

PAX in 2017



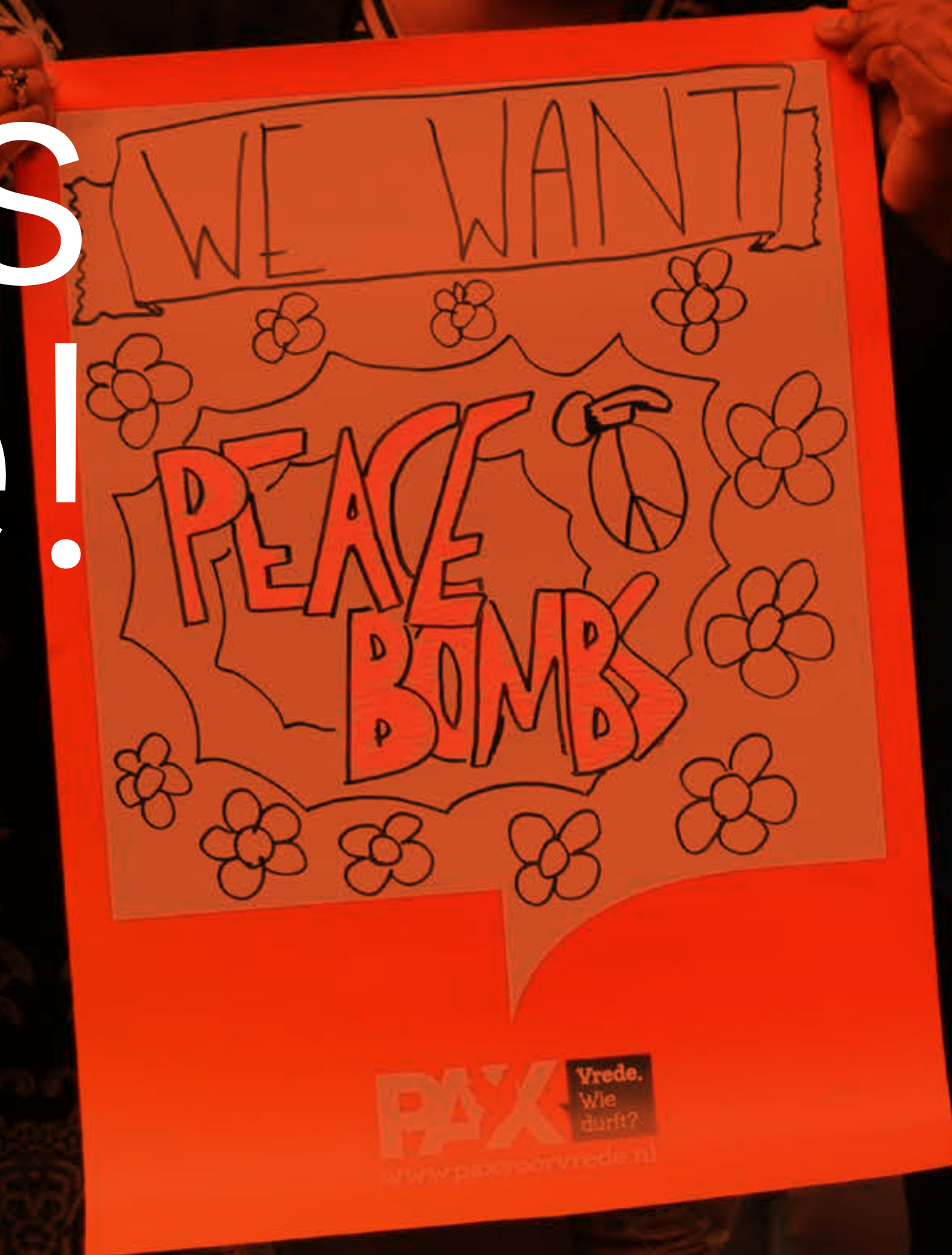
PAX Peace.
Are you in?
www.paxforpeace.nl

Highlights

of 2017

PAX means peace!

Our mission is to work together with committed civilians and partners in fragile and conflict-affected areas, to protect human security, to prevent and end armed violence, and to build peace with justice.





Our work worldwide

We carry out our **peacebuilding work** in 14 (post-)conflict countries in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and Europe. In all these countries, we work together with people and organizations who share our mission. We have joined hands with 103 partner organizations around the world. International **lobby and advocacy** is an important part of our work. We target governments, businesses and financial institutions as well as international and multilateral organizations such as the European Union and United Nations.



Our work in the Netherlands

We also **work in the Netherlands**. Our slogan 'Peace. Are you in?' is an invitation to everybody to join our peace work. Thousands of people in the Netherlands express their solidarity with people in conflict areas. During the 51st Peace Week, they organized activities in their towns and neighbourhoods with around 10,000 participants. Thousands more joined us by supporting our national and international campaigns.



Two awards

Twice in 2017 our peacebuilding efforts were acknowledged in a very special way:

In September, PAX won the **Green Star Award** for responding to environmental crises resulting from armed conflict. We were especially recommended for collecting and sharing data about toxic war remnants and their impact on communities Syria, Iraq and the Ukraine.

In October, the **Nobel Peace Prize** was awarded to International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). PAX is a board member and one of the driving forces behind this international campaign. The Noble Peace Price opens more doors for broader and deeper engagement with relevant actors on nuclear disarmament.

Local peace- building in (post)conflict countries

A selection of important results we achieved together with our partners is highlighted below.

Bosnia

The exhibition 'Srebrenica genocide – the failure of the international community' opened at the Potočari Memorial Centre in Srebrenica and was visited by 35,000 people from around the world. The memorial centre and the exhibition were the result of eight years of preparation with our partners in Bosnia and the Netherlands. It tells the survivors' stories of the genocide and also displays the experiences of Dutchbat soldiers. It represents a significant step forward in the dialogue that PAX has been facilitating between both groups.

Colombia

For the very first time, one of the mining companies in Cesar, Prodeco, publicly expressed solidarity with the victims of paramilitary violence and stated that the company 'wants to contribute actively to regional truth-finding and to prevent any recurrence of past crimes'. This is a direct result of our long-term advocacy on blood coal and our support to victims and their organizations.

Indigenous and *campesino* victims of the Colombian civil war documented cases of human rights violations that may be presented to the Peace Tribunal or the Truth Commission, which will start hearings in 2018. Our support to the victims' organizations and their leaders contributed to this achievement.

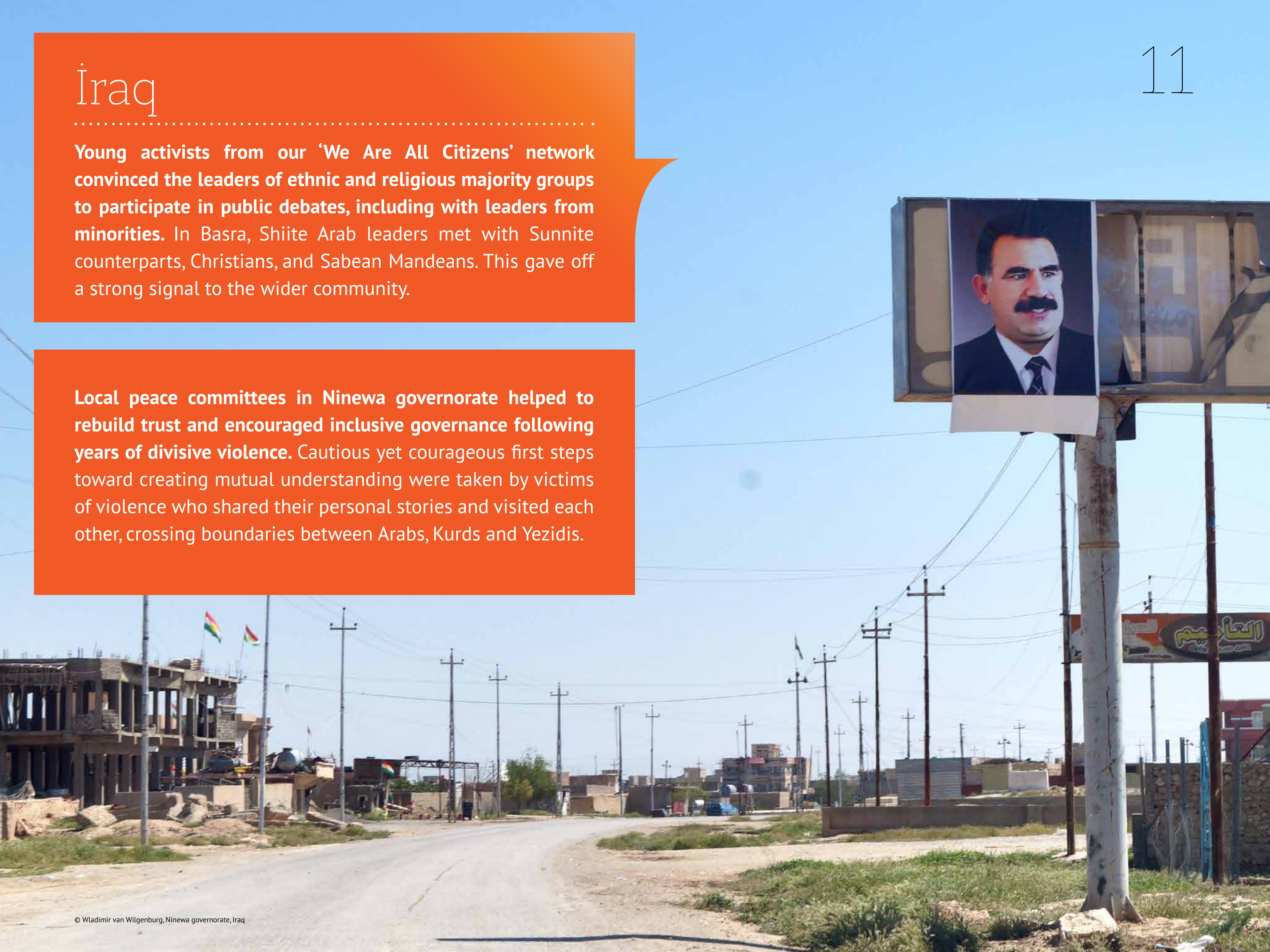
DR Congo

The security situation in certain gold mining areas improved. With our support, industrial mining company MGM and four cooperatives of artisanal miners signed an agreement that allows the artisanal miners to live and work in the concession area. Usually, they would have been removed by force. Local peace committees set up an early warning system, which triggered faster responses from public security forces.

Iraq

Young activists from our 'We Are All Citizens' network convinced the leaders of ethnic and religious majority groups to participate in public debates, including with leaders from minorities. In Basra, Shiite Arab leaders met with Sunnite counterparts, Christians, and Sabeen Mandeans. This gave off a strong signal to the wider community.

Local peace committees in Ninewa governorate helped to rebuild trust and encouraged inclusive governance following years of divisive violence. Cautious yet courageous first steps toward creating mutual understanding were taken by victims of violence who shared their personal stories and visited each other, crossing boundaries between Arabs, Kurds and Yezidis.





Israel and Palestine

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Community committees from 12 occupied neighbourhoods in East Jerusalem contributed significantly to the popular resistance against the increased security measures for accessing the al-Aqsa Mosque imposed by the Israeli security forces. They helped convince religious leaders not to frame the resistance as a religious conflict, but as an issue of human rights and Palestinian solidarity.

South Sudan

Communities started their own peace initiatives and engaged with local authorities about which security issues to prioritize. They also shared their security concerns with the UN Mission in South Sudan. These initiatives were a direct result of the Human Security Survey developed by PAX to give civilians a voice in discussions about their security. 2300 people across three states participated in the survey in 2017.

There were fewer revenge attacks between communities of Payinjar and Yirol East counties in Greater Upper Nile region. Coordination between local authorities of different areas improved. This has helped to revive trade. These achievements are directly linked to our support to local peace processes in the war-affected region.

Syria

Our partner reopened four primary schools in the countryside west of Aleppo. More than 1600 children are being taught based on inclusive and democratic principles. The pupils and their teachers also receive psychological support to help them deal with the traumas of war. The schools offer an alternative to the educational system under the Assad dictatorship as well as to extremist groups that try to indoctrinate young people.

Young activists from our 'We are all citizens' network successfully initiated dialogues and activities to bridge the divides between Sunni and Druze as well as Kurdish, Arab and Yezidi communities. The young activists also convened a forum where youth could for the first time directly address local authorities about their needs and priorities.

