. HRW NL works closely with Human Rights Watch Inc. and the network of affiliated charities to further our shared objectives and purpose.

The general objective of the foundation, also mentioned in the Articles of Association, is to defend human rights and support the work of Human Rights Watch, as follows:

- a. Protecting human rights around the world in times of war and peace by documenting violations, publishing the findings, and using this information to stop the violations and prevent violations in the future; and
- b. Undertaking educational, humanitarian, literary, or scientific activities to further this mission.

Additional objectives of the foundation are:

- c. Advocacy and communication initiatives; and
- d. Fundraising to support the worldwide operations of Human Rights Watch.

The foundation’s primary purpose is to raise money in The Netherlands to support the worldwide operations and programs of Human Rights Watch.

2.3.1 Determination of projects

How we prioritize and plan

Human Rights Watch considers the severity of the human rights abuses taking place; the number of affected people; and our ability to have a positive impact on the situation. Our staff members, experts on particular regions or thematic issues, develop sets of priority issues after consultation with partner organisations in the country or countries at issue.

To prepare for the unexpected, Human Rights Watch employs top-level researchers on our Crisis and Conflict team who can be deployed at a moment’s notice. This capacity for emergency response means that Human Rights Watch is often the first or only organisation reporting from the ground in conflict situations.

Key Programs

Human Rights Watch is organized both by region (Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe and Central Asia, Middle East and North Africa, and United States) and theme (Arms; Business and Human Rights; Children’s Rights; Crisis and Conflict; Disability Rights; Environment and Human Rights; International Justice; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Rights; Refugees’ Rights; and Women’s Rights).

HRW Netherlands

HRW Netherlands works collaboratively with HRW Inc. to raise funds to support the overall work and objectives of HRW Inc. globally. Throughout the year the foundation monitors the cashflow and funds needed for the continuity and earmarked reserve of the foundation. When there is a surplus the foundation will request a fund transfer to HRW Inc. with the condition that the cashflow requirement of the foundation is kept.

Before requesting a fund transfer it must be determined whether it concerns unrestricted and/or restricted funds.

Restricted funds

- The foundation will present an overview including proof of restrictions to the board for their approval.
- Once approved the funds can be transferred to HRW Inc.

Unrestricted funds

- The foundation will request a funding proposal from the Foundations team at HRW Inc.
- The foundation will receive grant proposals for underfunded projects which include a description of each project. The proposal must be in line with the statutes and overall priorities of the HRW Netherlands.
- Thereafter, the proposal is presented and submitted to the board for approval.
- Once approved the funds can be transferred to HRW Inc.

In 2018/2019 the following projects were supported by the grant proposals created for the unrestricted surplus:

- 1) Defending Vulnerable People in Brazil
Protecting environmental defenders; women's rights, including domestic violence and femicide; the rights of people with disabilities; and issues related to public security and the criminal justice system.
- 2) Protecting Detainees in Jordan
Monitor arrests and prosecutions of peaceful critics, trials of police charged in beating deaths, and conditions for Syrian refugees; investigating torture by the Jordan's Anti-Narcotics Unit.
- 3) Seeking Accountability in Kenya
Advocacy activities around violence in the context both of elections and of environmental activism in the Lamu area; monitor developments regarding disappearances and extrajudicial killings in various regions.
- 4) Thailand - Advancing Rights in Thailand.
Investigating the crackdown on and criminalization of freedom of expression and investigating rights abuses before, during, and following the March national elections; fighting for better labour standards and enforcement in the Thai fishing industry; protecting refugees in Thailand, including the Rohingya and Uighurs.
- 5) Children's Rights - Combatting Attacks on Education.
Protect children from violence and exploitation by advocating for stronger, additional country support for the Safe Schools Declaration.
- 6) Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) - Protecting Human Rights in Saudi Arabia.
Document and expose human rights abuses in Saudi Arabia—including the widespread domestic crackdown on prominent activists, lawyers, and human rights defenders.
- 7) International Justice - Strengthening the International Criminal Court.
Mobilize government support for the International Criminal Court (ICC), while also advocating for critical improvements in the court's performance.
- 8) International Justice - Promoting Justice for Victims of Widespread Atrocities.
Promote accountability for the world's worst crimes and justice for victims—including on Myanmar and Syria.
- 9) Europe and Central Asia (ECA) - Defending Human Rights in Russia.
Keep a spotlight on the deteriorating human rights situation in Russia, continuing to defend independent thinkers and marginalized groups.

2.3.2 Impact

Human Rights Watch is an independent global organisation known for its credibility and commitment to the truth. With support from partners, we strive to foster a world where all people—regardless of race, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, ideology, or socioeconomic status—can exercise their fundamental human rights.

These are extraordinarily challenging times for the human rights movement. Populist leaders continue to garner support by undermining foundational values that make human rights possible: equality, justice, dignity, and compassion. Emboldened regimes are vilifying unpopular minorities to justify repression and, in the case of Burma, a brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing. Meanwhile, unprecedented new threats like mass surveillance and disinformation campaigns undercut democracy and risk outpacing our ability to cover them.

These challenges are imposing a larger-than-usual burden on Human Rights Watch and our partners. But despite this adversity, we continue to make a positive difference for many men, women, and children who would be in greater jeopardy without the work that we do.

Please find below a list of examples of the impact Human Rights Watch’s work had in the year of 2018/2019:

- Our advocacy alongside partners in Hungary, Brussels, Berlin, and elsewhere helped move the European Parliament to launch a political sanctions process against Hungary’s government for its prolonged assault on democratic institutions, human rights, and the rule of law. This is the first time the Parliament has voted to politically sanction a member state under Article 7 of the European Union (EU) Treaty.
- In Cameroon, our field research, satellite imagery, and video analysis helped expose abuses on all sides of the conflict between Anglophone separatists and government forces. Following our advocacy, the Cameroonian government allowed 47 Anglophone detainees access to their lawyers and the International Committee of the Red Cross. It signed onto the Safe Schools Declaration and negotiated with the UN to allow an independent investigation into human rights abuses.
- Our work against invasive, irreversible, and unnecessary surgeries affecting intersex children in the United States spurred several major medical associations to take up our position and help move California’s legislature to pass a resolution that supports deferring these surgeries until the patients themselves are old enough to consent. The resolution is the first declaration of its kind in the US.
- Our efforts to expose the political repression and humanitarian crisis under President Nicolás Maduro’s leadership in Venezuela helped spur global condemnation, including a probe by the International Criminal Court (ICC), the first-ever resolution on the crisis by the UN Human Rights Council (UNHCR), and targeted sanctions by the EU, Canada, Panama, and the United States.
- In Burma, we leveraged our research and expansive advocacy networks to help orchestrate global action that drove UN member states to renew a resolution on the human rights abuses against the Rohingya—with even stronger support than the previous year: 142 states in favour compared with 122 last year.
- Our #SaveHakeem campaign—buttressed by a global network of activists, athletes, sports federations, player union leaders, and governments—helped pressure Thailand to release Bahraini footballer and refugee, Hakeem al-Araibi, after 77 days of unjust detention in a Thai prison under threat of extradition.
- Following a June 2019 ruling by a UK court, the United Kingdom suspended all new licenses for arms exports to Saudi Arabia that could be used in Yemen. Human Rights Watch had intervened in the case, and the ruling followed years of our work to document unlawful civilian deaths caused by Saudi-led coalition’s airstrikes in Yemen.

- In June 2019, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) adopted a global treaty that affirms the right to freedom from violence and harassment in the workplace and elaborates governments' obligation to prevent and respond. The treaty culminates years of research and advocacy, as well as negotiations involving Human Rights Watch and our partners.

2.4 Our Methodology

Human Rights Watch is a leader in impartial documentation, wide exposure of abuses, and effective advocacy that leads to concrete, on-the-ground change that improves the day-to-day lives of people around the globe. Our methodology to defend human rights consists of three steps:



1. **We investigate.** HRW Netherlands, and Human Rights Watch are committed to systematically researching and analysing human rights conditions worldwide in order to uncover abuses. Researchers interview leaders, victims and witnesses so that they can form an accurate picture of what happened. They also review media and academic reports, and domestic and international law and policy papers to gain a further understanding of the situation.
2. **We expose.** All researchers in the Human Rights Watch network, including those serving HRW Netherlands, publish their findings in the form of reports and articles. These are then made accessible to the public as well as local authorities in order to raise awareness of the abuses. The publications are available in multiple languages and formats and are often referenced in news articles worldwide.
3. **We make change.** Following the identification and publication of human rights abuses, advocates for HRW Netherlands and Human Rights Watch work closely with local authorities and organisations in order to achieve accountability and put an end to the abuses that they have discovered. The ultimate goal of all advocates in the Human Rights Watch network is to ensure that human rights are upheld worldwide and to promote justice and change.

By investigating human rights violations, exposing them in the media, and advocating for improvements, we seek to make a positive change in the world. In order to achieve this, we must be responsive and nimble and able to leap into action quickly to respond to breaking events and document human rights abuses as they are occurring.

2.5 Fundraising

Policy

Human Rights Watch reserves the right to refuse donations from individuals or institutions if the organisation determines that such funds might undermine Human Rights Watch's credibility, independence, or reputation.

Human Rights Watch will not solicit and will refuse donations from governments, government foundations, and government officials, whether directly or indirectly, such as those that are or appear to be made on behalf of an official through an immediate family member or foundation.

We will decline a corporate donation if the company is a focus of current Human Rights Watch work, or the company is a direct competitor of a company that is the focus of Human Rights Watch's work. This policy applies to all solicitations from corporations and from individuals who are "major stakeholders," that is, those whose role or affiliation with a corporation makes their identity inseparable from the company.

In cases where it is not clear whether a donation would be in compliance with the policy, the Business and Human Rights Program will conduct due diligence, based upon the ordinary work of Human Rights Watch, to determine whether Human Rights Watch can accept such funds.

Strategy

The director of HRW Netherlands determines the fundraising strategy for the Netherlands in coordination with her supervisor. This is primarily a major gifts strategy, focusing on high level gifts. The strategy is based on the type and amount of income from the past year and the relationships with those donors and new contacts from the Voices for Justice Annual Dinner and cultivation events in the past year.

The Netherlands Committee plays a key role in the fundraising strategy. Members introduce Human Rights Watch researchers and advocates to their networks.

Human Rights Watch strives to maintain a 20% fundraising ratio worldwide, meaning that fundraising costs do not exceed 20% of the global operating budget.

As the foundation's primary purpose is fundraising, the ratio for HRW Netherlands will be higher than the ratio set for Human Rights Watch globally. HRW Netherlands strives to maintain a fundraising ratio of maximum 25%.

Methods

Events

Voices for Justice Annual Dinner

HRW Netherlands organizes one major fundraising event per year, the Voices for Justice Annual Dinner. The 2018 edition took place in November. Dinner revenue supports the organisation's work worldwide and constitutes a significant portion of the funds raised in the Netherlands. Beyond fundraising, the dinner deepens relationships with existing supporters, attracts new supporters and further develops the Human Rights Watch brand in the Netherlands.

Cultivation Events

Dutch supporters of Human Rights Watch host briefings in their homes and offices to introduce their networks to the work of Human Rights Watch. Human Rights Watch researchers and advocates are the guests of honour and give first-hand

accounts of their work in the field. These events steward existing supporters and increase name recognition and exposure to the work of HRW, reaching new potential supporters.

Proposals

An individual interested in donating to Human Rights Watch may request a proposal defining the scope of the work their donation will enable, including the timeframe, budget, and the expected impact the work will have. Human Rights Watch also researches which foundations fund work similar to that of Human Rights Watch and submits proposals asking for support. All proposals are prepared centrally by the Foundations team.

Affinity Groups

LGBT Global Circle

The LGBT Global Circle of Friends is an international community of supporters who financially support Human Rights Watch's work defending the rights of LGBT people with a minimum contribution of € 5,000 per year. Members receive benefits such as invitations to insider briefings with Human Rights Watch experts in the Netherlands and internationally.

Justice Circle

In 2016 Human Rights Watch launched the Justice Circle – also known as Lawyers for International Justice, an initiative which aims to deepen the International Justice (IJ) program's connection to lawyers and other individuals interested in promoting justice for atrocities. Members donate € 2,500 or more per year to support the work of the International Justice division and receive benefits such as invitations to insider briefings and special events with Human Rights Watch experts in the Netherlands and internationally.

2.6 Beneficiaries

The primary beneficiaries of Human Rights Watch's work are victims of human rights abuses or those at risk of abuse. Local non-profit organisations and civil society actors also benefit from our work as we seek to protect their rights to operate freely and to improve the human rights environment in which they work. We use our reputation as an internationally respected human rights organisation to amplify the voices of local and regional civil society actors by connecting them with policymakers or funders to whom they may not otherwise have access.

As one of our target audiences, policymakers are well served by our timely reporting and advocacy. They often call on us for analysis in complex and fast-moving situations such as the refugee crisis in Europe. Our work elucidates complex situations from a human rights perspective, bringing to light little-known rights abuses and providing policymakers with concrete, realistic recommendations to address abuses. Media outlets also frequently turn to us for our analysis and insight on human rights stories. Our increasing use of multimedia plays a helpful role for media outlets, many of whom have had their foreign reporting budgets cut, by providing pre-packaged products—such as video, audio clips and photo essays—that can be easily incorporated into their programming.

2.7 Communication

Human Rights Watch communicates with a variety of Dutch stakeholders, including individual donors, foundations, companies, government officials, members of parliament, non-governmental organisations and media outlets. A number of methods are used.

Each year, Human Rights Watch publishes more than 60 reports and 1,700 press releases on human rights conditions in some 90 countries, generating extensive coverage in local and international media.

Social media is an increasingly important communication tool. In May 2019, Human Rights Watch had 29.7 million views on its [YouTube](#) channel, 17 million visits to its [website](#), 2.6 million [Facebook](#) likes, 4 million [Twitter](#) followers and 718,000 [Instagram](#) followers. A full list of HRW social accounts and their links can be found [here](#).

E-newsletters are the best way to get an overview of the world's most urgent human rights issues featuring written news, original video, pictures taken by award-winning photographers, and podcast interviews with Human Rights Watch researchers and eyewitnesses. A monthly, weekly, and daily version are available. Supporters can subscribe for one or more versions [using this link](#).

In the Netherlands Human Rights Watch communicates most often through direct contact with supporters: emails, letters, and phone calls, as well as an annual update on the work that their support has made possible. Netherlands Committee members receive a monthly e-newsletter. We also have a [Dutch Facebook page](#) with 4,175 followers, our Twitter account [@HRW_NL](#) has 1,326 followers, and Deputy European Media Director [Jan Kooy](#) @KooyJan has a very popular and active [Twitter](#) account with 9,351 followers.

2.8 Risk Management

The management of Human Rights Watch Inc. designed a risk matrix focusing on the major risks the organisation is facing and the current controls that are in place. Throughout the year the management updates, evaluates and monitors the risks. On an annual basis they present a risk status report to the global board.

As this is an extensive report, this annual report only focuses on the principle risks for HRW NL.

Fundraising Risk

Human Rights Watch faces two primary risks with respect to its fundraising operation – the unanticipated loss of a significant donor and a sustained global financial downturn.

Since a significant percentage of Human Rights Watch's income comes from a relatively small number of (institutional) foundations and individuals, the unanticipated loss of one or more significant donors could affect HRW's ability to raise sufficient funds to cover its operations. We reduce that risk through the HRW endowment and reserve funds, which are managed by the Investment Committee of the international Board of Directors. In addition, by building and strengthening the 1,000 member HRW Council, we are able to secure multi-year financial commitments and develop a steady flow of new supporters in our donor pipeline. Close communication with such major donors also allows us to be flexible in reallocating funds if needed. Lastly, there is also a provision in the organisation's worldwide budget to help offset potential major donor falloff.

A sustained global financial downturn could also affect HRW's ability to raise sufficient funds to cover its operations. If we were to experience such a downturn, the endowment and reserves would help reduce possible funding gaps. Again, by continuing to build and strengthen the HRW Council, we reduce the chances that donors would decrease their giving or

end their pledges. Lastly, HRW continues to globally diversify its fundraising, which also helps to spread the risk associated with specific economies.

Financial and other internal control failures, errors and omissions

Lapses in oversight and/or financial and other internal controls could lead to fraud or material misstatement of the organisation's financial position.

Current controls in place are:

- Documented fiscal policies and procedures
- Staff training
- Periodic reviews, reconciliations
- Internal and external audits
- Bank anti-fraud programs

Reputational risks

1) Reputational risks tied to staff or volunteers

Staff or volunteer misconduct has the potential to damage HRW's reputation.

Some examples of controls in place:

- Regular consultation with direct reports
- Institutional policies and procedures
- Organisational ombudspersons
- Insurance
- Organisation policies addressing full range of misconduct
- Ensure appropriate supervisory systems are in place
- Training for staff and volunteers
- Stress and resilience task force and counsellors

2) Reputational risks tied to donors and committee members

Given HRW's reputation for objective treatment of human rights issues, there is the potential for reputational damage if donors or committee members have conflicts of interest with HRW's institutional policies.

Some examples of controls in place:

- Identify conflicts of interest
- Active management of committees
- Institutional policies and procedures
- Business and Human Rights Division reviews and makes decisions concerning conflicts of interest

3) Reputational risks tied to partnerships and special events

Given HRW's reputation for objective treatment of human rights issues, there is the potential for reputational damage if partners or special event sponsors have conflicts of interest with HRW's institutional policies.

Some examples of controls in place:

- Vet partners prior to agreements
- Contract reviews
- Insurance

4) Reputational risk tied to Board members

Given HRW's reputation for objective treatment of human rights issues, there is the potential for reputational damage if Board members have conflicts of interest with HRW's institutional policies.

Board actions alleged to be negligent may trigger civil, criminal, and/or regulatory action against HRW and/or individual Board members.

Some examples of controls in place:

- Board candidate vetting processes
- Research on members and committee leadership vetting
- Insurance

Security Risk

This risk applies to all Netherlands based staff working in the field.

Security remains a serious risk for our staff and the biggest impediment to accessing information needed to conduct our investigations. Researching human rights abuses sometimes requires staff to operate in hostile environments, and when doing so we must be fully aware of the security threats present in such locations. To manage and mitigate security risks, we have a full-time security director to help enhance the physical security of our frontline staff and to that of the partners with whom we work. Our researchers have undergone Hostile Environment and Emergency First Aid training. They check in with headquarters staff on a daily—sometimes hourly—basis, conduct extensive security analysis, and develop protection plans prior to arriving on mission.

IT security: attacks on and breaches of HRW IT systems

HRW's global profile makes it a target for state and non-state actors attempting to attack and breach IT systems.

Some examples of controls in place:

- Institutional policies and procedures
- Security assessments
- Staff training on threats and best practices; constant reminders
- Defensive/secure technologies
- Access controls and authentication
- Consultation and liaison with external subject matter experts as required

Data management

The lack of standardized information management systems increases risks pertaining to noncompliance with data protection legal requirements and effective information retrieval and processing.

Some examples of controls in place:

- HRW data protection policy
- HRW vendor management policy
- Improvement and automation of data management processes
- Training on European Data Protections Standards

3. MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES 2018/2019

Human Rights Watch has earned a reputation as a leading human rights defender because of our ability to take on a broad spectrum of human rights concerns—from discrimination to genocide. We worked to mainstream the rights of marginalized people and include them in the larger human rights framework, including women; children; lesbian, gay, transgender, and bisexual people; people with disabilities; and victims of abuses related to the environment.

In 2018/2019 the activities of HRW Netherlands included fundraising, outreach and advocacy. Part of the donations received in the Netherlands were used to support the work of Human Rights Watch globally. This work resulted in numerous impacts that can be found on our website <https://www.hrw.org/impact>.

3.1 Fundraising

Total income

In 2018/2019 Human Rights Watch Netherlands raised € 4,504,935 in donations. This total amount raised was donated directly to the foundation in The Netherlands.

Dutch Postcode Lottery

Human Rights Watch is incredibly grateful to the Dutch Postcode Lottery (NPL) for their annual structural support of Human Rights Watch Inc. in the Netherlands since 2009. The Dutch Postcode Lottery is the world's second largest private charity lottery and they provide Human Rights Watch Inc. with € 1,350,000 per year in general operating support. Fiscal year 2018-2019 partly covers the 2nd and 3rd year of a 4-year grant from NPL for our Albinism Inclusion project. Total grant is € 1.800,000 from 2017 – 2020, of which HRW has € 467,500. It is the 1st and 2nd year of the grant from NPL for our joint project 'A Global Survivor Movement to End Rape as a Weapon of War,' together with the Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation. Total grant was € 965,000 for 2018 – 2020 of which HRW received € 148,125.

A Global Survivor Movement to End Rape as a Weapon of War

The project began in March 2018 to create a survivor-led global movement that empowers survivors to engage in organised activism that fights both the root causes of conflict-related sexual violence and its consequences. Thanks to this project [SEMA](#), the Global Network of Victims and Survivors to End Wartime Sexual Violence, now connects survivors from 21 countries around the world. In conjunction with the global network, five National Survivor Networks have been initiated and/or supported.

Nigeria | Africa Division executive director, [Mausi Segun](#), and Africa researcher, [Anietie Ewang](#), made introductions between the Mukwege Foundation team and local partner organisations working closely with communities affected by the conflict in the North East region of Nigeria. HRW worked with the Mukwege Foundation and local partners including the Allamin Foundation and Grassroots Research Nigeria, to plan the first survivor's workshop/scoping meeting to explore the possible model for a Survivors Movement in Nigeria. HRW also participated in the meeting in Abuja in December 2018 where Anietie Ewang led a discussion on capacity building, advocacy, security, and communications for local partners and survivors.

Central African Republic | HRW's senior Africa researcher, Lewis Mudge, met with the recently-formed survivor group, MOSUCA, le *Mouvement des Survivantes de Violences Sexuelles en Centrafrique*, in advance of International Woman's Day to discuss their need for an advocacy strategy and outreach.

Deputy Africa director, [Ida Sawyer](#), participated in the Mukwege Foundation's 2nd annual Global Survivors Network retreat in The Hague in November 2018. She provided training for survivors and activists from around the world on how to use human rights research to support an effective advocacy campaign.



'Dispelling the Deadly Myths: Ensuring a Safe Environment for Children with Albinism in Tanzania and Mozambique'
Albinism Inclusion (ALINC) project

This project began March 2017. Together with Liliane Fonds, and Karagwe Community Based Rehabilitation Program (KCBRP), Human Rights Watch received a grant from the Dutch Postcode Lottery for our [joint efforts](#) to dispel the deadly myths and ensure a safe environment for children with albinism in Tanzania and Mozambique. Human Rights Watch is investigating barriers to safe and inclusive education and other basic human rights for children with albinism, exposing these barriers and the conditions in the temporary shelters where many of these children are segregated, and advocating for targeted policy reforms.

Because of a deadly myth that people born with albinism in Tanzania possess magical qualities and their organs and limbs bring prosperity, they are hunted, dismembered, and left behind to die by those who sell their body parts for thousands of dollars to witch doctors. Children with albinism live in fear of attack and are often separated from their families and communities to live in temporary shelters.



Exhibition Living in the Shadows: Part of the joint project is the photo exposition '[Leven in de Schaduw](#)' with photos by Sacha de Boer. This traveling exhibition concluded in July 2018 and has been to Den Haag, Rotterdam, 's-Hertogenbosch, Eindhoven, Groningen, Zwolle, Arnhem and Utrecht. The photos were used again for a smaller exhibition in the run up to and during the Human Rights Weekend, January – February 2019.

Human Rights Weekend: HRW raised awareness of the program during the [Human Rights Weekend](#) in De Balie, Amsterdam, which ran from 7-10 February 2019. Saturday 9 February 2019, HRW hosted a panel session called [Living in the Shadows: People with Albinism in Tanzania](#) with various speakers and specialists, including Grace Rububula (ALINC Program Manager at KCBRP), Lisa Luchtenberg (Chair of [Oogvereniging Albinisme](#)),

Photo: Josine with her niece, Luisa, both 8. "She is my best friend," said Josina. "She is always asking if I'm ok, she helps me read after school and she looks after me." © 2018 Samer Muscati for Human Rights Watch.

[Jonathan Pedneault](#) (researcher in HRW's Crisis and Conflicts Division) and [Sacha de Boer](#) (photographer). During the event HRW launched its advocacy brochure [It felt like a Punishment](#) on the necessary steps to end the isolation, neglect, and barriers to education for children with albinism in Tanzania. De Balie functioned as gallery for photographs taken in

Tanzania by Sacha de Boer, who also held a bookselling and signing session. During the event, a [podcast](#) was recorded, which was published by HRW and widely shared on social media.

June 13, World Albinism Awareness Day: at the UN headquarters in New York, HRW released the [interactive web feature](#) and [video](#), *“From Cradle to Grave”: Discrimination and Barriers to Education for Persons with Albinism in Tete Province, Mozambique*. The presentation was done by senior researcher [Samer Muscati](#) during an event by Ms. Ikponwosa Ero, UN Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism, together with the UN missions of Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania and Kenya. Samer Muscati also published a special feature article in [The Globe and Mail](#).

Voices for Justice Annual Dinner 2018



On 15 November 2018 the ninth edition of the Human Rights Watch Voices for Justice Annual Dinner was held in Theater Amsterdam. The evening grossed € 479,000 from table and ticket sales, a live auction and other donations at the event. The theme of the evening was Children’s Rights. Speakers included [Nadim Houry](#) (HRW Director, Terrorism and Counterterrorism), [Jo Becker](#) (HRW Advocacy Director, Children's Rights Division), [Emina Cerimovic](#) (HRW Senior Researcher, Disability Rights Division). We simplified this year’s program, having less speakers and focusing more on content and topics. Guests highly praised the program in their evaluations.

Foundation Support

Human Rights Watch Netherlands receives support from several Dutch foundations. They support restrictedly and unrestrictedly, anonymously or by name. Below we highlight a few examples of our foundational support.

[Adessium Foundation](#)

Protecting Civilians in Conflict in the Middle East and Advancing Refugee Rights in Europe

Long-running conflicts continued to rage throughout the Middle East and North Africa, putting millions of civilian lives at risk in the region and forcing people to seek safety across borders. As populism, xenophobia, and anti-immigration sentiments increase, and as refugees and migrants continue to face abuse and hardship in their search for safety, this work becomes even more critical. In this challenging landscape, Human Rights Watch, with the generous support the Adessium Foundation, worked to end violations, promote accountability and the rule of law, and to protect the rights of refugees at every step of their journey towards a safe and secure home. Our work together has led to some promising results, here are a few highlights:

Iraq | In Iraq, we have been working to document and publicize abuses within Mosul-based prisons—facilities managed and operated by the Iraqi Interior Ministry. In July 2018, we [exposed](#) abusive conditions in a “secret” prison in Mosul where individuals were unlawfully detained on a range of false charges. Following up on this research, we released a [short report](#) exposing widespread torture and abuse throughout Mosul prisons, abuse which directly violates the Convention Against Torture which Iraq joined in 2011. Due in part to these publications and our follow up advocacy, Iraqi authorities launched a formal investigation into these abuses and committed to punishing officers who were implicated in these acts.