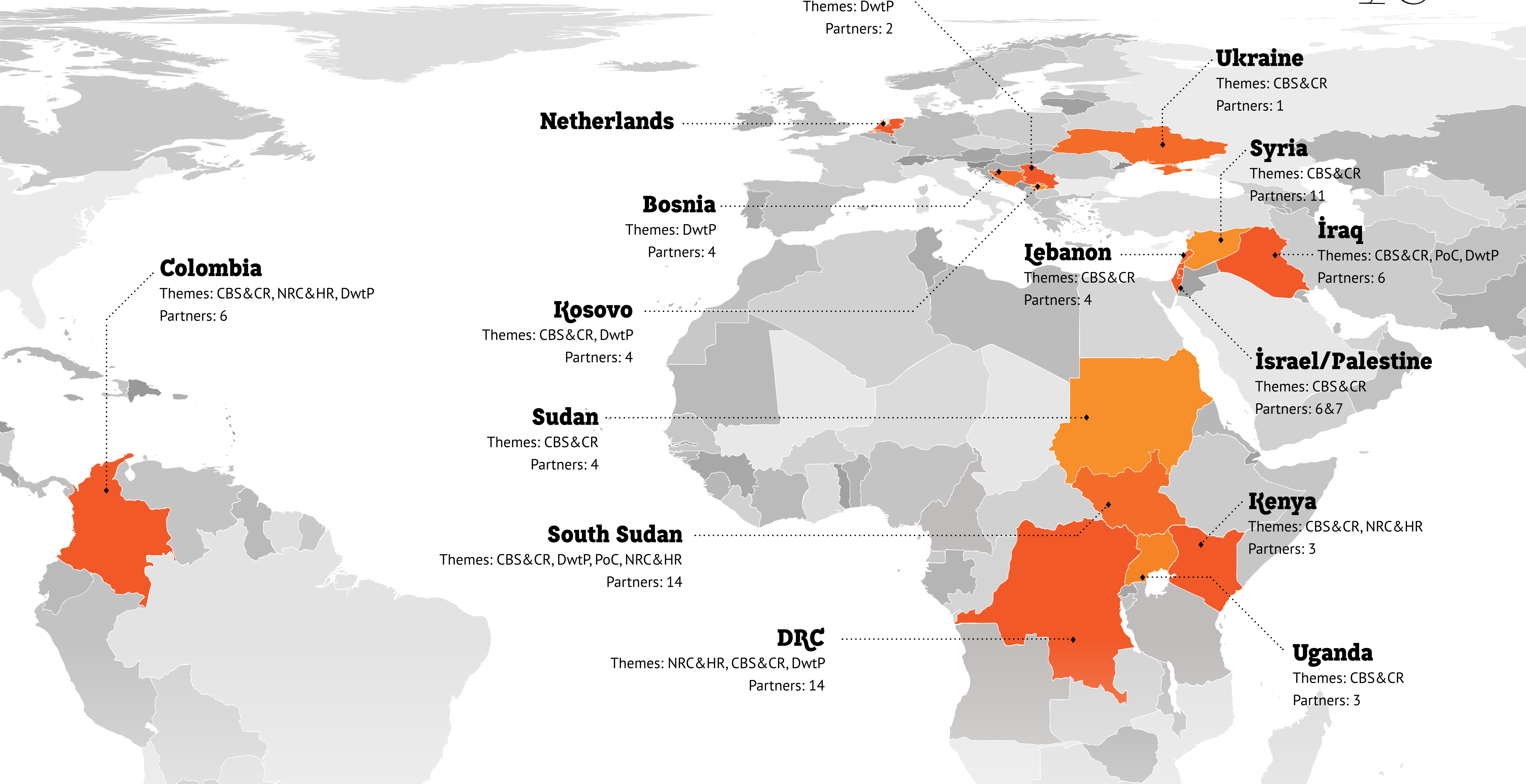


Ukraine

‘Peace engineer’ students trained by PAX initiated a dialogue between the deputy governor of Luhansk region and citizens from four villages on the frontline. The villages were left without gas when a pipeline was damaged by fighting. The dialogue transformed a conflictual situation into one of mutual agreement. A new pipeline has since been laid and a working group was created to discuss any upcoming issues.

Civil activists use the new resource centre established by PAX in Sviatohirsk to network, learn new skills and establish working relationships with local authorities. It serves an important purpose for civil society in a democracy in transition. In Pershotravensk, the city council and civil society organizations formalized their cooperation in a multi-annual strategy

THE COUNTRIES WHERE WE WORK



CBS&CR: Community-based Security & Citizens' Rights

DwtP: Dealing with the Past

PoC: Protection of Civilians

NRC&HR: Natural Resources, Conflict & Human Rights

HumDis: Humanitarian Disarmament

For each country, the themes we work on and the number of local partner organizations are indicated. Our partners include community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, churches, peace activists and other civil change agents and their communities.

International lobby and advocacy

We use lobby and advocacy as a tool to combat the causes of violent conflict and injustice and to trigger structural social, political and policy changes.

Our national and international lobby and advocacy brought some significant successes in 2017. A selection is presented below.



March

Our report 'No return to Homs' contributed to international discussions about reconstruction in Syria. It was the first evidence-based case study on the strategies of the Syrian government to conduct demographic engineering through forced population transfers. The EU Council adopted important conclusions that reflected our recommendations.



July

The last two US producers of cluster munitions publicly announced that they terminated their production. This success is directly linked to our worldwide cluster munitions campaign.

122 countries voted to adopt the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons at the UN headquarters in New York. For many years, PAX has been at the forefront of international campaigns for this milestone agreement to ban nuclear weapons.

November

Six insurance companies operating in the Netherlands engaged in dialogue with PAX to discuss the exclusion of investments in controversial arms trade.

Vattenfall, parent company of NUON, published a report calling for dialogue between mining companies and victims of the human rights violations in the past. It was first time for a European energy company to do so. This breakthrough is directly linked to our international campaign on blood coal.



May

Europe's biggest energy company, Italian multinational Enel, announced it would stop buying coal from Cesar, Colombia. This success is directly linked to our persistent 'blood coal' campaign.



October

The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). PAX is a board member and one of the driving forces behind ICAN.

September

PAX received the Green Star Award for responding to environmental crises resulting from armed conflict.



December

193 UN member states adopted a resolution that can contribute to the quicker clearing of toxic war remnants. We contributed to the international negotiations through our lobby and research report 'Living under a black sky' launched together with the Iraqi delegation.

Four Japanese banks and insurance companies announced they will stop investing in producers making cluster bombs. This success is directly linked to the launch of the PAX report World Wide Investments in Cluster Munitions in Tokyo in May 2017.

'Peace. Are you in?'

These previous pages highlighted some of our work. The next section provides a more in-depth overview of the work of PAX in 2017.

The PAX 'Financial Report 2017' is considered our official annual report. This can be found at:
www.paxvoorvrede.nl/financialreport

PAX in 2017

in-depth year report

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1

A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR



A word from our director

'Let us not behave like some wild beasts who say, "your death is my life." Now let us say these words: love, joy, peace, patience, compassion, sympathy, kindness, truthfulness, gentleness, self-control, humility, poverty, forgiveness, mercy, friendship, trust, unity, purity, faith and hope. Those are 20 words and 8 phrases: I love you, I miss you, I thank you, I forgive, we forget, we are together, I am wrong, I am sorry.'

Twenty words and eight phrases: that is what people need to learn to restore lasting peace, according to Paride Taban, emeritus bishop of Torit in South Sudan. Peace can be exceedingly simple but

simultaneously devilishly complex. No one knows this better than Bishop Taban, who for decades has been fighting for peace in his war-torn country. Bishop Taban has been an extremely important partner of PAX for almost 25 years. He has also been our mentor when it comes to displaying endless patience and perseverance and remaining confident and optimistic that people are capable of peace. So we are extremely pleased that bishop Taban is going to be honoured with one of the Four Freedoms Awards by the Roosevelt Foundation in Middelburg, the Netherlands.

As far as awards are concerned, 2017 was a special year for PAX. In September

we received the Green Star Award from the United Nations and the Green Cross for drawing attention to toxic war remnants and their impact on citizens and their communities, especially in Iraq. PAX was praised for our pioneering role in innovative research and bringing together organizations so citizens can receive assistance in safely cleaning up these war remnants. Later that year, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. PAX is a member of the board and one of the driving forces behind this campaign. It was the crowning achievement of our long-standing commitment towards an international treaty banning nuclear

weapons, which was achieved in 2017.

This recognition of peace work is important, but it doesn't automatically bring us closer to peace. In late 2017, 2.4 million citizens of South Sudan, the country of bishop Taban, fled to neighbouring countries, and 1.8 million people were displaced inside South Sudan. Six million people are so poor that they don't know whether they will be able to feed their children tomorrow. We support reconciliation processes in different regions in South Sudan. We encourage women and youth to take up their role in achieving inclusive peace and promoting dialogue between local communities and authorities in order to gradually regain mutual trust.

In Syria violence escalated again and war crimes are being systematically perpetrated. We were no longer able to visit our Syrian partners in 2017. But this has only increased our determination to support these non-violent civil activists, who remain in Syria, and constantly

demand international attention for the Syrian regime's atrocious 'surrender or die' campaigns.

In Iraq, victory was declared over ISIS in 2017, but politically, ethnically and religiously, Iraq remains deeply divided. Our programmes promote respect for diversity, inclusiveness and good governance and focus on legally protecting and respecting the rights of minorities and women. We support local peace initiatives, often initiated by youth and women who wish to address the deeper causes of conflict and build an equitable society.

In Colombia it had been one year in 2017 since the government and the FARC had signed a peace agreement to end the decades of violence that killed 200,000 people and displaced 5 million more. Peace is fragile, however, and violence and human rights violations are still common. PAX supports the reintegration of ex-FARC guerrillas and promotes compensation for victims of human rights violations in mining regions.

These are only a few examples, which will be discussed in more detail in this report. It's impossible to provide an exhaustive report on all of the major and minor, but meaningful, peace initiatives. We are therefore only going to describe a limited number of highlights in this report. Mastery is revealed in limitation, Goethe once said. PAX is not the master, but the civil activists in the Netherlands and in the conflict areas are. The master is someone like bishop Taban. The master doesn't need awards or praise, but limits himself or herself to the heart of the matter, the essence. And that boils down to 20 words that anyone, you and I, can learn and 8 phrases that gradually bring peace one step closer if we all say in unison: *I love you, I miss you, I thank you, I forgive, we forget, together, I am wrong, I am sorry.*

Jan Gruiters,
General Director

2

OUR VISION ON PEACEBUILDING

PEACE

3M
gold
PEC
SHAN
JULIE
THOMAS
ORIANE
VALENTIN
JORDY
ANCHALEE
VICTOR
WILLIAM
IVANKA
HARIBO
ceizet

Our vision on peacebuilding

Our mission and values

PAX means peace. It is our mission to work together with people in fragile and conflict-affected situations to protect human security, to prevent and end armed violence, and to build peace with justice. We have been doing this for nearly 70 years. Because we consider peace a verb: a task assigned to us all.

PAX is part of a peace movement rooted in the Christian tradition. Our guiding values are human dignity and solidarity with peace activists and victims of war and violence.

We believe that every person has the right to a life in dignity. We therefore show our solidarity with people who are longing for peace and human dignity and who have the courage to work towards this ideal. We are not distracted by private, party political or national interests.

Towards peaceful societies

There are five transformative processes that we consider essential to achieving our mission in the fragile and conflict-affected countries where we work.

1. Civil activism and the mobilization of civilians in conflict-affected areas as well as in our own society are essential to achieving our mission and a precondition for our work. However, we notice that the civic space – also referred to as the political space for civil change agents – is shrinking. Civil activists who speak out against violence and injustice are increasingly targeted by governments and armed groups. This worrisome trend makes us all the more committed to working together and strengthening the capacities of civil change agents. So that they can be a counterforce to the government and corporate sector and contribute to the structural changes needed to create just and peaceful

societies. Our work on increasing civic space is highlighted on [page 65](#).

2. Strengthening social cohesion within society and between and among hostile groups. The fragmentation of society must be stopped. We need to create social cohesion by rebuilding trust and respect between communities so they can speak with one voice and hold their government accountable for their security and rights.

3. Promoting government reforms to create responsive and legitimate public institutions that provide security and access to justice. Inclusive political processes that promote dialogue between citizens and their government help to build the social contract. To break the vicious circles of violence and injustice, reform processes need to deal with past violence, human rights violations and war crimes.