We have also been working to expose human rights abuses conducted under the guise of counterterrorism activities. In September 2018, we published a [report](#) documenting a multi-year campaign of enforced disappearances led by Iraqi forces. Due in part to our advocacy, the prime minister established a committee to investigate these disappearances and we are now pushing for results from these investigations.

We have been heavily engaged in the push for victims of ISIS to have access to credible, fair justice mechanisms, and for authorities—and the international community—to develop holistic reconciliation programs to promote stability in areas that were heavily impacted by ISIS. In 2017, we [documented](#) the failure of Iraq’s judiciary to provide victims of ISIS with meaningful trials for abuses committed. As a result of our report, the Nineveh Counterterrorism Court—a primary advocacy target—has started to require evidence in most cases involving ISIS suspects rather than relying solely on [confessions](#), which now for the first time allows victims of ISIS abuse and witnesses to participate and provide testimony. In a move that threatens to further violent extremism in Iraq, in [June](#) and [November](#) 2018, we detailed widespread incidences of collective punishment against families of alleged ISIS suspects, punishment which compounds the marginalization of this community. Due to our intervention, 51 families from a village in Anbar who had previously been displaced by fighting—and who were being kept from returning home by security forces due to suspected ISIS ties of family members—were allowed to return to their homes and to successfully begin to build bridges with neighbouring communities that were affected by ISIS abuse. This work is essential to ensuring that ISIS does not revive itself in Iraq, preying on families that are now being remarginalized and pushed to the extremes.

Syria | We continued to expose and press for an end to international human rights violations in the war in Syria. Since the start of the conflict, we have documented the government’s use of [chemical](#) and [incendiary weapons](#), as well as the crisis of displacement resulting from the government’s offensives. We highlighted the civilian cost of the US-led coalition’s battle against ISIS, including by documenting unlawful airstrikes and by reporting on humanitarian conditions for displaced persons. We are pressing for accountability and compensation for victims. As active hostilities have decreased and displaced persons attempt to return, Human Rights Watch has also documented abuses in areas re-taken by the government. These include the use of urban planning laws to confiscate the property of residents, widespread restrictions on access for displaced residents, and demolitions in areas previously affiliated with the opposition. Such measures restrict refugee returns.

We have seen real impact from this work. Our efforts on the crisis helped push the UN Security Council to pass a unanimous [resolution](#) in February 2018, calling for humanitarian assistance to besieged enclaves. Our [documentation](#) of the recruitment of child soldiers—and our sustained advocacy—contributed to the creation of a Syrian Democratic Forces’ ban on soldiers under the age of 18—with age verification measures put in place to ensure compliance with the ban.

Lebanon | After the publication of our April 2018 report, [“Our Homes Are Not for Strangers”: Mass Evictions of Syrian Refugees by Lebanese Municipalities](#), the overall number of collective evictions dropped considerably, [according to the UN Refugee Agency](#). Although other agencies reported on individual evictions of Syrian refugees, our report was the only one that focused on collective evictions. While the decrease in collective evictions is a welcome development, we are still concerned with individual evictions, curfews, lack of legal residency, poverty, and other challenges that Syrian refugees in Lebanon continue to face and which build pressure on them to return to Syria even though conditions there are still not conducive for safe and dignified refugee repatriation and reintegration.

Turkey | We have continued to expose Turkey’s mistreatment of Syrian refugees and asylum seekers—using our research to push for an immediate end to these abuses. In July 2018, we published a [short report](#) documenting Turkey’s refusal to register newly arrived Syrian asylum seekers, which has led to unlawful returns to Syria and the denial of healthcare, education, and other critical services. Using these findings, we pushed the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the EU to make public calls for Turkey to end these unlawful and abusive practices. Within the EU, we met with seven diplomats and presented our findings at a roundtable at the European Parliament. Following this presentation and a follow-up meeting with officials in September, the European Commission confirmed that they would raise the issue of registration suspension with their Turkish counterparts.



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Greece | Building on the success of our 2017 [digital campaign](#)—which raised awareness of the thousands of asylum seekers [trapped](#) on Greek islands—we [continue](#) to [demand](#) the transfer of asylum seekers from Greek islands onto the mainland and, more broadly, for fair reception and asylum processes that adhere to international human rights standards. In July 2018, we published a [report](#), [video](#), and [news feature](#) exposing widespread denials of education and health care for asylum seeking children living within “hotspot”—or overcrowded—camps on the Greek Islands. We followed these pieces up with a joint [letter](#) in March 2019—authored with 24 partner organisations—advocating for an EU-led intervention to the humanitarian crisis present on the islands. Our body of work on this issue contributes to our larger, coordinated advocacy campaign aiming to end the entrapment of asylum seekers on the island and to demand improved conditions throughout the process of requesting and gaining asylum.

In November 2018, we released a [comprehensive analysis](#) on the arrest of four activists who were detained while attempting to rescue migrants who were distressed at sea and charged with suspected trafficking. Shortly after the publication of our analysis, the four rescuers were [released](#) on bail, a significant win. As the serious charges against these four individuals still stand, we will continue to urge authorities to drop these charges and to demand an end to the incarceration and persecution of human rights defenders working to protect asylum seekers across Europe.

We have also been working to expose abuses taking place at the land border between Greece and Turkey. Last summer, we released a [report](#) and follow up [brief](#) exposing dangerous, inhumane conditions on Greece’s eastern border with Turkey. This research focused on the unique risks for asylum seeking women at this border, including the practice of housing women with unknown men—creating risks of sexual and physical abuse and assault. In December, we built on this work with a comprehensive [report](#) and [video](#) documenting the forced return of asylum seekers and migrants by Greek police stationed at Evros. Police have been using violence and property destruction to force these returns – returns which should not be happening in the first place.

[Anonymous](#)

Addressing the Crisis in the Central African Republic

Thanks to the generous support of an anonymous donor, Human Rights Watch remains one of the only international rights organisations reporting from inside the Central African Republic (CAR). Our work became ever more critical as the security situation declined in the first months of 2018. We continue to expose growing unrest and push for greater civilian protection, including for the over 1.2 million Central Africans displaced by violence and insecurity.

More than 17 armed groups are currently vying for territory across CAR and continue to kill, rape, and destroy homes with impunity. The UN peacekeeping mission, MINUSCA, is struggling to effectively protect civilians, and recent attacks on humanitarian workers, as well as raids on hospitals and looting of supplies have disrupted the delivery of critical aid. A highlight of our recent work:

Human Rights Watch's consistent analysis and advocacy have helped push forward the operationalization of the Special Criminal Court (SCC). Our [report](#) on sexual violence tied to the conflict, released last October, is expected to help inform the prosecutorial strategies of the SCC, as well as the International Criminal Court (ICC). The report illustrates the case for sustained financial and political funding for the SCC, both from the government and from international supporters. We followed this in May 2018, with a [report](#) on the progress and challenges faced by the SCC, which could serve as a [model](#) for other African countries struggling to ensure accountability for grave crimes.



After the rape, she began falling sick regularly. When she eventually sought medical care in May 2015, she tested positive for HIV. She has since started a community association to bring together women survivors of sexual violence in an effort to ensure they have support, access to medical care, and opportunities to rebuild their lives socially and economically.

We pressed hard for the National Assembly to pass a law to adopt rules of procedure and evidence for the Special Criminal Court. We conducted targeted advocacy in Bangui, CAR's capital, with various parliamentarians and released our May 2018 report just before the key vote. After our [joint press conference](#) with civil society partners, the National Assembly passed the law in late May, a [big step forward](#) for the court.

Recent advances with the SCC have brought great optimism but some challenges remain, namely the creation of an effective protection strategy for witnesses and victims. Nevertheless, we expect the SCC to move forward with investigations and to consider cases first reported by Human Rights Watch in its prosecutorial strategy. We have been on the ground in CAR since the crisis unfolded in 2013, and our work can help inform the court's strategy. Through public and private reporting and advocacy, we will urge the SCC to chart a course towards greater stability through justice for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

[Gieskes-Strijbis Fonds](#)

Defending Freedom of Expression, Association, and Religion across Central Asia

Human Rights Watch is extremely grateful for Gieskes-Strijbis Fonds' support of our work to defend fundamental freedoms in Central Asia. With the support of this grant from 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2020, we continuously expose these underreported rights violations in Central Asia. We document violations of freedom of association for trade unions and workers in Kazakhstan, investigate extreme restrictions on basic freedom in Tajikistan, and defend journalists and activists who have experienced police harassment, threats, and detention while seeking to monitor and expose conditions for forced labourers in Uzbekistan's cotton fields.

In 2018, we urged governments in **Uzbekistan** and **Kyrgyzstan** to improve human rights conditions during a time of political change. In **Turkmenistan**, we pushed for an end to enforced disappearances, a persistent and grave violation in the country. In **Tajikistan**, which is experiencing the worst crackdown on human rights in 20 years, we highlighted the jailing of a journalist for exposing corruption and documented severe harassment of families of exiled government critics. In **Kazakhstan**, we continued to advocate on behalf of labour and trade unions facing a government backlash and launched new research into challenges that children with disabilities face in accessing quality and inclusive education. A few highlights of our recent work:

Uzbekistan | While the government under President Mirziyoyev has released several high-profile journalists from prison, they have failed to release others persecuted for the peaceful exercise of their freedom of expression. We launched a [report](#) and [video](#) in March 2018, revealing continued media censorship in Uzbekistan—including arrests of journalists based on vague criminal charges. We called on the Mirziyoyev administration to immediately release perceived government critics, drop ongoing prosecutions against them, stop censoring the media, and allow effective access to information, including online.



The report was presented to government ministries dealing with free expression, media regulation and censorship. We met with Deputy Prime Minister Tanzilla Narbaeva in July 2018, to present our findings and urge the government to act. The report was covered widely in the national and international press, including by [Reuters](#), the [New York Times](#), the [RFE Uzbek service](#), [Erkak.uz](#), and [Amerika Ovozi](#).

Tajikistan | Over the past three years the human rights crackdown in Tajikistan intensified. HRW's coverage of these abuses has led to positive outcomes in a number of individual cases we publicized. A [joint news release](#) published in July 2018 with the Norwegian Helsinki Committee exposed the Tajik government's travel ban against the family of a 4-year-old boy with stage-3 cancer. This generated an international outcry and within a week, the boy and his mother were issued passports. In October 2018 HRW published a [news release](#) about the detention of a Tajik football player, Parviz Tursunov, by Belarus authorities. With the Norwegian Helsinki Committee, the Association for Central Asian Migrants, and the Belarus human rights organisation Human Constanta we brought attention to Parviz' plight. Two months later, Belarusian authorities released Parviz from detention and allowed him to return to Ukraine, from where he will likely endeavour to move to a safe third country.

Kazakhstan | In November 2018 we issued a [statement](#) documenting a vicious attack on trade union activist Dmitry Senyavskii, which occurred on the eve of his planned travel to Kazakhstan's capital to meet an international trade union delegation.

Kyrgyzstan | HRW's Central Asia Researcher, [Mihra Rittmann](#), remains banned from the country for her human rights reporting. Yet we were able to pursue a new [investigation](#) this year of the government's abusive crackdowns in the name of counterterrorism, collaborating with researchers on Human Rights Watch's Terrorism/Counterterrorism team. During the [report](#) launch, we met with representatives of the government to discuss our findings and held a roundtable with civil society to cover the content of the report. We urged authorities in Kyrgyzstan to reconsider its overly broad definition of extremism and to promptly review all convictions for mere possession of extremist material. The report was covered in English, Russian, or Kyrgyz by all key regional and local media outlets, including [the Diplomat](#), [FerganaNews](#), [RFE/RL](#), [Kloop](#), and [Reuters](#). [The Economist](#) and [Euronews](#) also covered the report.

Outreach in the Netherlands | In January 2018, Central Asia expert Steve Swerdlov briefed the *Volkskrant* correspondent Tom Vennink our work on Uzbekistan before Tom's travel to Uzbekistan. It is extremely rare to see this kind of in-depth coverage of a Central Asian country in the Netherlands. HRW also [tweeted](#) the article to our Dutch social media following.



In March 2018, we hosted a [Facebook live](#) session with our Central Asia Researcher Steve Swerdlow live from Tashkent. Steve discussed the new government of Uzbekistan’s claims to be making many reforms, including respect for human rights. The discussion was viewed close to 9,000 times.



In August 2018, we launched a social media campaign to #FreeKhayrullo, a respected independent journalist in Tajikistan who spent nine months behind bars for calling attention to corruption in the country. He had a hearing on August 22 to challenge his extremely harsh 12-year sentence, and we helped mount a Twitter storm aimed at the Tajik authorities ahead of this hearing. In the Netherlands, we campaigned on Human Rights Watch’s Dutch [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages, and [staff](#) contributed with a photo in front of the Peace Palace in The Hague.



Follow

Journalist Khayrullo Mirsaidov kreeg 12 jaar cel wegens onthullingen over corruptie in Tadzjikistan.
 Hoger beroep op 22-8.
 HRW zegt: #FreeKhayrullo nu!
[dw.com/en/tajikistan- ...](https://www.dw.com/en/tajikistan-...)



Our social media campaign garnered significant attention and was joined by partners like Amnesty International, Frontline, Article 19, artists, musicians, and others. In an emotional and exciting development on August 22, Khayrullo Mirsaidov was released. This result would likely not have been possible without the intense pressure we mounted on the Tajik government.



Vakbondswerk is levensgevaarlijk in Kazachstan.
 Dit is Dmitry Senyavskii, in elkaar geslagen omdat hij zich uitsprak voor de rechten van arbeiders.
<https://www.hrw.org/.../kazakhstan-attack-trade-union-leader>

In August 2018, we used our Dutch social media channels to promote the [good news](#) from Tajikistan about 10-year old Fatima Davlyatova, as well as our [coverage in the BBC](#) about attacks on cycling tourists.