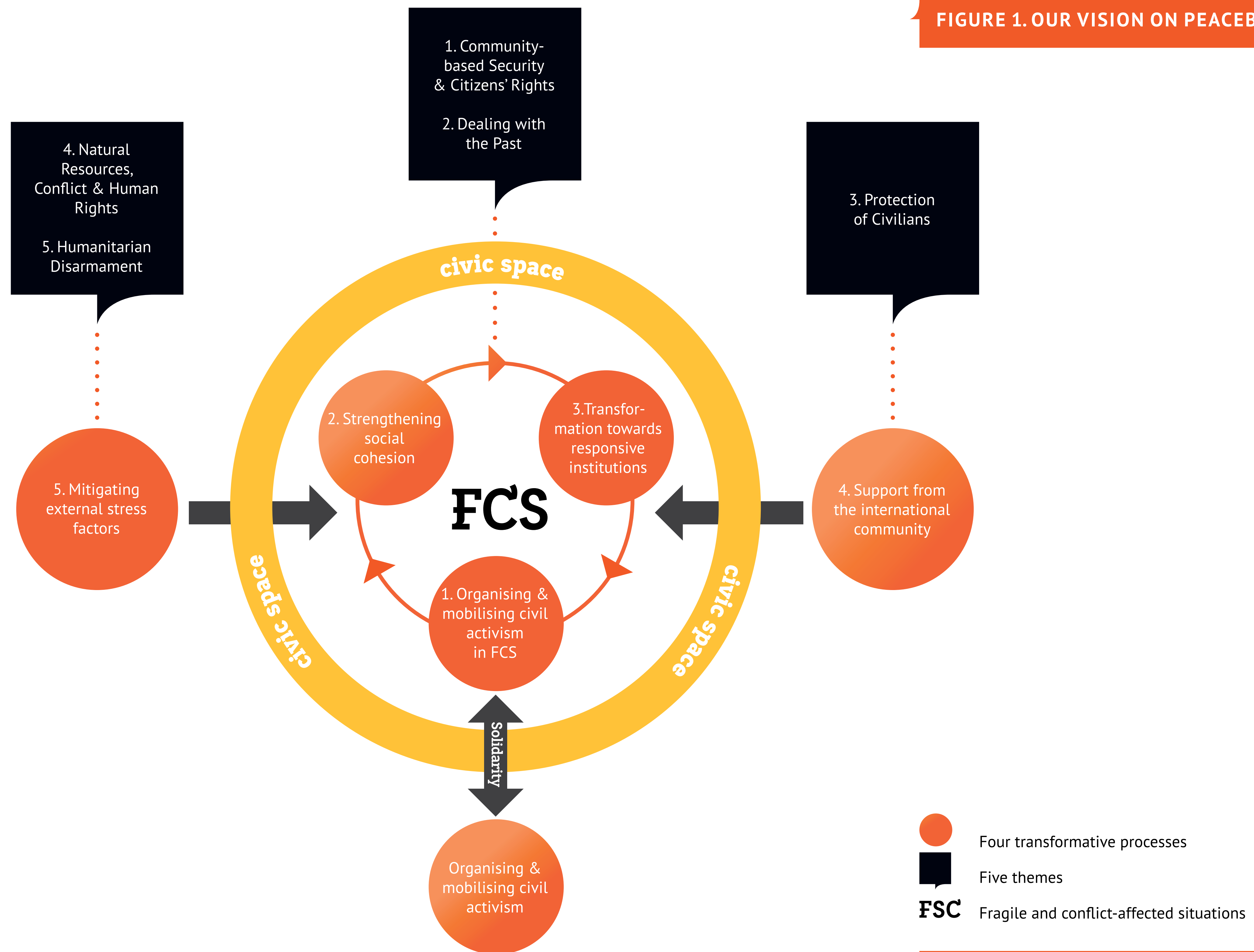
4. Mobilising support from the international community to comply with the international responsibility embedded in International Humanitarian Law to

respect, protect and fulfil human security and human rights.

5. Mitigating external stress factors, such as international arms trafficking, violent extremism and the irresponsible exploitation of natural resources. These factors increase the risk of violence and human rights violations. Strengthening the resilience of citizens and governments against external stress factors reduces the risk of armed conflict.

The relationships between the themes we work on and the transformative processes they contribute to are visualized in figure 1. This also shows the importance we attribute to mobilising Dutch and European citizens to connect with citizens in conflict areas and to take a stance together against injustice.

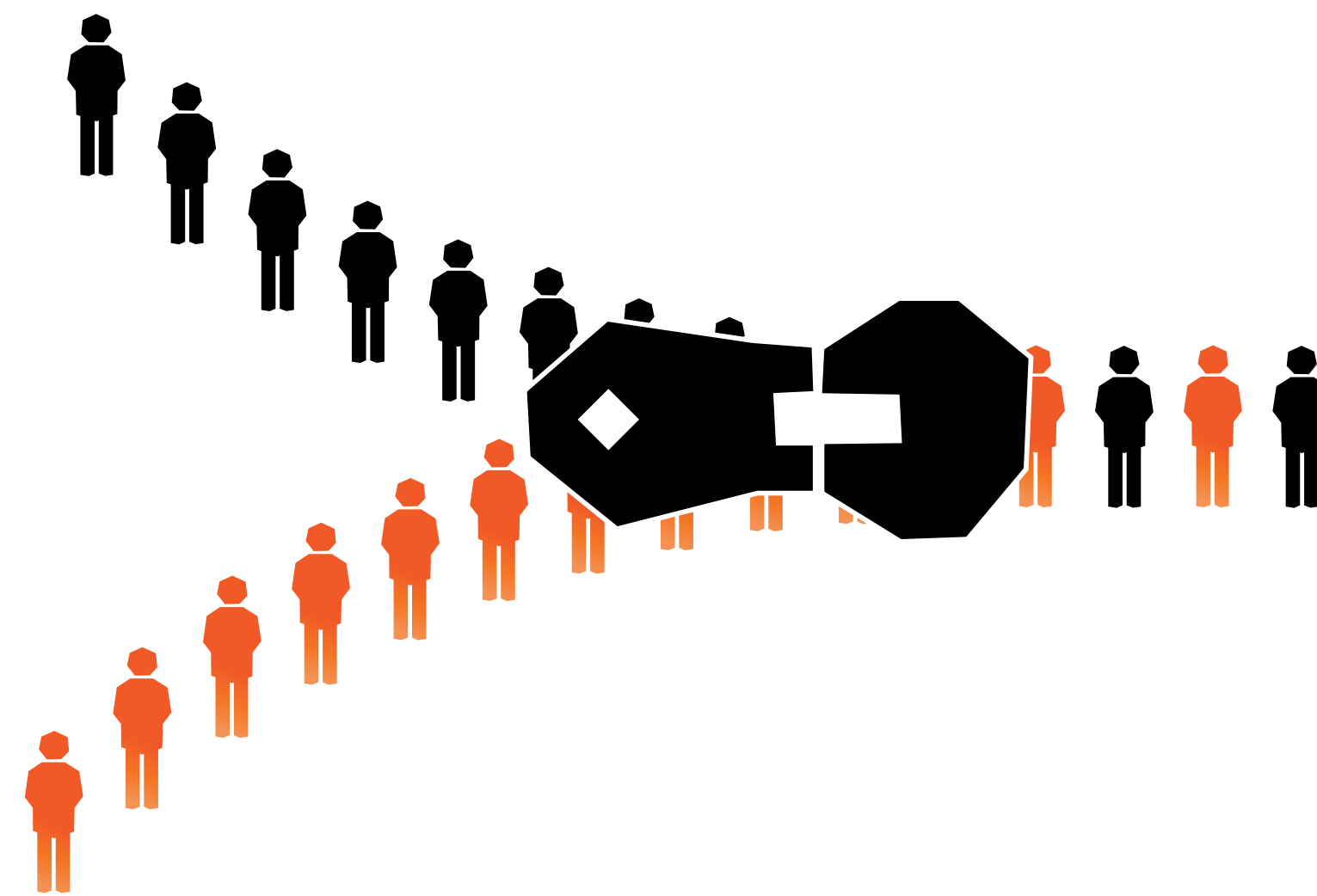
FIGURE 1. OUR VISION ON PEACEBUILDING



Our five themes

Based on our theory of change, PAX works on five themes where we can make a difference. For each of these five themes, a separate theory of change has been defined. All our projects and [programmes worldwide](#) relate to one or more of the five themes. In all our peacebuilding efforts, we moreover pay specific attention to [Gender, Peace & Security](#).

1. COMMUNITY-BASED SECURITY & CITIZENS' RIGHTS



By building bridges between (antagonistic) communities, we contribute to the peaceful resolution of conflicts and therefore to social cohesion within societies. By engaging with or increasing pressure on local authorities, the military and police, we contribute to the development of a responsive and legitimate state and space for civil activism.

2. DEALING WITH THE PAST



By systematically looking at how governments and civilians deal with the violent past, through an inclusive process of truth finding, justice and reparation, we reduce the risk of violence recurring and help victims receive reparations. This improves social cohesion and helps to create a more responsive and legitimate state.

3. PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS



By identifying the human security interests of civilians and their communities, and supporting local communities in their dialogue with international peacekeeping missions, we help the international community to act on its responsibility to protect the security of civilians and their human rights.

4. NATURAL RESOURCES, CONFLICT & HUMAN RIGHTS



By urging and supporting states and the corporate sector to follow the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in the exploitation of natural resources, we mitigate the risk of violence and human rights violations and promote remedy for victims of violence and human rights violations.

5. HUMANITARIAN DISARMAMENT



By mobilising political and public pressure for the regulation and reduction of the production, trade and use of weapons, thereby mobilising support of governments and financial institutions, in cooperation with our partner organizations and within international networks, we contribute to the mitigation of weapons as a stress factor.

Our interventions

PAX uses five main interventions to contribute to transformative change in the five thematic areas. We choose our interventions based on the local country context. We often link two or more interventions to increase effectiveness.

1. Capacity development

Reinforcing our capacity and that of our partner organizations, local communities, leaders and civil activists.

2. Research and monitoring

Researching, analysing and monitoring human security and human rights.

3. Building bridges between (antagonistic) groups

Promoting peaceful cohabitation of (antagonistic) groups by reinforcing social cohesion.

4. Facilitation of dialogue

Facilitating dialogue between actors at various levels.

5. Lobbying and public campaigns

Influencing policy for peace and human rights through advocacy and lobbying as well as organising and mobilising public support and pressure.

Partnerships, alliances and campaigns

In our lobby and advocacy, we often work together with like-minded organizations. PAX is a co-founder and committed member of at least 12 international campaigns and movements.

In 2017, we continued working within the 'Strategic Partnership on Dialogue and Dissent' with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which runs until 2020.

PAX IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THESE CAMPAIGNS AND MOVEMENTS



Amnesty International is our partner in the projects that are part of the 'Freedom from Fear Alliance'.

Moreover we work in partnership with Dutch and international organisations in

several of our programmes and projects, for example:

- ◆ Thanks to funding awarded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs as part of the third Dutch National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on [Women, Peace and Security](#), we work in Iraq with Impunity Watch, Al Amal Association and Utrecht University; and in South Sudan with Plan, Health Works and STAD.

- ◆ In several countries and regions such as the Western Balkans, we strategically work together with [Impunity Watch](#).

- ◆ We also cooperate with Impunity Watch in the implementation of a US-funded project in [Colombia](#) and Guatemala.

- ◆ In eastern Ukraine, we run a programme together with VNG International.

- ◆ In Kosovo, we work in partnership with [UN-Habitat](#).

- ◆ We continued our partnership with VNG International and Cordaid for our peace work in South Sudan in the borderland region with Kenya and Uganda.

- ◆ We continued our partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), VNG International and Cordaid in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Planning, monitoring and accountability

Since 2016, we have been implementing our revised Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) system to align it with PAX's new programme set-up, to exploit the potential of using theories

of change in our project designs and to link it with the IATI standard. New tools and methodologies for strategic planning, information gathering, reflective monitoring and internal and external accountabilities were developed and implemented. It allows PAX to strengthen our project strategies. It provides our staff and partners the means to monitor achievements and link this with our interventions. The system also allows us to adjust the projects according to the dynamics of the complex environment in which we work. In 2017, we explored the potential of 'outcome harvesting' for our project monitoring system. The system will be implemented in 2018. PAX's PME system includes an evaluation agenda, a multiannual planning of upcoming, mainly external, evaluations of the programmatic work of PAX.



national Netherlands, capacity building activities focus on the following areas of expertise:

- ◆ lobbying, campaigning and civil activism
- ◆ human rights education, monitoring of human security and human rights violations
- ◆ (digital) security and – personal and organizational – resilience
- ◆ mediation and dialogue, community-mobilization
- ◆ organizational strengthening: finance, administration, funding acquisition
- ◆ local governance and peacebuilding
- ◆ dealing with the past

Capacity building: a joint undertaking

Our capacity building approach is part and parcel of the planning and implementation of peace work together with our partners. Our approach to capacity building gives ample opportunity for learning by observing and experimenting. This is possible, in the first place, because we are in frequent contact with our partners. Most of our staff travel to programme countries several times per year. Second, instead of maintaining a traditional donor-recipient interaction, the

Building the capacity of our partner organizations on peacebuilding, advocacy and lobbying is at the core of PAX's work and partner policy. Capacity building to us is about supporting and empowering people and organizations with whom we have long-standing relationships of trust, solidarity and shared values. It helps them in their efforts to strengthen social cohesion and

to collectively pressure authorities on issues such as human security, civic space and respect of diversity. Moreover, capacity building makes our partners more resilient against the growing repressiveness they are facing in many countries. In the programmes carried out as part of our 'Freedom from Fear' alliance with Amnesty Inter-

© Lisa Stumpel, Activist Lab, Juba, South Sudan

relationship with most of our partners is one of joint undertaking: joint research, analysis, strategy development, programme design as well as joint implementation and advocacy. Thanks to this approach, mutual learning takes place: our partners learn from us, and we from them. The close partnering and mutual capacity building approach is part of our DNA.