In November, though our [Dutch Facebook pages](#) which are followed by more than 4,000 people, we brought attention to the case of Dmitry Senyavskii, who was beaten up because he defended worker's rights

In the international media, our work was covered prominently by [BBC](#), the [Diplomat](#), [RadioFreeEurope/RadioLiberty](#), and many others.

During our 2018 [Human Rights Weekend](#) in Amsterdam, we brought together staff, as well as outside researchers, activists, members of parliament, and journalists, to discuss the rights issues we grapple with in Central Asia and elsewhere. Our researcher [Mihra Rittman](#) participated in a panel [discussion](#) on the clothing and energy industries, bringing our 2017 successes in the Uzbekistan cotton industry as an example of leveraging international contracts to make human rights gains. She also discussed her research on energy issues in Kazakhstan. [Financieel Dagblad](#) covered the event.

Advocacy in the Netherlands | During her visit to the Netherlands, Mihra also met with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and parliamentarians Martijn van Helvert, of the Christian Democrat party, and Achraf Bouali, of D66. They discussed our concerns regarding Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. She followed up with both politicians, providing Bouali with information he requested on imprisoned human rights defender Askarov and providing van Helvert's office with information on issues of religious freedom in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan.

For Robert Lintsen, of the MFA, Mihra provided briefings on our work in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. Regarding Kazakhstan, she focused on imprisoned activists, the crackdown on trade unions, and restrictions on freedom of speech and assembly. She encouraged the MFA to be consistent in its messaging, to raise human rights concerns in high-level meetings with the Kazakh government, and not to underplay its hand, given the close trade relationship.

We further briefed MFA officials before a bi-lateral meeting with Tajik officials in late February 2018. We also engaged with Dutch authorities in February 2019 on the case of Sharofiddin Gadoev, an asylum-seeker residing in the Netherlands forcibly returned to Tajikistan while on a trip to Moscow. In the coming year, we plan to continue meeting and engaging with Dutch officials to discuss human rights concerns in Central Asia.

Stichting Run for Human Rights Watch

The Dutch initiative Run for Human Rights Watch was established in 2009 by a group of enthusiastic young professionals with the support of the Netherlands Committee. As part of this initiative, 40 runners travel from the Netherlands to New York each year to participate in the New York City Marathon. In the lead up to the marathon, the group organizes fundraising and outreach events, including an auction and a benefit dinner, to raise funds and awareness for HRW. Thanks in part to the generosity of various Netherlands Committee members who have offered to match these gifts, the runners have brought in nearly one million euros for HRW over the years. 2019 will mark the 10-year anniversary of this initiative.



Photo: Stichting Run for Human Rights Watch 2018 presenting their cheque to Human Rights Watch in New York.

In November 2018, Run for Human Rights Watch donated € 181,394 to Human Rights Watch for our work on Rohingya child refugees. This includes a matching donation from Brook Foundation.

Stichting Alumni Run for Human Rights Watch

In October 2016, a group of dedicated former Run for Human Rights Watch members set up the alumni network Stichting Run for Human Rights Watch Alumni. Via this network those who ran the NYC marathon in support of Human Rights Watch continue to support the organisation, including attending gatherings and donating approximately 100 Euro per person per year to Human Rights Watch. In the fiscal year of 2018/2019, 40 alumni donated in total € 4,330.

LGBT Global Circle

The LGBT Global Circle of Friends is an international community of supporters who financially support Human Rights Watch's work defending the rights of LGBT people with a minimum contribution of € 5,000 per year. Members receive benefits such as invitations to insider briefings with Human Rights Watch experts in the Netherlands and internationally.

In the fiscal year of 2018/2019, there were 17 Global Circle members in the Netherlands. Moreover, in February and May 2019 we organized special LGBT rights related events. During Human Rights Weekend 2019 in February, we screened the

sold-out Dutch film premiere of *On My Way Out*, which combined a special Q&A lead by Peter van der Vorst, the farewell of former HRW LGBT Rights Advocacy Director Boris Dittrich, and a closed event for, among others, the members of the LGBT Global Circle. In May, we organized an expert briefing with LGBT Rights Director Graeme Reid.

Justice Circle

In 2016 Human Rights Watch launched the Justice Circle – also known as Lawyers for International Justice, an initiative which aims to deepen the International Justice (IJ) program's connection to lawyers and other individuals interested in promoting justice for atrocities. Members donate € 2,500 or more per year to support the work of the International Justice division and receive benefits such as invitations to insider briefings and special events with Human Rights Watch experts in the Netherlands and internationally. There are currently two Dutch members.

In the fiscal year 2018-2019, the focus was on cultivating the relationships with the existing Circle members as well as current and prospect International Justice donor organisations, such as law firms and other law centred organisations.

Planned Giving

In fiscal year 2018/2019, two new legacy gifts totalling € 74,941 were received in the Netherlands. Moreover, the Amsterdam office of Human Rights Watch was one of the contact persons for the legacy donation of € 101,973.35 that was received by our sister office in Brussels.

3.2 Outreach

Human Rights Weekend

The [Human Rights Weekend](#) is a public annual event created in 2013 to raise awareness about human rights issues and abuses and create a dialogue between participants. Featuring films, panel discussions, masterclasses, photography and other elements, the Human Rights Weekend forms the Dutch edition of the [Human Rights Watch Film Festival](#). It creates a platform for courageous individuals on both sides of the lens to empower audiences with the knowledge that personal commitment can make a difference. The Weekend brings to life human rights abuses through storytelling in a way that challenges each individual to empathize and demand justice for all people.

Human Rights Weekend 2019

Thanks to our generous partners, the seventh edition of the Human Rights Weekend was a big success. Held from 7-10 February 2019 at De Balie in Amsterdam, the weekend was attended by more than 1,300 visitors. The official partners included De Balie, Institute for War and Peace Reporting, PAX, De Groene Amsterdammer, World Press Photo, OUTtv, LexisNexis and PechaKucha Amsterdam.

The festival program featured a total of 13 programs, including 7 films (5 Dutch premieres), 1 masterclass, 1 House of Commons debate, 3 panel discussions and 1 PechaKucha night. Moreover, photos by Sacha de Boer were exhibited as part of the Human Rights Weekend. Sacha went to Tanzania to photograph children with albinism in Tanzania. This is part of a joint project with the Liliane Fonds, Human Rights Watch, and local partners. The project is generously supported by the Dutch Postcode Lottery.

Various human rights researchers, film directors, journalists, members of parliament, independent activists, and others took part in the program. Sigrid Kaag, the Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, opened the festival as keynote speaker.



Photo: Human Rights Weekend 2019

The theme was “Where Do I Stand?” – an invitation to guests to reflect on their own position regarding global human rights issues and to think about what they as an individual can do to make a difference. Attention was generated for a wide variety of human rights issues, ranging from the challenges to democracy and migration in Europe, to the link between modern slavery and the seafood we eat.

Some of the programs were live streamed and recorded. You can find the recordings here: [Opening Night Speeches](#), [Prosecuting Evil Q&A](#), [Media Freedom Under Threat](#), [Reporting on Iraq and Israel/Palestine](#), [PechaKucha](#), [Artificial Intelligence](#), [Big Data and Human Rights](#) and [Europe 2019 debate](#).

THURSDAY 7 FEBRUARY		
	FILM: Prosecuting War Crimes: The Extraordinary World of Ben Ferencz + Open House Q&A	19:30 - 21:45
FRIDAY 8 FEBRUARY		
	PANEL: Media Freedom under Threat: What Does the Future Hold?	18:30 - 20:00
	FILM: On Her Shoulders + Q&A	20:00 - 22:15
SATURDAY 9 FEBRUARY		
	PANEL: Living in the Shadows: People with Albinism in Tanzania	13:00 - 14:30
	FILM: Afghan Cycles + Q&A	14:30 - 16:30
	MASTERCLASS: Reporting on Iraq and Israel/Palestine Behind the Scenes with Human Rights Watch	16:30 - 18:00
	FILM: On My Way + LGBT Panel Program	18:00 - 19:30
	SPECIAL EVENT: Pechakucha at Human Rights Weekend 2019	20:30 - 22:15
SUNDAY 10 FEBRUARY		
	PANEL: Artificial Intelligence, Big Data and Human Rights: Progress or Setback?	13:00 - 14:30
	FILM: The Silence of Others + Q&A	14:30 - 16:30
	HOUSE OF COMMONS DEBATE: Europe 2019: Refugees, Democracy and Human Rights	16:30 - 18:00
	FILM: Ghost Fleet + Q&A	18:00 - 20:00
	FILM: Screwdriver + Introduction	20:30 - 22:40

Photo: Program Human Rights Weekend 2019

Communication and Publicity

Human Rights Weekend 2019 received substantial attention in the press. The festival was covered by major Dutch national media outlets, including NRC, [RTL Nieuws](#) and [Het Parool](#). Moreover, independent weekly magazine and Human Rights Weekend partner [De Groene Amsterdammer](#) featured a 6-page Human Rights Weekend special and full-page advertisement and film newspaper [De Filmkrant](#) included a special as well. The festival and specific programs were promoted by a variety of organisations, journalists, speakers, and moderators.

Last but not least, the promotion included a lot of social media activity on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#), as well as posters and flyers spread throughout Amsterdam.

Looking Ahead

The next, eight edition of the Human Rights Weekend will take place from Thursday 6 until Saturday 8 February 2020 at De Balie in Amsterdam. More details about this event will be shared in November 2019.

3.3 Press

Stichting Human Rights Watch Nederland bolsters domestic press coverage of human rights issues by preparing and distributing press releases and pitching stories tailored to the Dutch media. Human Rights Watch's research, findings, and recommendations are covered weekly by leading Dutch news outlets, including by NOS Journaal, Nieuwsuur, and radio. In addition, our researchers are frequently interviewed by a large variety of national news outlets, including Trouw, de Volkskrant, NRC, and Telegraaf.

Please find below multiple examples of our Dutch press coverage in the fiscal year 2018/2019:

July 2018

- ✓ 04.07.2018/NOS, [‘Parijs laat 200 migrantenkinderen op straat zwerven’](#), "En wij hebben zelf ook 49 minderjarigen geïnterviewd die kwamen uit landen als Afghanistan, Ivoorkust en Mali", zegt directeur Bénédicte Jeannerod van HRW in Frankrijk. "De procedures voor die kinderen in Parijs deugen niet. De beoordelingen gaan veel te snel en ambtenaren zijn vooringenomen."
- ✓ 05.07.2018/NOS, [Ethiopië ontslaat gevangenisleiding wegens mensenrechtenschendingen](#), "Het ontslag valt samen met de publicatie van [een rapport](#) van mensenrechtenorganisatie Human Rights Watch (HRW) over een van de gevangenis in Ethiopië."
- ✓ 15.07.2018/Trouw, [Is een Eritrese lente in aantocht?](#), "In het huidige Eritrea is het met de mensenrechten verschrikkelijk gesteld, zegt Felix Horne, onderzoeker bij Human Rights Watch en gespecialiseerd in de Hoorn van Afrika."
- ✓ 19.07.2018/Mondiaal Nieuws, [“Engelstalige crisis” in Kameroen escaleert tot vuile oorlog](#), "Ver weg van het rode pluche in Yaoundé gaat de oorlog op het Engelstalige platteland intussen in alle hevigheid verder. De Engelstalige bevolking is het kind van de rekening", zegt Pedneault van Human Rights Watch."

August 2018

- ✓ 02.08.2018/Het Laatste Nieuws, [“Zieke migrantenkinderen krijgen geen zorg op Griekse eilanden”](#), "Het mag niet zo zijn dat de gezondheid van kinderen verslechtert omdat hen opzettelijk zorg onthouden wordt", zegt Bill van Esveld, kinderrechtenonderzoeker bij HRW."
- ✓ 05.08.2018/Trouw, [Femicide: machocultuur wordt vrouwen in Latijns-Amerika fataal](#), "Ook Amanda Klasing, die bij Human Rights Watch onderzoek doet naar geweld tegen vrouwen, vindt dat landen meer moeten doen om femicide en geweld tegen vrouwen aan te pakken. Niet alleen door concrete maatregelen zoals de toelage in Argentinië, maar ook door op een dieper niveau de machocultuur aan te pakken."
- ✓ 14.08.2018/De Morgen, [Hoe voorkom je ultiem bloedbad in Idlib?](#), "Het risico is groot dat Russisch-Syrische troepen hun willekeurige en soms doelbewuste aanvallen op de burgerbevolking en civiele infrastructuur, zoals ziekenhuizen, hervatten." (article by HRW Executive Director Kenneth Roth)
- ✓ 24.08.2018/De Standaard, [‘Franckens getwitter is gênant voor België’](#), European Media Director Andrew Stroehlein's interview on the front page of De Standaard.

September 2018

- ✓ 05.09.2018/NPO Radio 1, [Boris Dittrich wil naar Eerste Kamer, ‘maar voelt zich niet gebonden aan regeerakkoord’](#), interview with former HRW LGBT Rights Advocacy Director Boris Dittrich about his decision to go back to politics.

- ✓ 16.09.2018/NRC, [Boegbeeld slachtoffers weet zelf wat leiden is](#), HRW Geneva Director John Fisher about the appointment of Michelle Bachelet as the new United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- ✓ 25.09.2018/Nieuwsuur, [Online onderzoekers ontrafelen moord, duizenden kilometers verderop](#), with Josh Lyons, Satellite Imagery Analyst at Human Rights Watch.