A structured approach

Based on the outcomes of a capacity assessment, programme staff decide on the learning priorities in consultation with the assessed partner organization. These priorities are laid down in a longer-term 'partner capacity-building plan' (PCBP). In 2017, PCBPs were formulated and initiated with 10 of our core partners. In the implementation of the PCBP, PAX staff from teams such as Public Affairs, Finance, Security or Institutional Fundraising often provide advice and on-the-job support. The PCBPs are tailored to the specific learning needs of individual partners. Yet where possible we encourage joint learning with and among organizations facing similar challenges.

'Digging for gold'

The urgency of our peacebuilding mission demands that PAX be action oriented. The same is true for our partners across the world. They are peace activists driven by the urgency to protect lives and end violent conflict. As a result, there is not always sufficient time for reflection, evaluation of interventions, or consistently capturing lessons learned. In 2017, an organization-wide assessment started to document specific expertise of our staff, including their capacity building experiences. This 'digging for gold' through in-depth interviews with long-term staff members is meant to activate the knowledge capital and practical peacebuilding experience within PAX. This goldmine will be made available for colleagues and partners.

CAPACITY BUILDING IN 2017

Capacity building activities were implemented with 66 partner organizations. Where relevant, these activities are conducted in collaboration with Amnesty International Netherlands.

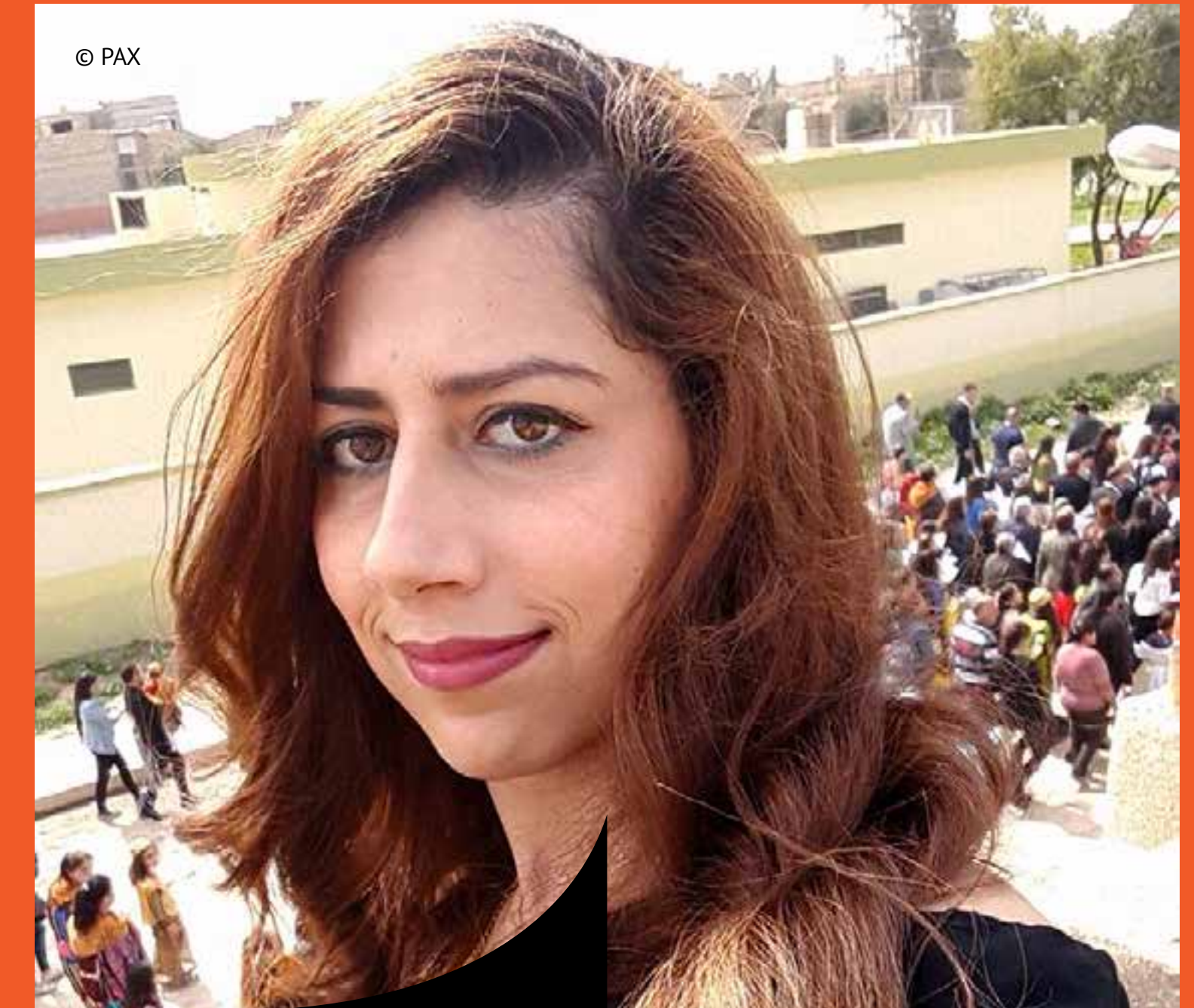




Madame Jacqueline Dz'ju Malosi

is coordinator of PAX's partner organization FOMI, Democratic Republic of Congo

'The local peace groups have been very successful at putting their conflict mediation training into practice. They have helped to resolve many conflicts about land or family issues. Without their support, the mutual accusations between villagers could have easily escalated and turned into larger and even violent conflicts.'



Vanda George

works for the Peace and Freedom Organization (PFO), a PAX partner organization, in Iraq and coordinates PAX's Kulluna Mutawinun project in Erbil.

'The training on advanced research skills in Beirut came exactly at the right time. Both for the researchers in our youth project – who are studying demographic changes in their own areas - and for me who has to review their methodological approach and write-ups. Solid research gives us more strength and credibility when we approach the authorities about the protection of minorities and other sensitive issues. It was also great to exchange experiences with people from Syria who also participated in the training. We compared notes about the situation of youth in Iraq and Syria and learned about opportunities to lobby for the UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security. We came back with new ideas and inspiration for how the Kulluna Mutawinun project can play a role in this.'

Olga Ponamareva

works with PAX's partner organization Dignity Space in Ukraine

'My visit to the PAX headquarters was extremely valuable. It gave me the opportunity to see with my own eyes how PAX works and to better understand procedures. I was amazed by the genuine interest in our work in Ukraine and the insightful questions people asked about the conflict that divides our country. We brainstormed and shared ideas about future capacity building initiatives between PAX and my organization Dignity Space. It is so important to sit at one table and talk, learn and get to know each other better. This is how you build productive and strong cooperation.'

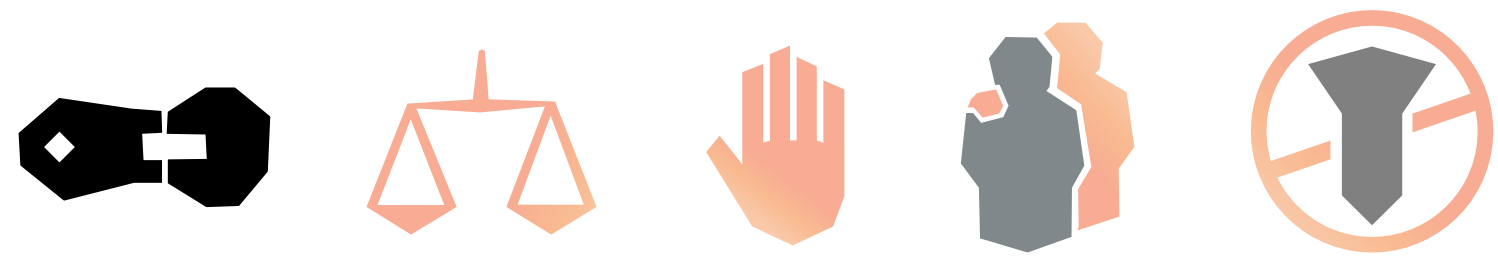
Saida Atrash

is a Palestinian activist working for one of the community committees in East Jerusalem supported by PAX.

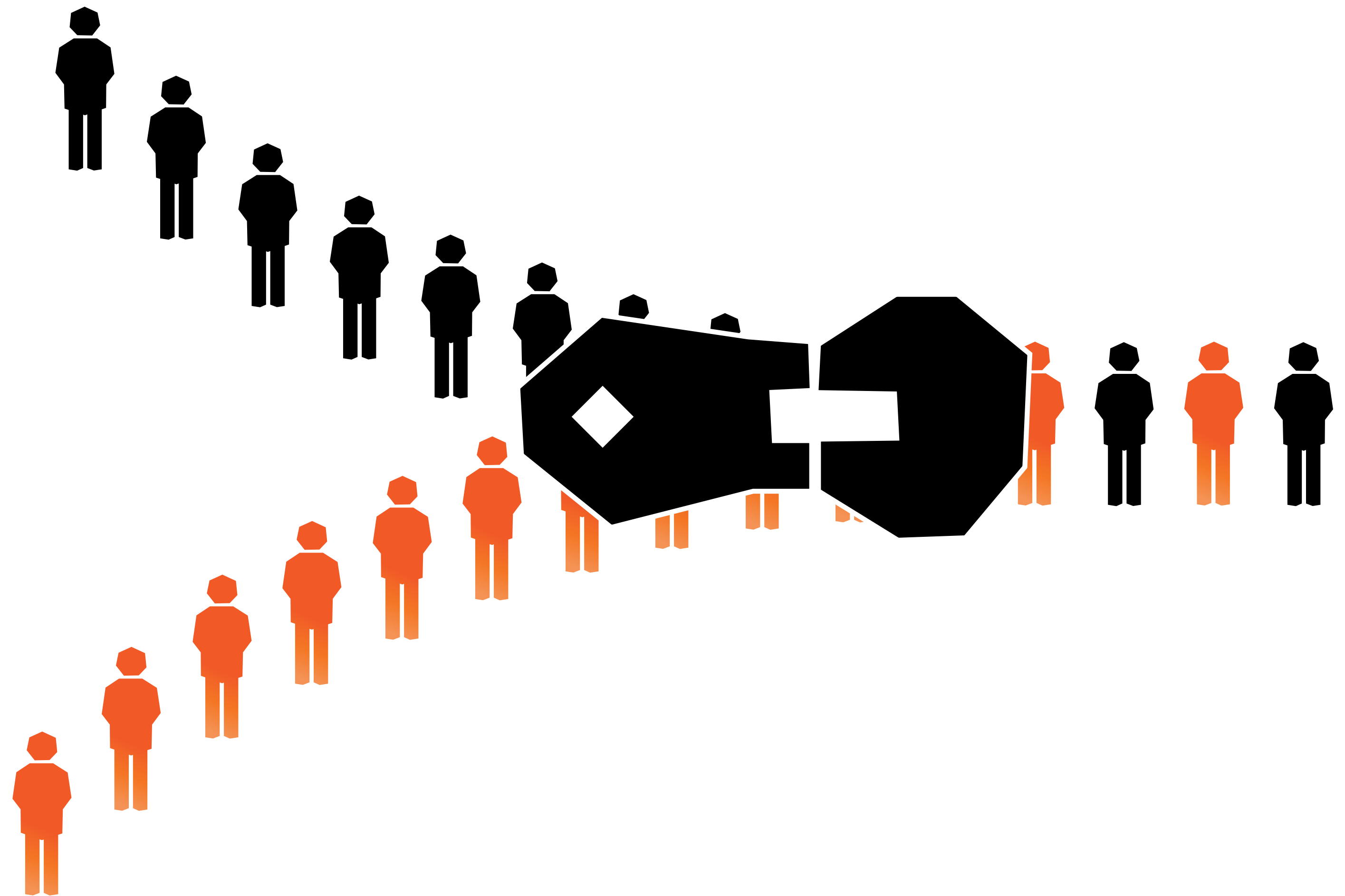
'I participated in the PAX training about economic, social and cultural rights on Cyprus. What I really liked was the mix of theory and practical exercises that we had to do in groups. I learned to conduct a SWOT analysis and how to best set up an advocacy campaign. To me, Sustainable Development Goal 16 is the most important: peace, justice and strong institutions is what we need so badly. The training gave us renewed courage to make a difference, starting in our own communities. Our resources are few but our determination is strong.'