October 2018

- ✓ 13.10.2018/De Tijd, [Als smartphone satellieten worden](#), “De mensenrechtenorganisatie Human Rights Watch kan dankzij een partnerschap met Planet naast zijn ‘aardse’ technieken - vooral het ondervragen van ooggetuigen met pen en papier - volop satellietbeelden gebruiken om allerlei misbruiken vast te stellen, zeker op moeilijk toegankelijke plaatsen.”
- ✓ 24.10.2018/Nieuwsuur, [Uitzending van woensdag 24 oktober 2018](#), starting 04:10 Acting Emergencies Director [Priyanka Motoparthy](#) is speaking about the worsened situation on the ground in Yemen.

November 2018

- ✓ 01.11.2018/RTL Nieuws, [Vrouwen structureel misbruikt door matchhebbers Noord-Korea](#), Human Rights Watch research about structural abuse of women by powerful men.
- ✓ 01.11.2018/NOS, [‘MeToo is kansloos’: seksueel misbruik niet te stoppen in Noord-Korea](#), “Na gesprekken met Noord-Koreaanse vluchtelingen zegt mensenrechtenorganisatie Human Rights Watch dat het overall gebeurt: op de markt, bij controleposten, op straat, in het openbaar vervoer, in gevangenissen en in kazernes. De daders zijn meestal mannen die het gezag vertegenwoordigen, zoals politieagenten, militairen en cipiers.”

December 2018

- ✓ 10.12.2018/Algemeen Dagblad, [Vredespaleis in het blauw voor mensenrechten](#), “Het wereldwijd blauw uitlichten van belangrijke bouwwerken is een initiatief van mensenrechtenorganisatie Human Rights Watch.”
- ✓ 12.12.2018/deVolkskrant, [Turkije organiseerde ontvoeringen in ander landen](#), “Human Rights Watch bevestigt dat dergelijke praktijken hebben plaatsgevonden. ‘Rechterlijke beslissingen, het recht van beroep en wettelijke uitleveringsprocedures worden veronachtzaamd’, aldus een HRW-woordvoerder. ‘In die zin is er sprake van ontvoering.’”
- ✓ 20.12.2018/Trouw, [Ben je tegen de regering in Burundi? Dan beland je in een martelhuis](#), “Agenten van de geheime dienst hebben sympathisanten van de oppositie met hamers en stalen constructiebalken geslagen, staven door hun benen geboord, smeltend plastic op hun huid laten druipen en hen met kabels geëlectrocuteerd, aldus een rapport van Human Rights Watch.”

January 2019

- ✓ 07.01.2019/NOS Journaal, [Uitzending van maandag 7 januari 20:00](#), Deputy European Media Director [Jan Kooy](#) about the threats women are facing in Saudi-Arabia. News item starts at 08:27.
- ✓ 21.01.2019/NOS Radio 1 Journaal, [Human Rights Watch: EU-lidstaten medeverantwoordelijk voor geweld migranten Libië](#), “Human Rights Watch komt vandaag met een rapport over ernstige mishandeling en misbruik van migranten in Libië. Volgens de mensenrechtenorganisatie zijn EU-lidstaten hier medeverantwoordelijk voor.”

February 2019

- ✓ 02.02.2019/NRC, [Human Rights in De Balie](#), “Vanaf donderdag vier dagen in De Balie: het *Human Rights Weekend*. Deze zevende editie vol films, discussies en fotografie vraagt om reflectie...”
- ✓ 07.02.2019/Het Parool, [Directeur Human Rights Watch: ‘Vrije pers is een waarborg’](#), “Het indammen van de persvrijheid is het eerste wat autocratische leiders doen als ze aan de macht komen, waarschuwt directeur van Human Rights Watch Kenneth Roth. Donderdag is hij te gast in De Balie.”
- ✓ 09.02.2019/RTL Nieuws, [Afghaanse wielrensters het land uit gepest: ‘Ik ben met de dood bedreigd](#), Interviews in the 20:00 news edition with cyclist Frozan Rasooli just before the Dutch film première of *Afghan Cycles* at Human Rights Weekend 2019.
- ✓ 24.02.2019/Trouw, [Als een van de weinige landen voltrekt Egypte steeds vaker de doodstraf. ‘Het is meer wraak dan rechtspraak’](#), “De documenten van de aanklager zijn pagina’s dik, maar het is allemaal kopieer-plak-taal, zonder echt bewijs”, vertelt Amr Magdi, onderzoeker bij Human Rights Watch.

March 2019

- ✓ 06.03.2019/NRC, [‘Ik dacht dat ze me gingen vermoorden’](#), “Dit past in een patroon”, zegt Steve Swerdlow, onderzoeker voor Centraal-Azië bij Human Rights Watch. „Sinds 2019 hebben we ten minste 10 gevallen gedocumenteerd van Tadzjieken die gedwongen zijn gerepatrieerd en vastgezet.”
- ✓ 06.03.2017/NOS, [Human Rights Watch: honderden 'IS-kinderen' in cel in Irak](#), “In Irak zitten honderden kinderen in de gevangenis, omdat Iraakse en Koerdische autoriteiten ze beschuldigen van lidmaatschap van terreurgroep IS. Dat meldt mensenrechtenorganisatie Human Rights Watch (HRW) [in een rapport](#).”
- ✓ 08.03.2019/Radio Free Europe, [Tajik Activist Says He Was Pressed To Back President’s Son In 2020 Election](#), interview with Tajik activist Sjarofiddin Gadojev at the Amsterdam office of Human Rights Watch.

April 2019

- ✓ 12.04.2019/Algemeen Dagblad, [Krijgt Soedanese dictator Omar al-Bashir een enkeltje Den Haag?](#), “Richard Dicker, die de juridische afdeling leidt van de mensenrechtenorganisatie Human Rights Watch, denkt dat de kans op een proces in Den Haag in ieder geval nieuw leven is ingeblazen met de arrestatie van de dictator.”
- ✓ 24.04.2019/Nu.nl, [‘Kledingarbeiders Bangladesh draaien op voor veiligheidskosten fabrieken’](#), “Modebedrijven blijven aandringen op lage prijzen en snelle productie, waardoor de werkers slecht worden behandeld, concludeert mensenrechtenorganisatie Human Rights Watch (HRW) in nieuw onderzoek naar de branche.”
- ✓ 26.04.2019/deVolkskrant, [350 migranten bevrijd uit gevechtszone Tripoli](#), “Volgens Human Rights Watch (HRW) lopen migranten in detentie het risico het gewapend conflict in te worden gezogen. ‘Duizenden migranten zijn gevangen in afschuwelijke condities midden in het slagveld’, zegt HRW-coördinator Judith Sunderland.”

May 2019

- ✓ 21.05.2019/deVolkskrant, [Rapport: tienduizenden Noord-Koreaanse vrouwen in China verhandeld als seksslavinnen](#), “De bevindingen van KFI sluiten aan bij een onderzoek vorig jaar

van de mensenrechtengroep Human Rights Watch over het tragische lot van vrouwen die Noord-Korea ontvluchten.”

- ✓ 22.05.2019/Algemeen Dagblad, [FIFA ziet af van plan om WK uit te breiden naar 48 landen](#), “Mensenrechtenorganisaties als Amnesty International en Human Rights Watch wezen de FIFA er bovendien op, dat het tweede gastland van het WK moet voldoen aan de normen, waarden en regels die de wereldvoetbalbond zelf in 2017 heeft opgesteld, vooral op het gebied van mensenrechten en arbeidsvoorwaarden. Ook dat zou problemen opleveren.”
- ✓ 25.05.2019/Parool, [Colombiaanse leger wil criminelen oppakken – of doden](#), “Duque benoemde negen officieren die in verband waren gebracht met de eerdere illegale liquidaties, onder wie militairen die nu overal in Colombia actief zijn. Dat blijkt uit documenten in het bezit van de organisatie Human Rights Watch.”
- ✓ 29.05.2019/NRC, [Opnieuw tientallen doden in gevangenissen Brazilië](#), with Human Rights Watch research as information source.

June 2019

- ✓ 04.06.2019/RTLNieuws, [Het anti-semitisme neemt toe in Duitsland. Hoe zit dat?](#), interview with Wenzel Michalski, Director Human Rights Watch in Germany
- ✓ 05.06.2019/NRC, [Tegenwerking bewijst: Strafhof doet er juist toe](#), “Het zijn vaak latere regeringen die alsnog willen afrekenen met het verleden, daartoe aangezet door slachtoffers en hun nabestaanden. Of door ngo’s, zoals in het geval van Hissène Habré, voormalig dictator van Tsjaad, die levenslang kreeg via een speciaal tribunaal na een jacht van zo’n vijftien jaar van Human Rights Watch.”
- ✓ 16.06.2019/NRC, [‘China was een kind, nu is het volwassen’](#), “Human Rights Watch schreef in het jaarverslag over 2018 dat circa 1 miljoen Oeigoeren in politieke heropvoedingskampen wonen, dat leden van de minderheid (13 miljoen mensen) permanent in de gaten gehouden worden en dat op grote schaal paspoorten zijn gevorderd.”

3.4 Advocacy

While the core activities of HRW Netherlands are development and outreach, the organisation is also active in the Dutch political landscape through advocacy initiatives. We strengthen our relations with the Dutch government and parliament and raise our research and recommendations on pressing human rights issues.

Throughout the year 2018/2019 our advocates and researchers from the field had regular meetings about pressing human rights issues with, for example, members of parliament, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Security and Justice. To maximize impact, we decided to focus our advocacy on thematic areas where we believe The Netherlands can make a significant difference at the international level. Some examples of the meetings and initiatives that took place are:

Sigrid Kaag

Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Sigrid Kaag was the keynote speaker during the sold-out opening night of our annual outreach event [Human Rights Weekend 2019](#). Kaag addressed the importance of human rights as well as its major current challenges: the crumbling consensus on human rights; the shrinking space in the nexus between technology and human rights; the narrowing down of the concept of democracy. The speech is [available online](#).

European elections

In February 2019, Europe and Central Asia Advocacy Director [Philippe Dam](#) participated in a public debate with three Dutch Members of the European Parliament (Sophie in ‘t Veld of D66, Judith Sargentini of Groen Links, and Kati Piri of PvdA) and Anne Mulder, member for VVD at the Dutch Parliament. This constructive debate took place in the run-up to

the European elections of May and focused on tackling critical issues in Europe, such as rights-abusive governments, increasing threats to democracy, and the challenges involved in migration.

Moreover, Philippe Dam met with a number of members of Dutch Parliament for private meetings on EU's migration policies and the difference the Netherlands can make.

Rule of law in Hungary and Poland

Human Rights Watch has ongoing close and frequent correspondence and meetings with the Europe team of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs on addressing the rule of law crisis in Poland and Hungary. In the past months, we mobilized the Dutch government, together with a few other states, to push for a ministerial debate at the Council of the European Union on the rule of law in Hungary. This debate had been blocked since the European Parliament resolution on Hungary. This resolution was led by Judith Sargentini. Thanks to the efforts of Human Rights Watch and others, the ministerial debate took place and led to the EU's decision to take Hungary to court over the law it passed last year, which makes it a crime to help asylum seekers and enforces new restrictions on the right to claim asylum.

Cooperation review with the Libyan Coast Guard

We also lobbied the Dutch government, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice and Security, to call for a review of the cooperation of the EU with the Libyan Coast Guard. Although the Dutch government still falls short of conditioning this cooperation, the Dutch development ministry called for the end of the detention of migrants and the closure of Libya's migration detention centers. This is a significant step forward.

Central Asia and Uzbekistan

In April 2019, the Dutch Permanent Mission in Brussels hosted a briefing on the human rights situation in Uzbekistan, featuring a presentation by our Central Asia Researcher [Steve Swerdlow](#) and two prominent human rights defenders from the country.

In addition, Human Rights Watch pressed the Dutch government on addressing human rights issues in Central Asia and Ukraine and met with the respective teams at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Other

Several other colleagues have been in contact with Dutch members of Parliament and government officials. This includes Senior Iraq Researcher [Belkis Wille](#), who in February spoke with the Iraq Policy Officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about human rights violations surrounding ISIS prosecutions and the related collective punishment and lack of reconciliation projects. In June, Netherlands Director Katrien van de Linde and Deputy European Media Director [Jan Kooy](#) participated in the Coalitions for Impact gathering during the Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2019 in The Hague. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs invited stakeholders representing public and private organisations, NGO's, philanthropist funds and social impact financiers to shape collaborative efforts geared towards enhancing societal resilience in the focus countries Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon.

3.5 Additional visits by international staff

Throughout the year, many international research, program and executive staff members of Human Rights Watch visit the Netherlands for advocacy, fundraising, and media purposes. Below is an overview of these visits. During their visits, international staff are accompanied by their Netherlands colleagues.

The visits of international Human Rights Watch staff in 2018/2019 mainly took place around the Voices for Justice Annual Dinner on 15 November 2018 and Human Rights Weekend 2019 from 7 until 10 February. When possible, the attendance of these events was combined with meetings with major donors and prospects, briefings with and for partner organisations, and meetings at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the House of Representatives in The Hague.

International HRW staff at Voices for Justice Dinner 15 November 2018:

- ✓ [Jo Becker](#), Advocacy Director Children's Rights (speaker)
- ✓ [Nadim Houry](#), Director Terrorism and Counterterrorism (speaker)
- ✓ [Emina Cerimovic](#), Senior Researcher Disability Rights (speaker)
- ✓ [Balkees Jarrah](#), Senior Counsel International Justice
- ✓ [Kyle Knight](#), Researcher LGBT Rights
- ✓ [Bill Van Esveld](#), Senior Researcher Middle East and North Africa Children's Rights
- ✓ [Elin Martinez](#), Researcher Children's Rights
- ✓ [Rothna Begum](#), Senior Researcher Women's Rights
- ✓ [Ida Sawyer](#), Deputy Director Africa
- ✓ [Wenzel Michalski](#), Germany Director
- ✓ Jorg Fleckenstein, Associate Director Frankfurt
- ✓ Nadine Swibenko, Development Manager
- ✓ Maiko Miura, Development Officer

International HRW staff at Human Rights Weekend 7-10 February 2019:

- ✓ [Kenneth Roth](#), Executive Director (speaker)
- ✓ [Balkees Jarrah](#), Senior Counsel International Justice (speaker)
- ✓ [Belkis Wille](#), Senior Iraq Researcher (speaker)
- ✓ [Jonathan Pedneault](#), Researcher Crisis and Conflict (speaker)
- ✓ [Minky Worden](#), Director of Global Initiatives and major sporting events expert (speaker)
- ✓ [Omar Shakir](#), Israel and Palestine Director (speaker)
- ✓ [Sarah St. Vincent](#), Researcher and Advocate US Program (speaker)
- ✓ [Reed Brody](#), Counsel and Spokesperson (speaker)
- ✓ [Philippe Dam](#), Advocacy Director Europe and Central Asia (speaker)
- ✓ [Andrew Stroehlein](#), European Media Director
- ✓ Marina Riera Rodoreda, Communications and International Justice Associate

In addition to the international colleagues visiting the Netherlands around these two major event dates, we had regular visits throughout the year, including of the following colleagues:

- ✓ [Richard Dicker](#), Director International Justice Program
- ✓ [Mausi Segun](#), Executive Director Africa
- ✓ [Andreas Harsono](#), Indonesia Researcher
- ✓ [Graeme Reid](#), Director LGBT Rights Program

3.6 Evaluation

HRW Netherlands and Human Rights Watch are committed to rigorous, transparent, and consistent monitoring and self-evaluation. When looking at impact, the Human Rights Watch network determines whether it has met its goals to bring about positive change for those facing human rights violations. HRW Netherlands and Human Rights Watch consider input on progress from key interlocutors, local human rights partners, and critics. They gauge how effectively they have allocated resources. To ensure that the Human Rights Watch network reaches the highest standards of accuracy and objectivity in its research and achieves the greatest impact from its advocacy, it engages in self-evaluation throughout the year.

Often, since it takes a great deal of time to bring entrenched human rights abuses to an end, HRW Netherlands and Human Rights Watch consider interim criteria for evaluation. These include:

- whether we have succeeded in generating prominent Dutch press coverage about the abuses investigated
- whether the Dutch or other governments acted on these revelations by protesting the abuses or exerting diplomatic or economic pressure on the abusive government
- whether we succeeded in building or protecting outspoken Dutch opposition to abuses
- whether and how Dutch and other governments engage with the Human Rights Watch network or adopt and implement new policies to address the abuses it identifies and documents
- whether efforts are reflected in support from public media and Dutch donors
- whether the abuses we have investigated and reported on decrease or come to an end

Fundraising success is measured by whether we raise the operating budget each year. A leadership gifts team focuses on the strategy for exceptional gifts of \$100K + USD, while a team of four managing directors each oversee a portfolio of city directors, include the Netherlands (associate) director. Each city/country office determines its own goals in coordination with her/his managing director.

All HRW employees are required to set annual goals that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and tangible. Six-month and annual performance reviews are completed for each employee by her or his supervisor, evaluating whether the employee is on track to realize those goals. Netherlands staff meet weekly to review all current projects and ensure efficient collaboration.

2018/2019

In 2018/2019 HRW Netherlands arranged multiple advocacy meetings with key decision-makers and influencers in the country and delivered valuable input to Dutch news outlets on many occasions. HRW Netherlands also held several events, showcasing the work of Human Rights Watch researchers and raising funds e.g. the Voices for Justice Dinner and Human Rights Weekend.

3.6.1 Evaluation summary of qualitative objectives

Fundraising

Dutch Postcode Lottery

- The objective was to continue our current annual grant and to receive extra project support by the Dutch Postcode Lottery. The current grant is € 1,350,000 which was received on our Dutch bank account.

Voices for Justice dinner 2018

- The target was to raise € 525,000 with the annual dinner in November 2018. Eventually we raised € 479,000. This decrease is caused by lesser money raised at the live auction and the pledging. We also digitalized the bidding and pledging, but this resulted in much confusion. Another target was to have a stronger programme for the annual dinner. The speech by Jo Becker was a great success.

Run for Human Rights Watch

- In 2018/2019 the foundation had to find a matching donor for the donation of Run for Human Rights Watch. This goal was realised, and the foundation received a matching gift by Brook Foundation of € 90,697.

Events

- HRW Netherlands organized several successful briefings by HRW staff in Amsterdam and Rotterdam. These briefings were meant for current and new supporters, about topics such as technology & human rights and women's rights. We held a briefing at Galerie Rademakers in the run up to the annual dinner, and on December 10th on International Human Rights Day we collaborated with the Peace Palace in The Hague to light up the building in HRW-blue. Together with the Netherlands Committee we have been working towards positive changes regarding our events that will take place in FY20. As a result, we now have a well-planned calendar for coming year.

Affinity groups

Lawyers for International Justice

- In the fiscal year 2018-2019 the focus was on cultivating the relationships with the existing Lawyers for International Justice members as well as current and prospect International Justice donor organisations, such as law firms and other law centred organisations.

4. FUTURE

4.1 Strategy and expectations new fiscal year

Having defended human rights for more than 40 years, Human Rights Watch is now comprised of some 478 staff who represent 82 nationalities worldwide and strive daily to achieve equality, justice, and dignity for all. However, today many leaders worldwide—and the waves of popular support that brought them to power—are indifferent or hostile to human rights and these cherished values.

In 2018, Human Rights Watch celebrated 40 years as an organisation, while the Universal Declaration of Human Rights turned 70. But this year of anniversaries was hardly a moment for complacency. Hard-won progress was being eroded as populist leaders demonized vulnerable minorities, promoted discrimination and hate, and once in power, sought to undermine the checks and balances on their power.

Yet we have found time and again that with the help of our supporters we can resist and turn back these anti-democratic forces. Human Rights Watch is proud to play a leading role in a strong and emboldened global movement that is fighting to protect human rights and defend the principles that underpin them. We practice a powerful, proven methodology: investigate abuses scrupulously, expose the facts widely, and relentlessly press those in power for change that respects rights.

Moreover, our success today requires that we enlist innovative tools to expose abuse and engage the public and policymakers. When governments try to hide their atrocities by barring access for our researchers, we can deploy satellite imagery and other remote sensing tools, alongside our traditional refugee testimony, to overcome their obstructionism. For example, when the Burmese military ethnically cleansed the Rohingya population, forcing 700,000 refugees to Bangladesh, and denied their accounts of murder, rape and arson, we corroborated their testimony with satellite imagery to show the burning of some 350 Rohingya villages. Our evidence was broadcast worldwide. We rallied a powerful response, including targeted sanctions against Burmese military commanders and the initiation of a new United Nations mechanism to collect evidence and build cases for future prosecutions. It is critically important in the current climate that we expand public support for human rights values.

In the Netherlands, Human Rights Watch is about to have its ten-year anniversary. The new co-chair of the Netherlands Committee and the new Netherlands director have been working closely with the Executive Committee and the Netherlands Committee to review the development and outreach goals of the Netherlands office.

The Human Rights Weekend continues to be an important event for all of the HRW NL partners and in addition, more events will be organized throughout the year. In this way, we will be able to update our partners and others on current human rights issues and will have opportunities to remain in close contact. The Annual Voices for Justice dinner has been moved to a new month and location in order to provide an updated feeling to this successful, annual event.

The HRW NL (sub) committees have welcomed new members and our younger group of supporters, Run for Human Rights Watch, have become an important part of our yearly activities. The Netherlands office will remain grateful to and in close contact with the many Dutch foundations and individuals who support our work.

Multiple year budget

	Budget	Budget	Budget
	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
INCOME	€	€	€
Revenue from individuals	757,279	757,279	757,279
Revenue from foundations & corporations	823,500	823,500	823,500
Revenue from legacies	-	-	-
Revenue from lotteries	-	-	-
Total Income	<u>1,580,779</u>	<u>1,580,779</u>	<u>1,580,779</u>
EXPENSES			
Contribution to objectives			
Protecting and defending human rights	-	-	-
Support the work of Human Rights Watch Inc.	751,000	741,000	761,000
Education, humanitarian, literary or scientific activities	1,000	1,000	1,000
Advocacy and Communication initiatives	135,700	140,960	145,640
	<u>887,700</u>	<u>882,960</u>	<u>907,640</u>
Fundraising			
Special events	134,900	137,000	140,000
Costs fundraising activities	296,200	307,480	319,490
	<u>431,100</u>	<u>444,480</u>	<u>459,490</u>
Management and administration			
Costs management and administration	84,400	88,560	91,870
	<u>84,400</u>	<u>88,560</u>	<u>91,870</u>
Total Expenses	<u>1,403,200</u>	<u>1,416,000</u>	<u>1,459,000</u>

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

To the management of Stichting Human Rights Watch Nederland
Prinsengracht 583
1016 HT Amsterdam

Processed by Karene Diene
Date: September 16, 2019

Dear Board Members,

We hereby send you the financial statements for the year 2018/2019 of your foundation.

5.1 AUDIT

In accordance with your instructions we have compiled the annual account 2018/2019 of the foundation, including the balance sheet with counts of €3,377,378 and the profit and loss account with a positive result of €168,592.

5.2 GENERAL

5.2.1 Company

The promotion of domestic human rights including the elimination of the infringement of those rights and the promotion of effective remedies following any breach, for the benefit of the public by:

- (a) advancing education in human rights by teaching, producing materials or by conducting or commissioning research (and publishing the results);
- (b) raising public awareness and cultivating a sentiment on favour of human rights using publications, lectures, human rights awards, the media, public advocacy and other means of communication;
- (c) promoting the sound administration of domestic human rights law by conducting or commissioning research in domestic human rights and publishing the same to the public;
- (d) promoting the enforcement of domestic human rights law.

The promotion of international human rights for the benefit of the public by:

- (a) advancing education in human rights by teaching, producing materials or by conducting or commissioning research (and publishing the results),
- (b) raising public awareness and cultivating a sentiment in favour of human rights using publications, lectures, human rights awards, the media, public advocacy and other means of communication provided that this does not extend to promoting directly a change in the law or government policy or the administrative decisions of government authorities.

5.2.2 Board of Directors

On June 30, 2019, the members of the board are:

Mr. Chuck Lustig, Chair
Mr. Justin A.J.W. Nieuwenhuys, Secretary
Mrs. Janet Visbeen, Member
Mrs. Michele A. Alexander, Member

Director

Mrs. Katrien Van de Linde, Associate Director for Development & Global Initiatives

5.2.3 Comparative figures

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting guidelines for annual reporting 650 for fundraising institutions of the Dutch Standards on Auditing.

Change of accounting principle

The new regulation of the guideline for annual reporting 650 “Fundraising Organisations” of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board requires that bequests (with a usufruct clause) are valued in the financial statements as of the moment of declaration. This new regulation of the guideline for annual reporting is mandatory for the financial year starting on or after January 1, 2017.

5.2.4 ANBI-status

The Dutch Foundation has a so called ANBI-status. This means that since the foundation only serves objectives of general social benefit no gifts taxes are due and gifts to the foundation are tax deductible in the Netherlands.

5.2.5 Appropriation of the net result 2018/2019

The positive result for the year 2018/2019 amounts to € 168,592 compared to a positive result for the year 2017/2018 of € 140,403. The analysis of the result is disclosed on pages 5 & 6. The proposed appropriation of result is to add the sum to the reserves.

5.3 FINANCIAL POSITION

The balance sheet can be summarized as follows:

	<u>6/30/2019</u>	<u>6/30/2018</u>
	€	€
Long term funds:		
Corporate capital	1,422,390	1,253,798
Long term investments:		
Tangible fixed assets	23,510	31,164
Working capital	<u>1,398,880</u>	<u>1,222,634</u>
This amount is applied as follows:		
Receivables, prepayments and accrued income	962,690	832,155
Cash and cash equivalents	2,385,554	570,857
Security deposits due to HRW	5,624	-
	<u>3,353,868</u>	<u>1,403,012</u>
Debit: Short-term debt	1,954,988	180,379
Working capital	<u>1,398,880</u>	<u>1,222,634</u>

6. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

6.1 Balance Sheet as at June 30, 2019

Before result appropriation

		6/30/2019		6/30/2018	
		€	€	€	€
ASSETS					
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	6.4.1		23,510		31,164
Current assets					
Receivables, prepayments and accrued income	6.4.2	962,690		832,155	
Cash and cash equivalents	6.4.3	2,385,554		570,857	
Security deposits due to HRW		5,624			
			3,353,868		1,403,012
			<u>3,377,378</u>		<u>1,434,176</u>
LIABILITIES					
Reserves					
Continuity reserve	6.4.4	445,798		375,395	
Earmarked reserves	6.4.6	808,000		738,000	
Result	6.4.5	168,592		140,403	
			1,422,390		1,253,798
Current liabilities	6.4.7		1,954,988		180,379
			<u>3,377,378</u>		<u>1,434,176</u>

6.2 Profit and Loss Account 2018/2019

	Notes	Balance 2018/2019 €	Budget 2018/2019 €	Balance 2017/2018 €	Budget 2017/2018 €
INCOME					
Revenue from individuals	6.5.1	2,254,057	461,915	281,254	849,378
Revenue from foundations & corporations	6.5.2	1,164,936	1,077,801	1,168,741	593,012
Revenue from legacies	6.5.3	74,941	-	31,806	-
Revenue from National Postcode Loterij	6.5.4	1,350,000	-	-	-
Contributions receivable revaluation	6.5.5	(11,310)	-	-	-
Total Income		4,832,625	1,539,716	1,481,802	1,442,390
EXPENSES					
Contribution to objectives					
Protecting and defending human rights	6.5.4	111,944	124,600	123,177	126,200
Support the work of Human Rights Watch Inc.	6.5.5	3,903,825	650,000	600,000	600,000
Education, humanitarian, literary or scientific activities	6.5.6	24,322	1,000	25,367	1,000
Advocacy and Communication initiatives	6.5.7	125,197	128,033	128,395	107,600
	6.5.8	4,165,288	903,633	876,938	834,800
Fundraising					
Special Events		133,167	122,600	100,642	122,500
Costs fundraising activities		290,683	278,733	289,097	235,700
		423,850	401,333	389,739	358,200
Management and administration					
Costs management and administration	6.5.9	74,628	73,633	74,768	67,100
		74,628	73,633	74,768	67,100
Unrealized Gain/Loss		280			
		280			
Total Expenses		4,664,046	1,378,600	1,341,446	1,260,100
Result before financial income		168,579	161,116	140,356	182,290
Financial income		13	-	47	-
Result		168,592	161,116	140,403	182,290

Signature of the financial accounts 2018/2019

Amsterdam,

Mr. Chuck Lustig

Mr. Justin A.J.W. Nieuwenhuys



Chuck Lustig (Nov 7, 2019)

Mrs. Michele A. Alexander

Mrs Janet Visbeen



Michele Alexander (Nov 7, 2019)

Janet Visbeen (Nov 14, 2019)

6.3 Notes to the statements

GENERAL

General information

Stichting Human Rights Watch Nederland (the “Foundation”) is a foundation incorporated under the laws of the Netherlands, having its registered office in Amsterdam. The foundation is registered at the Commercial register of Chamber of Commerce under file number: 41216606.