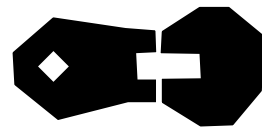


3



COMMUNITY-BASED SECURITY
& CITIZENS' RIGHTS





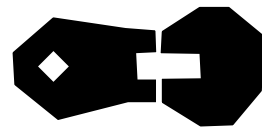
Community-based Security & Citizens' Rights

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Civil change agents and their communities contribute to social cohesion by facilitating dialogue and negotiation processes between antagonistic groups.
 - ◆ Civil change agents engage and increase pressure on their government for reforms to create responsive and legitimate institutions that protect human security and human rights.
 - ◆ Civil change agents put pressure on governments, while mobilising the international community, to improve the enabling environment for civil activism.
-

Rebuilding social cohesion within and between communities is vital to achieving durable, peaceful solutions to violent conflict. And so is restoring trust between citizens and the authorities. We therefore support our partners in their efforts to rebuild trust between communities. Together, we put pressure on local authorities, the military and police to develop responsive and legitimate state institutions and to create space for civil activism. Capacity building is a vital component of our activities within this theme. We cooperate with Amnesty International Netherlands and VNG International.

PAX runs projects under this theme in Syria, Iraq, Israel and Palestine, Lebanon, Sudan, South Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kosovo and Ukraine as well as a regional project for the Horn of Africa.



Syria

War crimes continued to be committed systematically and on a massive scale in Syria. The military status quo changed. The international coalition against ISIS took control of large parts of Raqqa and Deir Ezzor provinces, the Assad regime expanded its territory, and Turkey consolidated its control over the northern countryside of Aleppo. With the increasing dominance of international military powers, the influence of Syrians

on the future of their country decreased. The international community remains disunited and the UN Security Council has failed to act. As a result, this human-made catastrophe that is becoming increasingly difficult to resolve, is being left to humanitarian actors to address.

PAX in Syria

PAX has been working in Syria since 2003. Because of the extreme insecurity, our staff in Utrecht and Jordan/Lebanon could not visit Syria in 2017. We continued our financial and moral support to peaceful Syrian activists. Because we believe that investing in non-violent civil activism is the key to a free and peaceful society, especially now that armed actors have become dominant in Syria.

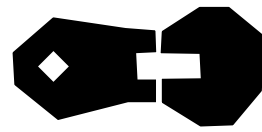
We support the young Syrians who are involved in the Kulluna Muwatinun or 'We are all Citizens' project. They helped to build trust between people who have been internally displaced and their host communities. The courageous activists of Kesh Malek who run the [Lessons in](#)

[Peace project](#), managed to rebuild four primary schools and an educational centre for children traumatized by the war. PAX provided support to local peace initiatives through the crowd-funding campaign Adopt a Revolution and institutional support to a few civil society partners.

The first-hand information we receive through our Syrian partners on the ground feeds and strengthens our advocacy work at the international level. Our liaison officers based in The Hague, Brussels and New York play a big part in this. In 2017, we published reports and Syria Alerts. These policy briefs include recommendations for protecting civilians directed at international policy and decision-makers.

No return to Homs

In February, together with The Syria Institute, we published the report '[No return to Homs. A case study on demographic engineering in Syria](#).' In 2014, Homs was the first major urban



centre to succumb to the Assad regime's strategy of besieging, starving, killing and transferring people from cities and neighbourhoods in Syria. People are deliberately prevented from returning home. By engineering the demographic composition of urban areas in this way, the government wants to consolidate its power base.

Our study of Homs is the first where this tactic and its implications have been systematically documented with first-hand evidence from people who were forced to take part in the population transfers. We stressed once again that these forced population transfers constitute a war crime under international humanitarian law. Moreover, the strategy will complicate Syria's prospects for future peace and reconciliation.

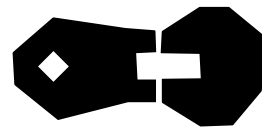
We therefore argued that efforts to rebuild destroyed neighbourhoods in Homs and other places should only be undertaken as part of a conflict-sensitive



recovery strategy. Such a strategy must combine conditional reconstruction support with addressing the rights and concerns of those who were forcibly displaced. This includes the complex issues of return and housing, land and property rights.

The report had a considerable impact

internationally. PAX was happy to see our concerns reflected in the EU Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions in April, which said: 'The EU will not engage in early recovery/stabilization efforts that could support social and demographic engineering' and 'The EU reiterates that it will be ready to assist in the reconstruction of Syria only when a



comprehensive, genuine and inclusive political transition, negotiated by the Syrian parties in the conflict on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 2254 (2015) and the 2012 Geneva Communiqué, is firmly under way.

Sieges are crimes against humanity

We also continued the [Siege Watch project](#) together with The Syria Institute. Four quarterly reports gave updates about besieged communities across Syria, where between 715,000 and 880,000 people remained completely trapped throughout 2017. We kept repeating our argument that war crimes as part of the ‘surrender or die’ strategy of the Assad government are so massive and systematic that they amount to crimes against humanity. This was later confirmed by Amnesty International in its report [‘We leave or we die’](#).

Many of the Siege Watch findings were widely recognized. However, this did not result in any improvements in the situation of civilians in besieged areas.

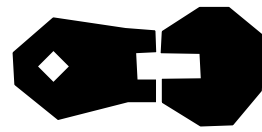
A development that we reported on in 2017 were the changing tactics of the US-led Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS. When the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) surrounded al-Raqqa in June, the city effectively came under siege. Reports, moreover, suggested that the SDF and Global Coalition were violating international humanitarian law and did not make sufficient efforts to protect civilians. In our [9th quarterly report](#) we called on both actors to undertake a review of the civilian casualties caused by the offensive to defeat ISIS in al-Raqqa. We also stressed the moral obligation to pay reparations to the family members of Syrian civilians who were killed in US-led combat operations.

Eastern Ghouta

During 2017, it became clear that eastern Ghouta was the next target for the Syrian government’s ‘surrender or die’ campaign. Throughout the year, our Siege Watch reports had warned of the rapidly deteriorating situation in this suburban area surrounding Damascus. There

were reports of cluster and incendiary munition attacks by pro-government forces and at least four suspected attacks with chemical weapons. Hospitals and schools were systematically targeted. In November, the Assad regime and its supporters started their military offensive against eastern Ghouta. By the time of writing this report, we know that the worst possible scenario became reality. In February 2018, the UN Secretary-General called eastern Ghouta a ‘hell on earth’.

In December, [2,000 Dutch citizens](#) sent e-mails to parliament on our request. For PAX, it was a consolation to know that even when politics fail so blatantly, people still feel the urge to express their outrage at what is happening in Syria and their solidarity with its people.



Iraq

A military victory over ISIS was declared in 2017. However, the fundamental issues preventing peace and security in Iraq are left unaddressed. The country remains deeply divided along political, ethnic and religious lines. This is true at the community level and among the country's leadership. The ongoing cycle of conflict has left more than three million people displaced. Their return home is bound

to cause renewed violence if there is no political strategy for reconciliation and reconstruction in which local communities have a say.

PAX in Iraq

PAX has been working with partner organizations in Iraq since 2001. We have an office in Dohuk. Our programmes promote respect for diversity and inclusive policies and governance. We advocate the legal protection and rights of minorities and women. We support local peace initiatives that are often initiated by youth and women. They wish to address the root causes of conflict and develop an alternative discourse for their society. In 2017, PAX also ran projects in Iraq under the themes Protection of Civilians and Gender, Peace & Security.

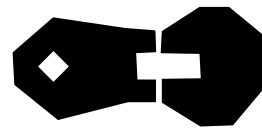
Storytelling in Ninewa

Ninewa Governorate, wedged between Kurdish North Iraq and Arab Central Iraq, is part of Iraq's disputed territory. It is also the region in Iraq where the most minority communities live. For the people

Our international advocacy & lobbying on Iraq

In April, we launched the 'Syria & Iraq Alert III'. It called attention to the sharp increase in civilian casualties caused by bombings by the US-led Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS in Mosul and al-Raqqa. The report warned that this is likely to cause new conflict and radicalization and provided recommendations for the protection of civilians and for post-ISIS policies. In July, PAX and Impunity Watch jointly published the paper 'Breaking the Cycle of Division: Justice for all Iraqis', highlighting the need for an inclusive and conflict-sensitive transitional justice process in Iraq.

Both policy briefs were widely circulated among actors in the International Coalition against ISIS, donor countries supporting justice initiatives in Iraq, and UN agencies implementing justice and reconciliation programmes in Iraq. Donor countries and UN agencies paid increasing attention to the possible divisive impact of justice measures, which we highlighted in our reports. The EU emphasized a greater role for Iraqi civil society to influence the EU strategy on Iraq.



in Ninewa, the conflict with ISIS was one more chapter in a long history of violent conflict.

PAX started working in the area with a long-term vision to support the rebuilding of inclusive local governance. We develop activities together with our Kurdish and Arab partner organizations, al-Mesalla and al-Tahreer. People in this region have long felt marginalized by the authorities in Baghdad and Erbil. Our activities therefore focus on restoring the broken trust between citizens and local authorities. Equally important, we try to restore trust between different ethnic and religious communities. This is very complex because of people's collective and individual traumas.

For a durable peace to stand a chance, it is important that people share their personal experiences and their views on what has caused the violence in their communities and region. In 2017, we therefore started working with a team of four researchers from Dohuk

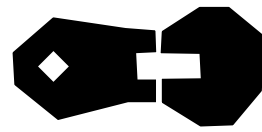


© PAX, PAX storytelling workshop with partners in Iraq

University's Peace Studies Department. They document people's narratives, either on paper or through audio or video recordings. It has proved to be an extremely delicate yet powerful process that creates mutual understanding. Boundaries between the different groups – Arab, Kurdish and Yezidi – are being

crossed. People are encouraged to speak about taboo subjects such as sexual violence that has been committed by perpetrators from different sides.

The researchers train the women and men they interview to tell their story in front of their and other communities.



In this way, we give room to the human side of suffering which, in very painful ways, unites the victims. It is a first step towards rebuilding relations and building lasting peace.

Local peace committees

The storytelling project is supported by the local peace committees (LPCs) that our partners helped set up in three districts in Ninewa. The elected members of the LPCs include women, youth and people from different ethnic and religious backgrounds and political loyalties. They have been trained and are increasingly effective in addressing the authorities about the needs of their communities. This may concern the restoration of war-damaged irrigation canals or land and property issues. Various political parties in Ninewa and the LPCs are gradually starting a dialogue on key issues for the region and how they can best be settled. In June, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) started developing a national framework of local peace committees

with Iraq's National Reconciliation Committee, building on the experiences of our programme.

The project has also contributed to the creation of standard operating procedures for conflict-sensitive interventions in Ninewa. This supports better coordination between different local and international peacebuilding actors active in the region.

More work in Iraq on CBS&CR

We started working with a group of nine Iraqi women parliamentarians of different ethnic and religious backgrounds who are deeply committed to a peaceful future for Ninewa. They wish to give the people of this marginalized region a voice at the national level. They organized meetings to listen to people's grievances and needs, with special sessions for women and internally displaced people (IDPs). An action plan on gender-sensitive social reconstruction, community reconciliation and transitional justice measures will be presented in parliament in Baghdad in 2018.

Our 'We are all Citizens' project promotes the role that the young generation can play in fostering respect for diversity in a divided country. In 2017, our partners trained youth to conduct research on demographic changes in their areas. Some of these changes appear to be engineered by authorities or armed groups. The research findings will support advocacy with relevant Iraqi and Kurdish authorities on diversity management, sectarianism and the protection of minorities.



© Raymond van Mil. Kasseem Istanbuli receives a PAX dove during Manifeest 2017

'Several years ago, I started with a group of volunteers to revive old cinemas and theatres in the cities of Tyre and Nabatieh in South Lebanon. The theatres had once been vibrant cultural spaces where Arabic and European movies were screened and famous musicians performed. But during and after the civil war in our country, one by one they were shut down. For nearly thirty years, there was no single theatre or cinema in both cities. Imagine!

We worked hard to renovate the iconic Cinema Stars in Nabatieh. As soon as we opened its doors, it became a meeting place for Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian youth. We organized all sorts of creative workshops and activities. Moments to simply enjoy and have fun are so important. For our youth and also for the Syrians living among us, who have fled the terrible war in their country. For many of them it was the first time that they could freely express and discuss their aspirations for a future without hatred and war.

But last year Cinema Stars was put up for sale by its owner. In Cooperation with PAX we set up a crowd funding campaign to try and buy the place. Unfortunately, we didn't manage to raise enough money on time. I'm very sad that we lost this important independent space. But we gained something exciting in turn: with the funds raised we bought an old American school bus and transformed it into a mobile theatre. With our 'Peace Bus' we can reach youth in remote and marginalized areas across Lebanon. We invite them to travel with us while we screen movies and hold concerts and performances in the communities where we stop *en route*. We want to create safe spaces where people can come

together, share stories and food, and where differences between them are respected.

Lebanon is a place marked by diversity. My family roots extend to Turkey and Palestine. My grandfather from my dad's side was an accomplished storyteller, a *hakawati*, and my mother a great singer. From a young age, I knew that I wanted to study theatre. Since graduating from the Lebanese University of Fine Arts in 2009, I have staged many performances, invited film makers and theatre companies from abroad to Lebanon, and worked with children in refugee camps. These experiences have reinforced my conviction that art can unite people against all odds.

Last September I was invited to the Netherlands and joined in the activities and celebrations of Peace Week. It was a perfect reminder of how we in Lebanon envisage the road to peace. Peace is not achieved in a single moment through the signing of agreements; peace is nurtured and fostered through everyday activities of ordinary people.'

KASSEM ISTANBOULI IS AN ACTIVIST, ACTOR AND DIRECTOR FROM LEBANON AND FOUNDER OF THE [TIRO ASSOCIATION FOR ARTS](#)



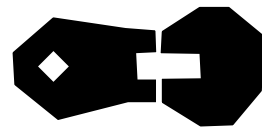
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South Sudan

The civil war in South Sudan escalated in July 2016 and the conflict has spread to a wider area of Africa's youngest nation. It has become more fragmented too, with ever more opposition groups emerging. As a result, the implementation of the 2015 peace agreement has come to a standstill. The impact on the people of South Sudan has been dramatic. By the end of 2017, 2.4 million South Sudanese

citizens were living as refugees in neighbouring countries while 1.8 million people were displaced within South Sudan. Almost 6 million people suffered severe food insecurity.

PAX in South Sudan

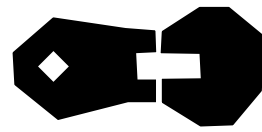
PAX has been working with religious and civil society organizations in South Sudan since 1994. We believe the best chances for reconciliation lie with ordinary people who envision a peaceful future for their country. Together with our partners, we therefore work on strengthening local capacities for peace. We support and encourage women and youth to play their role in achieving inclusive peace. This is also important in our ['Women & Girls for Change' project](#). Where possible, we also work on restoring trust between communities and local governments.

PAX also runs projects in South Sudan under the themes [Dealing with the Past](#) and [Protection of Civilians](#).

Our international advocacy & lobbying on South Sudan

South Sudan has been a focus of our international advocacy efforts since 2011. Findings from the [Human Security Survey](#) are being used to inform international policymakers and diplomats who decide on the deployment of resources by UNMISS, the UN mission in South Sudan. Under the theme [Natural Resources, Conflict & Human Rights](#), we advocate internationally to give victims of the oil war (1997–2003) access to remedy.

In November, the Concerned Citizens' Network for Peace (CCNP), with support from PAX, published the report ['Monitoring the scenarios for South Sudan in 2020'](#). The report warns that South Sudan is heading towards either fragmentation or dictatorship. The authors call upon all South Sudanese parties to end the military strategy and resume dialogue. They urge the international community to take responsibility for guaranteeing the safety and rights of the citizens of South Sudan and to develop a united strategy to support progress towards peace and stability in the country. The CCNP was asked to present their analysis and recommendations in the South Sudanese Parliament.



Youth building bridges

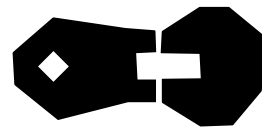
Young people are a vital force in making peace possible. This is certainly the case in South Sudan where they make up the majority of the population. Since 2014, PAX has been training and supporting the activities of a growing group of young people from different neighbourhoods in Juba who all desire change.

We have now handed over our direct involvement to our local partner Organising People for Prosperity (OPP). They have continued to train the youth on leadership, conflict transformation, communication and networking. This has resulted in a network of about 100 active young peace ambassadors. They organize community peace events that attract between 200 and 1,500 people from across Juba. The positive effects are starting to show. The youth report that tribally-inspired hate speech in their neighbourhoods has diminished and that relationships between themselves and their elders, and with youth from other areas, are also improving. Citizens and local authorities encourage the

'The training in leadership has turned me into a problem solver. People in my area now call me Sheik-el Hela [Area Chief] because when people are quarrelling, I try as much as possible to mediate between them.'

JOSEPH, TEAM LEADER OF NYAKURON CLUSTER

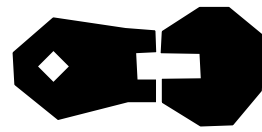
young peace ambassadors to mediate in conflicts. In 2017, their work even received recognition at the national level: OPP together with some representatives from the youth project were invited to share their perspectives on the situation in the country with the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (JMEC) that oversees the implementation of the 2015 peace agreement.



More work in South Sudan on CBS&CR

In 2017, PAX and our partner Assistance Mission for Africa (AMA) continued to support local peace processes in the war-affected Greater Upper Nile region. Significant achievements in 2017 included fewer revenge attacks between communities and improved coordination between local authorities of different areas, which has helped to revive trade.

PAX continued working with the Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Malakal on intracommunity dialogue among several displaced Nuer communities who have found shelter in and outside the UN Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites in Bentiu.



Ukraine

Continuous ceasefire violations and next to no progress at the political level demonstrated the non-viability of the Minsk-II agreements. Russia increased its hold on the non-government controlled territories in the east and a trade blockade from the Ukrainian side deepened their isolation. Ukraine is at the fault line of increasingly tensions between Russia and the United States

and most EU countries. Internally, war has become 'normal' and talk about peace and compromise remains a sensitive topic.

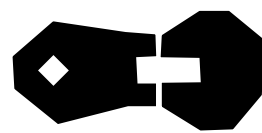
PAX in Ukraine

PAX has been working in Ukraine since 2014. We focus on countering polarization in society by facilitating dialogue, and bridging the trust gap between citizens and (local) authorities. Civil society is growing stronger, better organized and vocal. Many new organizations achieve even better results when cooperating with other institutions.

Culture of dialogue

Throughout 2017, we have been cooperating with one of the newly founded organizations called Dignity Space. The jointly designed project 'Culture of Dialogue' contains an intense training programme for dialogue facilitators. Participants must be prepared to commit to a year of full-time engagement. We set up the training facilities, designed the curriculum and selected local and international

trainers. The first two groups of 15 facilitators were trained in 2017, and a third group has been selected in the meantime. Facilitators from the first group went out into the field to put their skills to practice. They told people about the programme and facilitated dialogues, helping to solve some of the many conflicts in the country. Some of these conflicts are relatively small, for instance between schools and parents' collectives. Others are directly linked with actual reform processes, such as between institutions in newly merged municipalities. Still other conflicts are direct results of the war, such as conflicts between internally displaced persons (IDPs) and local inhabitants, or those concerning problems with gas supplies across the front line in Luhansk province. The project continues in 2018, with an even stronger focus on solving local conflict through dialogue.



More work by PAX on Community-based Security & Citizens' Rights

Kosovo

In Kosovo, PAX co-implements the Inclusive Development Programme in partnership with UN-Habitat Kosovo and Community Building Mitrovica (CBM). The programme fosters integration in Kosovo's diverse northern region by strengthening local governments, empowering citizens to participate in decision-making, and facilitating inter-municipal and local-central dialogue and cooperation. In 2017, PAX and a broad array of stakeholders and beneficiaries conducted a baseline assessment of needs and capabilities in the north, fine-tuning plans for the main phase of the programme in 2018-2020. Over the course of the year, PAX and CBM supported technical and advocacy training for civil society leaders, organized a series of state-citizen dialogues, and launched the process of developing citizen participation plans in all 7 northern Kosovo municipalities.

Colombia

In northern Cauca, in the southwestern part of Colombia, PAX carried out a pilot project to

support the reintegration of ex-FARC fighters into indigenous self-governing reserves. Many of the demobilized guerrillas were forcibly recruited by the FARC; others chose themselves to join the armed struggle. Now that the war has ended, most of them want to return to their communities of origin. The indigenous authorities support this, but not without holding ex-guerrillas accountable for their actions. A locally supported process of reconciliation and reintegration will help to avoid new intra-community conflict from flaring up. It also reduces the chances that ex-FARC fighters are once again recruited by remaining armed or criminal groups in what is still one of the most insecure regions of Colombia. PAX supports the indigenous authorities in their difficult task, and mediates between their communities and government institutions and the FARC.

Israel and Palestine

In East Jerusalem, the community committees established as part of our project continued to organize all sorts of voluntary work to increase social cohesion in the 12 occupied neighbourhoods where they operate. The committees promote non-violent resistance to

conflicts in their communities as well as to the occupying forces. In July, committee members contributed to the popular resistance against increased security measures for accessing the al-Aqsa Mosque imposed by the Israeli security forces. The community committees played a role in negotiating with religious leaders and community leaders to coordinate their protest actions. Moreover, the religious leaders were convinced not to frame the resistance as a religious conflict, but as an issue of human rights and Palestinian solidarity. Women participated in the al-Aqsa protests, which the EU said were 'characterised by unity, non-violence, and a strong sense of solidarity'.

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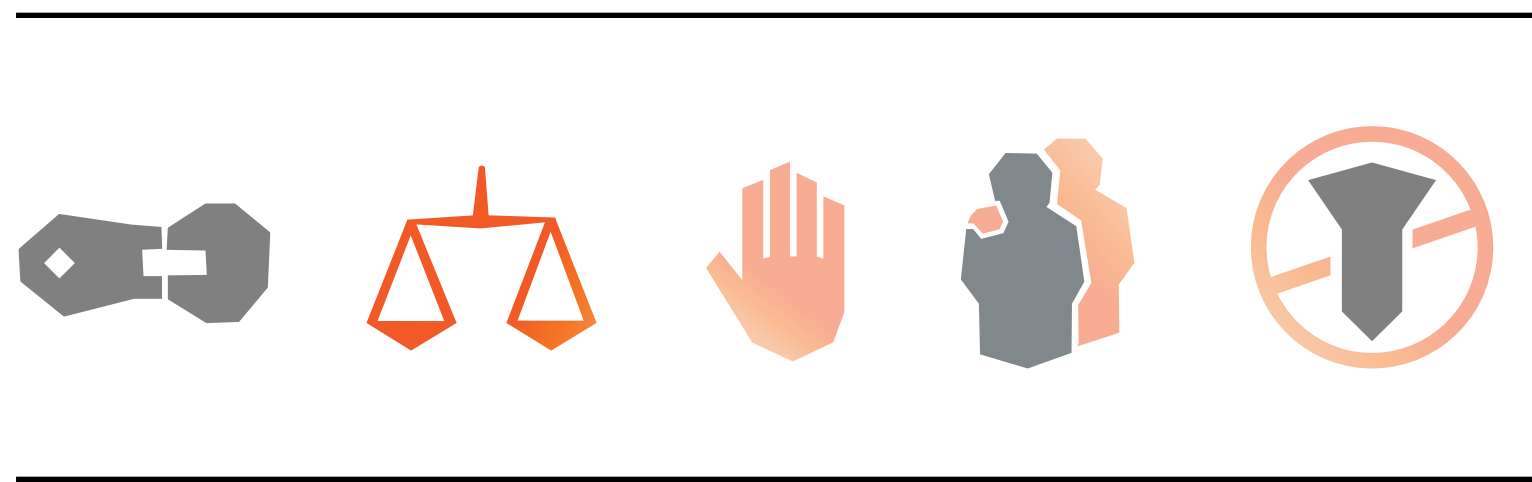
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4



DEALING WITH THE PAST





Dealing with the Past

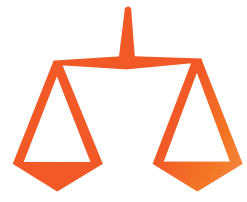
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

- ◆ That local and national authorities, and the international community – taking into account the wishes and grievances of victims and communities – contribute to processes of truth, justice and reparation that are as inclusive as possible, thus reducing the risk of reversion to violent conflict.
-

Many post-conflict countries are prone to recurring violence. Peace agreements rarely address the sensitive issues of 'dealing with the past'. Achieving sustainable peace after conflict and promoting democracy and respect for human rights requires that truth is established, justice served, and that victims receive reparations. It is crucial that all of this is done in an inclusive way, trying to bridge differences between groups and communities.

PAX works on 'Dealing with the Past' in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, South Sudan, DR Congo,

Iraq, Kosovo and through a regional programme for the Western Balkans. This regional programme, as well as some of the work in Iraq and Kosovo, is carried out in close cooperation with our partner on this theme, [Impunity Watch](#).



Bosnia

The Srebrenica genocide of July 1995 continues to cause grave tensions in Bosnia. Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims) and Bosnian Serbs remain diametrically opposed. The Bosnian Croats are also adding to the fragmentation of politics and society. Meanwhile, victims from Srebrenica are still largely denied access to justice and reparations. The Dutch government has given financial support

to the UNDP programmes in Srebrenica and for the Potočari Memorial Centre. However, most survivors are still waiting for the Netherlands to acknowledge its mistakes and apologize for its failure to protect the people who relied on the UN for their safety, back in 1995.

PAX in Bosnia

PAX started working in Bosnia and Herzegovina more than 25 years ago. The aim of our Srebrenica programme is to support the campaign for truth and justice for the Srebrenica victims and their families. We lobby and raise awareness on Srebrenica in the Netherlands and have supported civil law suits against the state of the Netherlands.