The Foundation has an ANBI (Algemeen nut beogende instellingen) status.

In English known as a Public Benefit Organisation (PBO). RSIN number: 816121977

The Foundation is part of the global Human Rights Watch network. This international collaboration works to stop human right abuses. Human Rights Watch Inc, oversees this group and maintains operational control and oversight. The financial figures of Stichting Human Rights Watch are included of the consolidated financial statements of Human Rights Watch Inc.

The general objective of the foundation, also mentioned in the Articles of Association, is to defend human rights and support the work of Human Rights Watch, as follows:

- Protecting human rights around the world in times of war and peace by documenting violations, publishing the findings, and using this information to stop the violations and prevent violations in the future
- Undertaking educational, humanitarian, literary, or scientific activities to further this mission.

The Foundation also have additional objectives such as:

- Advocacy and communication initiatives
- Fundraising to support the worldwide operations of Human Rights Watch.

The foundation’s primary purpose is to raise money in The Netherlands to support the worldwide operations and programs of Human Rights Watch

Estimates

In applying the principles and policies for drawing up the financial statements, the board of Stichting Human Right Watch Nederland make different estimates and judgments that may be essential to the amounts disclosed in the financial statements. If it is necessary in order to provide the transparency required under the Netherlands generally accepted accounting principles the nature of these estimates and judgments, including related assumptions, is disclosed in the Notes to the relevant financial statement item.

GENERAL ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The financial statements are drawn up in accordance with the Netherlands generally accepted accounting principles. Assets and liabilities are generally valued at historical cost, production cost or at fair value at the time of acquisition. If no specific valuation principle has been stated, valuation is at historical cost.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Dutch regulation of RJ 650 “Fundraising Organisation”.

PRINCIPLES OF VALUATION OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Tangible fixed assets

Other tangible fixed assets are valued at historical cost or production cost including directly attributable costs, less straight-line depreciation based on the expected future life and impairments.

Receivables

Receivables are initially valued at the fair value of the consideration to be received, including transaction costs if material. Receivables are subsequently valued at the amortized cost price. Provisions for bad debts are deducted from the carrying amount of the receivable.

The new accounting guidelines require to include additional pledges (contributions receivables) owed to us as of the closing of the fiscal years 2017/2018 and 2018/2019.

As the financial statements of 2017/2018 need to be shown in a comparative format, we restated the figures of 2017/2018.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at banks and in hand represent cash in hand, bank balances and deposits with terms of less than twelve months. Overdrafts at banks are recognized as part of debts to lending institutions under current liabilities. Cash at banks and in hand is valued at nominal value.

Foreign exchange

All assets denominated in foreign currencies, including cash in foreign interest-bearing cash accounts, are translated at the exchange rates applicable at balance sheet date. Foreign currency transactions are translated into Euros at exchange rates applicable at the time of the transactions. All realized and unrealized exchange gains and losses on foreign currency balances are included in the statement of income and expenses for the year as a component of other income and expense.

Long-term and short-term liabilities

On initial recognition long-term debts are recognized at fair value. Transaction costs which can be directly attributed to the acquisition of the long-term debts are included in the initial recognition. After initial recognition long-term debts are recognized at the amortized cost price, being the amount received taking into account premiums or discounts and minus transaction costs.

On initial recognition current liabilities are recognized at fair value. After initial recognition current liabilities are recognized at the amortized cost price, being the amount received taking into account premiums or discounts and minus transaction costs. This is usually the nominal value.

Continuity Reserve

The continuity reserve is held to be able to cover short-term risks and to ensure that HRW Netherlands can meet its future obligations.

The Board of HRW Netherlands decided on the minimal amount of equity that should remain in the foundation as a buffer for ongoing liabilities. At the board meeting it was decided to reserve 50% of the operating budget in our account. This minimum amount is indicated as continuity reserve in the financial statements.

Earmarked reserve

This reserve consists of amounts of gifts which are accepted with a stipulation to be spend on a specific purpose. Until completely spent, these amounts are taken in the earmarked reserve. This reserve can't be spent freely.

PRINCIPLES FOR THE DETERMINATION OF THE RESULT

General

The result is the difference between the revenues and the costs and other charges during the year.

Revenue recognition

The operations of HRW are financed principally by foundation grants and contributions received from the general public. Grants and contributions are reported at fair value on the date they are received. Grants and contributions received are recorded as unrestricted, temporarily restricted or permanently restricted support depending on the existence or absence of any donor restrictions. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends of purpose and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions. Revenue for special events is recognised when the event takes place.

Costs

Costs are determined on a historical basis and are attributed to the reporting year to which they relate.

Cost allocation

The costs are allocated to the objective of fundraising as well as management and administration based on the following criteria:

- directly attributable costs are directly allocated
- costs not directly attributable are allocated as follows:
 - personnel costs based on a well-founded estimate of the time spent by employees
 - other costs following the distribution of personnel costs

Employee benefits

Benefits to be paid periodically

The benefits payable to personnel are recorded in the profit and loss account on the basis of the employment conditions.

Amortization and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are amortized and depreciated from the date of when they are available for use, based on the estimated economic life / expected future useful life of the asset.

Financial income and expenses

Interest income and interest expenses

Interest income and expenses are recognized on a pro rata basis, taking account of the effective interest rate of the assets and liabilities to which, they relate. In accounting for interest expenses, the recognized transaction expenses for loans received are taken into consideration.

6.4 Notes to the balance sheet as at June 30, 2019

ASSETS

FIXED ASSETS

	<u>06/30/2019</u>	<u>06/30/2018</u>					
	€	€					
6.4.1 Tangible fixed assets							
Leasehold Improvements	5,076	7,252					
Office Equipment	1,888	(0)					
Computer Hardware	15,299	21117.4					
Furniture & Fixtures	1,247	2,794					
	<u>23,510</u>	<u>31,164</u>					
			Leasehold Improvem ent	Office Equipment	Computer Hardware	Furniture & Fixtures	Total
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Carrying amount as of July 1, 2018							
Purchase price	47,827	9,518	56,464	20,556	134,365		
Cumulative depreciation and impairment	(40,575)	(9,518)	(35,346)	(17,762)	(103,201)		
	<u>7,252</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,117</u>	<u>2,794</u>	<u>31,164</u>		
Movement							
Investments	-	2,360	-	-	2,360		
Depreciation	(2,176)	(472)	(5,818)	(1,547)	(10,014)		
	<u>(2,176)</u>	<u>1,888</u>	<u>(5,818)</u>	<u>(1,547)</u>	<u>(7,654)</u>		
Carrying amount as of June 30, 2019	47,827	11,878	56,464	20,556	136,724		
Purchase price	(42,751)	(9,990)	(41,165)	(19,309)	(113,214)		
Cumulative depreciation and impairment	<u>5,076</u>	<u>1,888</u>	<u>15,299</u>	<u>1,247</u>	<u>23,510</u>		
Carrying amount as of June 30, 2019							
Depreciation rates	%						
Leasehold Improvements	20						
Office Equipment	20						
Computer Hardware	20						
Furniture & Fixtures	20						

CURRENT ASSETS

	<u>6/30/2019</u>	<u>6/30/2018</u>
	€	€
6.4.2 Receivables, prepayments and accrued		
Other receivables, deferred assets	<u>962,690</u>	<u>832,155</u>
Prepayments and accrued income		
Other Receivables	-	17,500
Prepaid Expensens	-	6,655
Contributions Receivable	<u>962,690</u>	<u>808,000</u>
	<u>962,690</u>	<u>832,155</u>
6.4.3 Cash and cash equivalents		
Netherlands- Operations	1,373,101	108,418
Netherlands- Savings	1,012,453	456,815
Rent Guarantee *	<u>5,624</u>	<u>5,624</u>
	<u>2,391,178</u>	<u>570,857</u>

* The rent guarantee, € 5,624, is not available for use until both parties agree to terminate the lease agreement

All receivables less than €5,000 have not been booked as revenue is recognized once the funds are received for these non-significant balances. The total amount of all receivables less than €5,000 as of June 30, 2019 was €64,050.

RESERVES AND LIABILITIES

	<u>6/30/2019</u>	<u>6/30/2018</u>
	€	€
6.4.4 Continuity reserve *		
Continuity reserve opening balance	375,395	404,311
Restatement charge in accounting principle	-	-
Reclassification to earmarked reserve		
Appropriation result 2017/2018	70,403	(28,916)
	<u>445,798</u>	<u>375,395</u>
6.4.5 Unappropriated result		
Balance as at June 30, 2018	140,403	(28,916)
Appropriation result 2017/2018	(140,403)	28,916
Result 2018/2019	168,592	140,403
Balance as at June 30, 2019	<u>168,592</u>	<u>140,403</u>

The board of directors proposed to appropriate the result as follows:

Add to earmarked reserves	(133,000)	70,000
Add to continuity reserve	301,592	70,403
	<u>168,592</u>	<u>140,403</u>

	<u>6/30/2019</u>	<u>6/30/2018</u>
	€	€
6.4.6 Earmarked reserve		
After appropriation of result		
Turkey	15,000	15,000
Central Asia-Uzbekistan	117,000	198,000
Women's Rights	225,000	350,000
Children's Rights	100,000	50,000
Eastern Europe & Central Asia	50,000	75,000
LGBT	118,000	80,000
Multimedia	30,000	40,000
Disabilities - Institutionn &	10,000	-
Great Lakes - Central African	10,000	-
	<u>675,000</u>	<u>808,000</u>

During FY19, the earmarked reserve fluctuated from € 808,000 to € 635,000.

This variation is explained by the new contributions that were received (€ 339,000.00) as well as the eligible payments (€512,000).

	<u>06/30/2019</u>	<u>06/30/2018</u>
	€	€
6.4.7 Current liabilities		
Taxes and social securities	-	1,051
Other liabilities	11,000	16,156
Accruals and deferred income	17,098	163,172
Due to other HRW inc.	1,926,890	-
	<u>1,954,988</u>	<u>180,379</u>
<i>Taxes and social securities</i>		
Payroll taxes payable	-	1,051
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,051</u>
<i>Other liabilities</i>		
Accrued Expenses	11,000	16,156
	<u>11,000</u>	<u>16,156</u>
<i>Accruals and deferred income</i>		
Accrued Vacation Payable	12,500	14,146
Accounts Payable. Foreign Offices	2,807	419
Accrued Redundancy	-	-
Accrued Salaries	1,791	3,272
Deferred income	-	145,335
	<u>17,098</u>	<u>163,172</u>
<i>Due to other HRW inc.</i>		
Due to/from US Headquarters	1,488,800	-
Due to/from France Branch	70,000	-
Due to/from UK Branch	468,090	-
Due to/from Netherlan Fdn.	-100,000	-
	<u>1,926,890</u>	<u>-</u>

Assets and liabilities not recognised in balance sheet.

Multiyear financial liabilities

There are two long-term rental commitments. One for the office lease and one for the copier.