In 2017, we facilitated an important visit for the women of Srebrenica to witness the reading of the verdict in the case against Ratko Mladic at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (now its successor the United Nations Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals) in The Hague. Like every year,

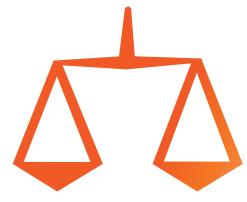
a PAX delegation was present at the commemoration of the genocide at the cemetery in Potočari and we co-organized the commemoration in The Hague.

We continued researching the possibilities for a claims commission/trust fund for the victims of Srebrenica. Such an initiative could prompt the international community to take responsibility for its failure to deliver the promised protection to the people of Srebrenica.

In Bosnia, moreover, PAX cooperates with the Srebrenica local government and civil society organizations through various activities, strengthening social cohesion and inter-ethnic relations.

The exhibition at the Potočari Memorial Centre

On 9 February 2017 more than 200 people participated in the opening of the exhibition 'Srebrenica genocide – the failure of the international community' at Potočari Memorial Centre (PMC). It was a



very important day for the survivors of the genocide and their families. For PAX, it was a milestone too.

As long ago as 2010, the PMC and the associations of Srebrenica survivors requested PAX's help to develop an exhibition at the premises of the former Dutchbat headquarters. To make sure that the world would never forget what happened in July 1995, when more than 8,000 men and boys were killed by the Bosnian Serbs in a few days' time. And to say, 'never again'.

PAX and Memorial Centre Kamp Westerbork worked together with the PMC and survivors' organizations to develop the exhibition. It tells the survivors' stories of the genocide, but also displays the experiences of Dutchbat soldiers. From the start of the project it was clear that we would have to try and work with 'multiple narratives'. PAX has always emphasized that dialogue and openness to the narratives of others is important for truth finding. In the past

ten years, we have gradually succeeded in facilitating dialogue between Bosniaks and the Dutchbat veterans. It has been an extremely difficult and painful process. Yet it becomes evident in the part of the exhibition called '[Various voices](#)' that important progress has been made. In seven short documentaries, 14 survivors and 9 Dutchbat soldiers speak about their personal experiences at the compound in Potočari.

The exhibition takes visitors through 26 rooms. They are refurbished with artefacts and display original graffiti to reflect what the Dutchbat headquarters looked like at the time. The office of Thom Karremans, commander at the time, has been authentically refurbished, as have the communication and operations rooms, the meeting hall and a small corner of the sleeping quarters. More than 500 photos and 35 videos taken in 1995 are on display. Some of these were provided by former Dutchbat soldiers. They also supported the reconstruction project of the former Watchtower Bravo.

At the day of the opening, Reuters, BBC World, Deutsche Welle, Al Jazeera and other international media were all present. 35,000 people from around the world visited the exhibition in 2017.



For PAX, the process of realizing the exhibition at the Potočari Memorial Centre in Srebrenica was as significant as the final 'product'. PAX employee Dion van den Berg reflects: 'We know that time doesn't heal all wounds and that real "reconciliation", which is a word I rarely use, is only possible if those involved can summon the courage, the calmness and the willingness. An organization such as PAX is well advised, especially in the European context, to remain modest in its statements about reconciliation. But what we can do is provide survivors and relatives with the opportunity to meet each other and exchange experiences and explore how close they can get to formulating a "shared history". The conversations are often difficult ones, but in February several Dutchbat soldiers indicated that they are now able, more so than ten years ago, to put themselves in the position of Bosnian Muslims at the time, in 1995. That's encouraging, also because we've also noticed this development among survivors. What connects them, it seems, is that they were all there – as a threatened Bosnian citizen or as a Dutchbat soldier.'



© Sake Elzinga

Suhra Sinanovic

Srebrenica survivor and chair of the Podrinje Women's Association

'We have waited so long for this. Nothing was done better in Srebrenica than this museum today. We as survivors needed this so very much. It is breathtaking.'



Impressions from the exhibition 'Srebrenica genocide – the failure of the international community' at Potočari Memorial Centre in Srebrenica.



Hasan Nuhanovic

Srebrenica survivor who won a lawsuit against the Dutch government for failing to protect his family while he was working as a UN interpreter.

'This is the most difficult project that I have ever worked on because it shows how difficult it is to face the truth.'



© Sake Elzinga

Sadik Ahmetovic

Srebrenica survivor and chair of the PMC board

'I think that visitors' first impressions will be similar to mine: we have built a museum at PMC that meets the highest standards in the world!'



© Armyinfoforum

Michel Uiterwaal

PAX staff visiting the exhibition:

'It's pretty shameful that apparently I needed personal stories to be able to feel and understand the horror that's behind the numbers. The exhibition succeeded extremely well in conveying that. The personal stories really made a deep impression.'



© PAX

Nina van der Meer

PAX staff visiting the exhibition:

'Being here, arriving at the compound, the utterly harrowing emotion of the women of Srebrenica, then to the cemetery and the exhibition... This has made me and many of my colleagues truly realize why we are so eager and passionate about working for PAX.'



'I am very grateful that PAX gave me and other Yezidis an opportunity to visit Sarajevo and the town of Srebrenica in Bosnia. We went there in July 2017, to participate in the annual commemoration at the cemetery in Potočari, Srebrenica. It was the precise day of the beginning of that genocide, July 11. So much sorrow we saw, after more than two decades! They started their struggle more than 20 years ago, back in 1995, we just a few years ago, in 2014.

We had long meetings with the Women of Srebrenica, survivors of the genocide, and we fired hundreds of questions at them. They shared their experiences. They spoke softly, but their words carried great weight. How they had organized themselves, how they went about attracting the attention of the authorities and the international community, the search for mass graves, the demand for justice, the need to collect documentation, to commemorate. How political parties make use of genocide and victims of genocide, for their own political gain. During these meetings, I understood that our struggle will also last decades and that we need a strategy, a long-term strategy. Isolated activities will not bring results.

In their eyes, I saw and recognized the pain and suffering that we know so well. It is what we see in the eyes of the Yezidis who lost their loved ones. On August 3, 2014, our village was surrounded by ISIS. With a group we managed to escape, we were lucky. But more than ninety members of my tribe were abducted and killed. Some family members are still missing. Just imagine what it must be like to have to wait for more than 20 years.

We must not equate any religion with evil or war crimes. When ISIS came, many Muslim families helped us and offered shelter in their houses. War criminals have a name, and structures and organizations support them. They must be held accountable in court.

Srebrenica and Sinjar lay far apart, but it is clear that both our communities show great strength, as well as strong demands and a relentless commitment to overcome the suffering and pain we carry with us. There will not be a better future without this fight.

I had read about Srebrenica, had seen the photos, before travelling here. But it was when we met, talked, shed tears and hugged, that I felt this huge burden on these women's shoulders. And they were so friendly and so helpful. I hope that they also felt our solidarity with them.'

BASMA HAJI KHUDHUR IS A YEZIDI ACTIVIST FROM IRAQ.



Colombia

In late 2016, the government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) signed a historic peace agreement that brought an end to 50 years of violent armed struggle. Large parts of the country remain unsafe, however, and the implementation of the peace agreement has been slow so far. This is also the case for the agreement concerning the victims, which



© Gerald Bermudez, Ex-FARC fighter receives a certificate of reintegration

includes the creation of mechanisms for transitional justice in the country.

PAX in Colombia

In the Cauca and Meta regions, we have been implementing a two-year project with indigenous and campesino victims of the Colombian civil war and their organizations. The project is part

of a combined project together with Impunity Watch, which implements part of this project in Guatemala. PAX also runs a pilot project in Colombia under the theme Community-based Security & Citizens' Rights that deals with the reintegration of **ex-FARC fighters** in indigenous communities in the Cauca department. Under the theme Natural



Resources, Conflict & Human Rights, we run our major [‘Blood Coal’ campaign](#).

Victims’ participation in transitional justice

One condition for sustainable peace in Colombia is that the situation of victims of past violent conflict improves. Our project offers legal assistance to victims who are involved in reparation claims and other judicial processes. We also offer psychological support to traumatized leaders of indigenous and campesino victim organizations. We noticed that this is crucial for empowering these leaders in their role as spokespersons for their communities. It also helps them through the difficult and often painful process of searching for truth and justice.

Second, we prepare victims’ organizations for the documentation of cases of human rights violations. Case reports can be submitted to either the Peace Tribunal or the Truth Commission, which will start hearings in 2018. PAX’s support includes training activities on victims’

rights and awareness, the provision of legal counselling, as well as support for organizational strengthening. In this way, we aim to empower the organizations to lobby with local and national authorities to ensure inclusive processes of truth finding, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-repetition. Because of their marginalized and vulnerable position in society, indigenous and campesino groups have suffered disproportionately in the Colombian conflict. However, they have until now only played a marginal role in the design and implementation of transitional justice policies and mechanisms.

Finally, in 2017, we also developed a participatory methodology for monitoring the implementation of the Colombian peace agreement. We believe it is important to map how ongoing transitional justice processes play out in specific regions such as Cauca and Meta, as well as to monitor potential threats to durable peace. For example, we trained people to monitor and record how many

victims have received reparations or land restitution, the progress of judicial cases, and the efforts by the police and military to counter the risks recurring violence. The leaders of the victims will publish the main findings of these participatory monitoring exercises in June 2018. They will subsequently be used in advocacy towards the government of Colombia to improve and speed up the implementation of the peace agreement.





Strategic partnership with Impunity Watch

In 2016, PAX entered a strategic partnership with Impunity Watch to strengthen the scope and impact of our work on dealing with the wartime past in different regions. Both organizations see clear added value in the partnership: PAX is well rooted in bottom-up peace building and lobbying from a peace perspective, while Impunity Watch is very well positioned in the international human rights community dealing with accountability. Our joint efforts in 2017 focused on the Western Balkans, Kosovo, South Sudan, Syria and Iraq.

Western Balkans

Many years after the wars in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo, ethnic nationalism is still very strong and dominates not only politics but also the daily lives of millions of citizens

in the Western Balkans. In 2017, PAX started a new regional programme in cooperation with Impunity Watch. We are convinced that durable peace can only be achieved if more attention is paid to the underlying causes of the conflict. An improved EU policy on the Western Balkans has a role to play in this, specifically by supporting inclusive processes of justice, truth, reparation and memorialization. PAX and Impunity Watch therefore conducted research on transitional justice efforts in the Western Balkans and ways of improving EU policy in support of such efforts and processes. The published outcomes of the research will feed into a joint lobbying and advocacy campaign focusing on the EU, which will take off in 2018. Civil society organizations from the Western Balkans will play a prominent role in this campaign.

Kosovo

Cooperating closely with two Kosovan partner organizations, the Centre for Peace and Tolerance (CPT) and Integra,

PAX vigorously advocated for robust public dialogue and outreach around the new Kosovo Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor's Office, a hybrid judicial institution based in The Hague that will prosecute divisive war crimes allegations. Towards that end, PAX, its Kosovan partners, and Impunity Watch launched two high-profile reports (see [here](#) and [here](#)) analysing public perception of the Court in Kosovo and advancing specific recommendations for policymakers that will ensure the court's work achieves a positive societal impact. In parallel, PAX, CPT and Integra supported efforts to contextualize the Court's work within a broad national framework for dealing with the wartime past, including by contributing to technical consultations on the development of a Commission on Truth and Reconciliation initiated by Kosovo President Hashim Thaci in early 2017.

Iraq

In July 2017, PAX and Impunity Watch launched the policy Alert [Breaking the](#)



cycle of division: justice for all Iraqis.

It urges both the Iraqi government and the international community to support inclusive transitional justice processes in Iraq. In national and international debates, emphasis is placed on ISIS crimes, while abuses and crimes by others are hardly on the agenda. Iraq's recent history, however, shows that selective strategies to achieve justice for victims of grave human rights abuses undermines peace and reconciliation efforts and instead is likely to fuel new conflict. Following consultations in which PAX and Iraqi civil society partners played a key role, the Alert's call for future justice initiatives in Iraq to address the grievances of all affected communities was strongly reflected in the January 2018 EU Strategy for Iraq. PAX and Impunity Watch continue to work to support victims' organizations and to call for participatory and inclusive justice processes, through policy dialogues at the local, national and international levels.

More work by PAX on Dealing with the Past

South Sudan

'Remembering the Ones We Lost' is a public memorial website listing the victims of war and community violence in South Sudan since 1955. The purpose is to help heal the wounds of the past and promote national reconciliation. In 2017, PAX supported the South Sudanese individuals who initiated the project to continue data collection and become an independent charity.

PAX started cooperating with the Catholic University in Juba, and supported a lecture series on the issue of how to deal with a violent past. The audience included university students and staff, civil society actors, religious leaders, government officials and others interested in discussing how to achieve sustainable peace in South Sudan. Supporting open dialogue on this topic in a country still divided by violent conflict is as challenging as it is vital for future peace.

In July 1992, hundreds of prominent South Sudanese civilians, military and police officers

were arrested by the Sudan Armed Forces and executed or disappeared. PAX supports the '1992 Juba Massacre Widows and Orphans Association' that demands information about and recognition of what happened. In 2017, local authorities for the first time attended the commemoration ceremony in Juba and fulfilled one of their promises by officially naming a bridge in Juba after one of the victims.