Lease rent: EUR 10,500.71 per quarter

Lease printer: EUR 296.45 per month

6.5 Notes to the profit and loss account 2018/2019

	Balance 2018/2019	Balance 2017/2018
	€	€
INCOME		
6.5.1 Revenue from individuals	2,254,057	281,254
6.5.2 Revenue from foundations & corporations	1,164,936	1,168,741
6.5.3 Revenue from legacies	74,941	31,806
6.5.4 Revenue from National Postcode Loterij	1,350,000	-
6.5.5 Contributions receivable revaluation	(11,309)	-
Total Income	4,832,625	1,481,802
EXPENSES		
Contribution to objectives		
6.5.4 Protecting and defending human rights		
<i>Operating costs</i>		
Employee expenses	107,055	107,356
Travel and representation costs	1,543	11,294
General Expenses	3,347	4,527
	<u>111,945</u>	<u>123,177</u>
6.5.5 Support the work of Human Rights Watch Inc.		
<i>Direct program costs</i>		
Contribution support activities HRW Inc. - Restricted revenue	1,394,079	
Contribution support activities HRW Inc. - Unrestricted revenue	2,509,745	600,000
	<u>3,903,825</u>	<u>600,000</u>
6.5.6 Education, humanitarian, literary or scientific activities		
<i>Operating costs</i>		
Special Events	13,090	9,638
Employee expenses	5,223	6,461
Office expenses	100	-
Travel and representation costs	5,909	9,268
	<u>24,322</u>	<u>25,367</u>
6.5.7 Advocacy and Communication initiatives		
<i>Operating costs</i>		
Employee expenses	103,642	103,958
Amortisation and depreciation	1,669	3,718
Accommodation expenses	8,474	9,777
Office expenses	2,436	2,525
Travel and representation costs	5,819	5,741
General expenses	2,961	2,499
Financial expenses	197	178
	<u>125,197</u>	<u>128,395</u>

	<u>Balance</u> <u>2018/2019</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>2017/2018</u>
	€	€
6.5.8 Fundraising expenses		
<i>Operating costs</i>		
Special Events	220,428	100,642
Employee expenses	133,167	196,919
Amortisation and depreciation	6,676	14,871
Accommodation expenses	33,895	39,107
Office expenses	6,554	9,196
Travel and representation costs	12,057	19,543
General expenses	10,287	8,750
Financial expenses	787	711
	<u>423,850</u>	<u>389,739</u>
6.5.9 Management and administration		
<i>Operating costs</i>		
Employee expenses	58,913	55,112
Amortisation and depreciation	1,669	3,718
Accommodation expenses	8,474	9,777
Office expenses	1,572	1,997
Travel and representation costs	1,240	1,800
General expenses	2,564	2,188
Financial expenses	197	178
	<u>74,629</u>	<u>74,768</u>

Explanation deviations profit & loss account

Revenue

Realised versus budgeted revenue 2018/2019

Looking at the type of revenue “individuals” or “foundations & corporations” there was a big difference between budgeted and realised revenue. This is caused by revenue reclassification adjustments throughout the year.

This reclassification of revenue did not have an impact on the total budgeted revenue compared to the realised revenue for 2018/2019.

Realised revenue 2018/2019 versus realised revenue 2017/2018

In 2018/2019 there was an increase of revenue explained by an important donation of an amount of 1million euros made by an individual as well as the Postcode Lottery money.

In 2017/2018 the foundation received a one-time legacy of € 31,806 versus € 74,941 in 2018/2019.

The foundation received € 1,350,000 from the National Postcode Lottery.

Contributions receivable revaluation

Every year, the net value of the contributions receivable needs to be revaluated, if these balances are due in more than a year.

Contribution of objectives

Support the work of Human Rights Watch Inc.

To support the work of HRW Inc., HRW Inc., makes grant requests annually after the board meeting, once the fund balance is confirmed. Each grant request will be accompanied by a detailed grant proposal including budgeting to ensure approved funds are used for the purpose of the grant. No funds will be transferred prior to majority board approval and full expense details of approved grants will be shared in the subsequent annual board meeting to mitigate the risk of grants being misspent.

Education, humanitarian, literary or scientific activities

Expenses for this objective are related to the Human Rights Weekend, the annual outreach event that takes place in January/February. Expenses related to this event are covered by a sponsor. The budget process for this event is different from other expenses. Once it's known how much the sponsor contribution then a budget is made.

This budget is not included in the annual budget. The small portion of the annual budget is for unforeseen costs.

Advocacy and communication initiatives

The 2018/2019 expenses decreased compared to 2017/2018.

Fundraising

Special events

Most costs in this category are related to the annual fundraising dinner taking place in November.

The special events expenses in 2018/2019 increased compared to 2017/2018.

This increase is mainly due to the employee, accommodation and travel expenses.

Management and administration

The 2018/2019 expenses remain constant compared to last year.

Total expense ratios FY19 2018/2019

Expenditure per category

Protecting and defending human rights	2%
Support the work of HRW Inc.	87%
Education, humanitarian, literary or scientific activities	1%
Advocacy & Communication initiatives	3%
Fundraising	9%
Management and administration	2%
Total	104%

Expenses Specification Overview 2017/2018

		Contributed to objectives				Fundraising	Management and administration	Actual 2017/2018	Budget 2017/2018
		Protecting and defending human rights	Support the work of Human Rights Watch Inc.	Education, humanitarian, literary or scientific activities	Advocacy & Communication initiatives				
<i>Notes</i>		6.5.4	6.5.5	6.5.6	6.5.7	6.5.8	6.5.9		
		€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Direct program costs									
	Contribution support activities HRW Inc.	-	600,000	-	-	-	-	600,000	600,000
Operating costs									
	Employee expenses	6.6.1 107,356	-	6,461	103,958	196,919	55,112	469,806	426,300
	Special Events	6.6.2 -	-	9,638	-	100,642	-	110,280	122,500
	Amortisation and depreciation	6.6.3 -	-	-	3,718	14,871	3,718	22,306	
	Accommodation expenses	6.6.4 -	-	-	9,777	39,107	9,777	58,660	60,200
	Office expenses	6.6.5 -	-	-	2,525	9,196	1,997	13,718	5,600
	Travel and representation costs	6.6.6 11,294	-	9,268	5,741	19,543	1,800	47,646	29,600
	General expenses	6.6.7 4,527	-	-	2,499	8,750	2,188	17,963	14,700
	Financial expenses	6.6.8 -	-	-	178	711	178	1,067	1,200
Total									
		123,177	600,000	25,367	128,395	389,739	74,768	1,341,446	1,260,100

Total expense ratios FY18 2017/2018

Expenditure per category

Protecting and defending human rights	8%
Support the work of HRW Inc.	40%
Education, humanitarian, literary or scientific activities	2%
Advocacy & Communication initiatives	9%
Fundraising	26%
Management and administration	5%
Total	91%

Specification information Operating Expenses

	Balance 2018/2019	Balance 2017/2018
	€	€
6.6.1 Employee expenses		
Wages and salaries	388,424	364,951
Social security charges	77,355	76,245
Retirement Savings	29,483	28,610
	<u>495,262</u>	<u>469,806</u>
<i>Wages and salaries</i>		
Salaries	380,188	357,771
Intern Reimbursement	1,128	2,155
Temporary Hire	7,108	5,025
	<u>388,424</u>	<u>364,951</u>
<i>Social security charges</i>		
Employer Tax	58,275	59,762
Temp Hire Tax/Benefit	1,978	1,044
Health Insurance/Wellness	17,102	15,439
	<u>77,355</u>	<u>76,245</u>
<i>Retirement Savings</i>		
Retirement Savings	29,483	28,610
	<u>29,483</u>	<u>28,610</u>

Staff at partnership during 2018/2019, on average 7 employees were employed, converted to fulltime equivalents (2017/2018: 7).

	Balance 2018/2019	Balance 2017/2018
	€	€
6.6.2 Special Events		
Venue/ Facilities	79,858	11,511
Program Production	2,489	5
Postage & Delivery	612	1,952
Printing	507	2,937
Signage & Supplies	284	1,411
Catering	3,946	47,876
Videog./Photography	2,119	1,698
Events Consultant	15,609	12,511
Technology	3,564	15,606
Decor	3857	8,663
Graphic Design	6,497	5,964
Incidentals	19,794	145
Participation Fees	242	-
Publicity	3,302	-
Merchandise	2,640	-
Honorarium	938	-
	<u>146,257</u>	<u>110,280</u>

	Balance 2018/2019	Balance 2017/2018
	€	€
6.6.3 Amortisation and depreciation		
<i>Depreciation of tangible fixed assets</i>		
Leasehold Improvements	2,176	9,526
Office Equipment	472	1,904
Computer Hardware	5,818	8,974
Furniture & Fixtures	1,547	1,902
	<u>10,014</u>	<u>22,306</u>
Other operating expenses		
6.6.4 Accommodation expenses	49,833	58,660
6.6.5 Office expenses	11,671	13,718
6.6.6 Travel and representation costs	26,567	47,646
6.6.7 General expenses	19,158	17,963
6.6.8 Financial expenses	1,180	1,067
	<u>108,409</u>	<u>139,101</u>
6.6.4 Accommodation expenses		
Rent	35,261	40,231
Operating Tax incr.	-	11
Utilities	5,929	11,150
Cleaning	3,592	3,500
Kitchen Supplies	610	280
Equip./Furn.Maint.	4,441	3,488
	<u>49,833</u>	<u>58,660</u>
6.6.5 Office expenses		
Office Supplies	1,009	1,028
Computer Supply & Maintenance	200	194
Internet	6,558	5,682
Office telephone	1,846	4,525
Subscriptions	1,612	1,643
Online Services	350	113
Books Purchased	20	301
Photocopy	55	194
Postage & Delivery	21	37
Translations	-	-
	<u>11,671</u>	<u>13,718</u>

	Balance 2018/2019 €	Balance 2017/2018 €
6.6.6 Travel and representation expenses		
Travel: Airfare	5,615	6,265
Travel: Telecommunications	380	917
Travel: Ground transport	3,423	3,416
Travel: Meals	1,455	1,199
Travel: Meetings- Meals	69	471
Travel: Meetings- Venues	-	70
Travel: Incidentals	-	(21)
Travel: Lodging	8,798	6,604
Travel: Delivery (non-publicity)	241	70
Travel: Document Fees	90	72
Travel:Travel: Fixers	-	10,667
Travel: Agent Fees	-	12,400
Pubs: InHouse Printing	-	35
Marketing: Postage	514	166
Marketing: Printing	564	783
Marketing: Consulting Fees	3,327	1,180
Staff Enrichment: Staff Gifts	604	369
Staff Enrichment: Staff Parties	856	425
Staff Enrichment: Tuition Reimbursement	236	1,992
Staff Enrichment: Seminars	-	291
Staff Enrichment: Occasion Meals	180	278
Publications	-	-
Staff Enrichment: Meals at Mtgs	-	-
Translation	100	-
Pubs: Graphics/Maps/Charts	75	-
Pubs: Shipping & Handling	39	-
	<u>26,567</u>	<u>47,646</u>
6.6.7 General expenses		
Professional fees: Audit	14,362	11,123
Professional fees: Accounting	-	437
Professional fees: Other	205	13
Professional fees: Payroll/ Benefice Service	-	-
Insurance: Special	847	1,552
Home Office	3,744	4,838
	<u>19,158</u>	<u>17,963</u>
6.6.8 Financial expenses		
Business fees: Bank Charges	1,142	1,043
Business fees: CC Processing fees	37	23
	<u>1,180</u>	<u>1,067</u>

OTHER INFORMATION

Independent auditor's report

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STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Stichting Human Rights Watch Nederlands
Prinsengracht 583
1016 HT AMSTERDAM

November 18, 2019
WJC/kvs/25350/889296

Subject: audit report

Dear Sirs,

In accordance with your instructions, we have audited the financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2019 of Stichting Human Rights Watch. We confirm our permission to include the following text of our auditor's report in the section "other information" related to the annual report of Stichting Human Rights Watch for the year ended 30 June 2019 as part of the annual report that equals the initialized copy enclosed. Our audit has resulted in an independent auditors' report with the following content:

“INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To: The Board of Directors of Stichting Human Rights Watch

A. Report on the audit of the financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2019

Our opinion

We have audited the financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2019 of Stichting Human Rights Watch, based in Den Haag.

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Stichting Human Rights Watch as at June 30 2019, and of its result for the year than ended in accordance with Guideline for annual reporting 650 "fundraising organisations" (RJ 650) of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board.

The financial statements comprise:

1. the balance sheet as at June 30, 2019;
2. the profit and loss account for the year ended June 30, 2019 and;
3. the notes comprising a summary of the significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

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Basis for our opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Dutch law, including the Dutch Standards on Auditing. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report.

We are independent of Stichting Human Rights Watch, and her group companies in accordance with the Verordening inzake de onafhankelijkheid van accountants bij assurance-opdrachten (ViO, Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, a regulation with respect to independence) and other relevant independence regulations in the Netherlands. Furthermore we have complied with the Verordening gedrags- en beroepsregels accountants (VGBA, Dutch Code of Ethics).

We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

B. Report on the other information included in the annual report

In addition to the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon, the annual report contains other information that consists of:

- directors report (page 4 - 42)
- other information;

Based on the following procedures performed, we conclude that the other information:

- is consistent with the financial statements and does not contain material misstatements;
- contains the information as required by RJ 650.

We have read the other information. Based on our knowledge and understanding obtained through our audit of the financial statements or otherwise, we have considered whether the other information contains material misstatements.

By performing these procedures, we comply with the requirements of RJ 650 of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board and the Dutch Standard 720. The scope of the procedures performed is substantially than the scope of those performed in our audit of the financial statements.

The board of directors is responsible for the preparation of the other information, including the Directors report in accordance with RJ 650.

C. Description of responsibilities regarding the financial statements**Responsibilities of the Board of directors for the financial statements**

The Board of directors is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with RJ 650. Furthermore, the board of directors is responsible for such internal control as the board of directors determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

As part of the preparation of the financial statements, the board of directors is responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern. Based on the financial reporting frameworks mentioned, the board of directors should prepare the financial statements using the going concern basis of accounting unless the board of directors either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. The board of directors should disclose events and circumstances that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern in the financial statements.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objective is to plan and perform the audit assignment in a manner that allows us to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence for our opinion.

Our audit has been performed with a high, but not absolute, level of assurance, which means we may not detect all material errors and fraud during our audit.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. The materiality affects the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures and the evaluation of the effect of identified misstatements on our opinion.

We have exercised professional judgement and have maintained professional scepticism throughout the audit, in accordance with Dutch Standards on Auditing, ethical requirements and independence requirements. Our audit included e.g.:

- Identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, designing and performing audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- Obtaining an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control;
- Evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the board of directors;
- Concluding on the appropriateness of the board of directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting, and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluating the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures; and
- Evaluating whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the board of directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant findings in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Amsterdam, November 5, 2019

RSM Netherlands Accountants N.V.

w.g. drs. W.J.O. Castricum RA"