DR Congo

PAX started a dialogue with surviving relatives of the victims of a massacre conducted by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in the region of Haute-Uele, Democratic Republic of Congo. For the first time since the massacre took place in 2008, more than 400 family members of the victims came together in August 2017. They asked PAX to help ensure truth finding, justice, commemoration, reparation, reconciliation and guarantees of non-repetition.

In 2017, civic space became an important attention point for PAX. Why? Because around the world, the space for civil society actors to organize and freely express themselves on political, economic, social or religious issues is gradually closing. And because this has immediate repercussions for our work.

PAX supports partner organizations that are committed to building peace and justice in conflict and post-conflict areas. Their work has never been easy. However, it is becoming more difficult by the day. Increasingly, power holders are deliberately limiting civic space in an effort to stay in power and protect their political or personal interests.

Many organizations that we work with are being thwarted by the authorities. Putting up bureaucratic and legal barriers is a common tactic, such as legislation forbidding NGOs to accept funding from abroad, or the abuse of money laundering and anti-terrorism legislation to silence any form of opposition. Examples of these kinds of measures are countless in countries like Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya.

There are signs of a closing civic space in Europe as well: In Hungary, a bill has been put forward to



make things very difficult for organizations that 'support migration'. They are supposed to come under surveillance of the national security services and will have to pay a 25% tax on revenues from abroad. In the United Kingdom, the controversial Lobbying Act restricts what NGOs can say in the year before a general election. In 2017, the global civil society alliance CIVICUS announced that the civic space rating for the Netherlands slipped from 'open' to 'narrowed'. This is due to a trend also seen in several other European countries of increasing political polarization, surveillance and intrusive security measures, the rise of far-right movements, poor policing of protests and a rise in attacks against journalists.

PAX considers civic space the bedrock of any open and democratic society. We also believe that sustainable political change processes are driven by 'forces for change' from inside a society. This means that protecting, and where possible creating more civic space is both a prerequisite for and an objective of our peace work.

New strategies

Our activities will focus on two areas of work. First, we will link up with international networks and coalitions which advocate protecting the right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly. We already work with CIVICUS and with Amnesty International Netherlands. Together, we devise and explore new strategies to secure and regain civic space.

Second, we will try new ways of protecting our partners and helping them regain civic space. This may include seeking cooperation with embassies or local authorities rather than national governments; building the capacity of partners in digital security; or introducing more flexible cooperation agreements for partners who work in very volatile contexts.



'On the third of January 2007 I returned to Sudan for first time since 1990. While pursuing my studies in the UK, I had been dismissed from my job as an English teacher in Khartoum. It was shortly after Omar al-Bashir had taken over power through a military coup and large-scale arrests swept the capital. I was lucky to be abroad at the time and that my job was my only loss. Many of my university friends, who had been vocal like me about their desire for change, ended up in Khartoum's notorious secret prisons, or "ghost houses" as we called them. Some paid with their lives.

But after the Comprehensive Peace Agreement with South Sudan had been signed in 2005, we felt a cautious breath of new wind was blowing. Sudanese intellectuals started to return from the diaspora. They opened businesses, schools and art centres. I came back to Khartoum and founded the NGO "RACE". My mission was to contribute to a peaceful Sudan where all Sudanese are equal in worth, dignity and opportunity.

At RACE, we worked with communities from the marginalized areas of Sudan, such as Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan. In lectures and seminars, we discussed minority and women's rights, and the link between identity and conflict in the history of our country. These events soon started attracting large audiences. Not only that, these audiences embodied a notable variety of faces, features, skin colours and accents; they mirrored the diversity that defines our multicultural Sudan. I was delighted because this was exactly what I had hoped for: to start a truly inclusive, national dialogue about the future of our country. For fifty years prior to this, those in power, the elite from Central Sudan, had merely engaged in monologues among themselves. A podium for a different sound or story didn't exist.

So it was no surprise that the government started to notice us. Officers from the Humanitarian Affairs Commission (HAC), which in Sudan is part of the security apparatus, began investigations. They paid us surprise visits and started to require materials. NISS, the security services, summoned our staff for interrogations, which they euphemistically referred to as "having a chat". NISS also tried to infiltrate our organization. They failed.

Then on New Year's Eve 2012, six men arrived at the office, some of them armed. They handed me a letter from HAC, which stated that RACE's license had been revoked. We were ordered to leave the building and leave all assets behind. A month later a truck arrived and all office furniture and equipment was taken away. They even unscrewed the RACE signpost – as if we had never existed.

We filed a court case. After three years of deliberate obstruction and delays, the judge dismissed it. We took our complaint to the High Court where it lingers up to today. I don't expect a positive outcome, but I want it to be documented that we have tried everything to resist the arbitrary closure of our vibrant organization.

KACE was not the only victim. Around 2010, the government started to toughen its grip on all independent CSOs. It was the period leading up to the referendum about South Sudan's independence. As soon as the government realized there was no way the international community would allow Khartoum to sabotage this milestone referendum, Bashir started to seriously crack down on civil society. New, repressive laws were passed in a hurry: a law for the press and one for NGOs, as well as the infamous new national security law. By the end of 2013, 90% of all independent CSOs had been closed down. Omar Bashir had made it very clear: he saw no need for a democratic transition in Sudan.

KACE is still alive and now operates from Kampala, Uganda. In the past two years, we have been working together with PAX on establishing a CSO Forum for the Horn of Africa. Because it is not only in Sudan that civic space is closing fast – this is a common trend across countries in the Horn. We have managed to extend our regional network to 10 countries. We created The Watch, a monitoring system on human rights violations, to gather evidence and conduct analyses for a regional and international lobbying campaign

I'm confident that the majority of my fellow Sudanese share the dream of a united country where justice prevails and where everyone is equal.

on the growing repression of civil society in our countries. Last year, we launched our reports at the Human Rights Council in Geneva and at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in The Gambia.

We are also a network of solidarity. We share experiences and strategies and we support each other. In October last year, the offices of our

partner in Mogadishu were destroyed in the deadly attack by Al-Shabaab. The members of our network pooled resources to help our colleagues get back on their feet. Moral support is immensely important for activists in our part of the world. To know that we are not alone in our struggle to defend civic space.

An arrest warrant against me has been issued in Sudan, so I might not be returning home soon. But I'm still driven by the same vision and I remain committed to the people of Sudan. I'm confident that the majority of my fellow Sudanese share the dream of a united country where justice prevails and where everyone is equal. We should try and look at it this way: the enemy of this vision may be powerful, rich and armed, but they are only a minority. Sooner or later, the people will prevail.'

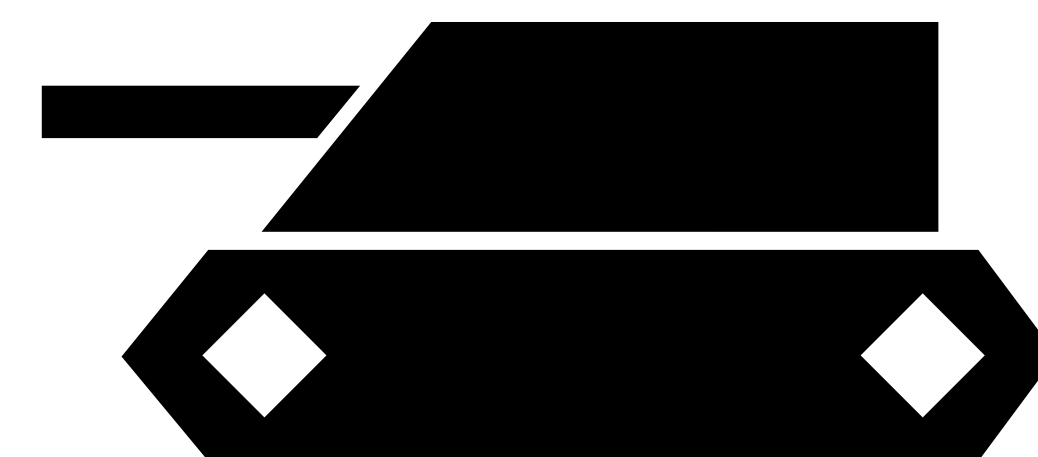
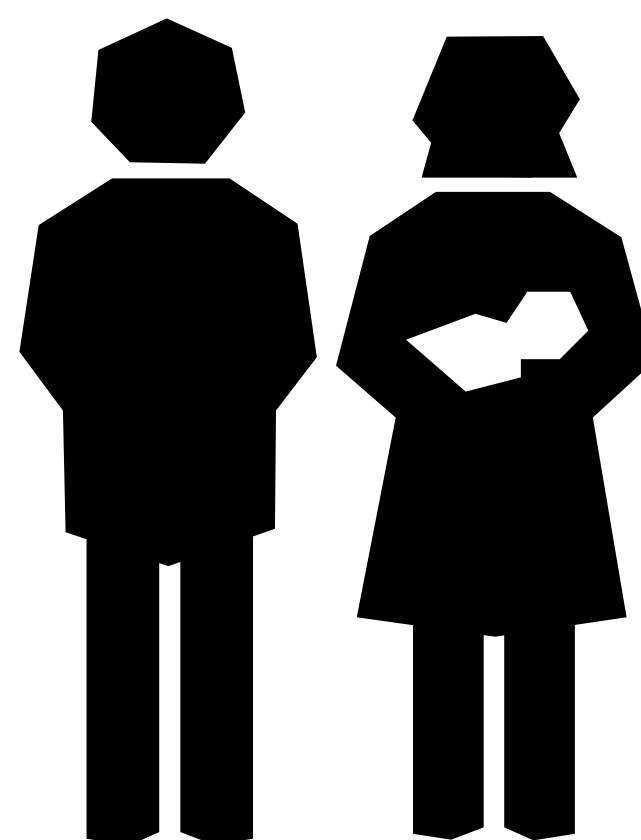
ALBAQIR MUKHTAR IS A CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIVIST AND ACADEMIC FROM SUDAN AND FOUNDER OF KACE, WHICH CURRENTLY OPERATES FROM KAMPALA, UGANDA.



5



PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS





Protection of Civilians

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

- ◆ The UN and its member states carry out their interventions for the protection of civilians based on the local security priorities of civilians and their communities.
-

The Protection of Civilians (PoC) is high on the international agenda. But who ensures that security? And how? What resources are needed to safeguard the security of civilians? PAX believes that the answers to such questions depend on the conflict's local conditions. This is why we work with partners on the ground in conflict areas on protecting civilians from the bottom up. Together with local activists and civil society organizations, we examine how civilians can best be protected against the destructive effects of war and how human security can be improved.

We run projects under this theme in South Sudan and Iraq. Internationally, we advocate the protection of civilians and advise policymakers from European countries, NATO, the EU and the United Nations. We also provide training on PoC capacities to actors involved in peacekeeping missions. In 2017, we launched a dedicated programme website: protectionofcivilians.org.



The Human Security Survey

Reliable information about local security situations is often hard to come by, if it exists at all. We therefore developed a methodology that gives civilians a voice in discussions about their security: The Human Security Survey (HSS). The methodology includes population-based research, community engagement and advocacy.

First, surveys are conducted on a large scale to gather data about security threats that people face, the impact on their daily lives and their expectations for the future. People are also asked about the security actors present in their areas. Local enumerators conduct the surveys using smartphones with open-source software. The research outcomes increase our understanding of local human security experiences, perceptions and trends.

Second, we bring the research findings



© Anton Quist, Enumerators in Ganyiel, South Sudan, with their certificates

back to the communities and discuss the outcomes. This strengthens them so they can initiate dialogues about their security and protection priorities with authorities from local government, security forces, religious and social institutions, or local armed groups.

Third, the first-hand information about the threats, needs and priorities of civilians living in conflict generated

through the Human Security Survey is used to inform and influence policymakers at the national and international levels.

By repeating this three-step cycle over multiple years, we can track trends. This helps us and our partners to effect more sustainable change for the protection of civilians in the conflict areas where we work.



Iraq

2017 was the first year in which we conducted the Human Security Survey in Iraq. The guidance of respected local civil society partners is critical for the success of such a politically sensitive undertaking. The Iraqi Al-Firdaws Society (Basra) and the Iraqi Al-Amal Association (Baghdad) advised us on how to guarantee not only an effective research process, but also the safety of the

enumerators and citizens participating in the survey and follow-on activities. They also played a vital role in securing the political buy-in of local authorities for the project. This is essential as they will be the ones asked to act in response to the survey findings and people's demands for improved civilian security.

With support from Utrecht University and Impunity Watch, our partners in a project funded as part of the Dutch NAP on [UNSCR 1325](#), we improved the gender-sensitivity of the Human Security Survey in Iraq.

We trained **42 enumerators and supervisors** for data collection in 2017. They received a 4-day training in research ethics, listening and interviewing skills, random sampling, and mobile phone security. In March and April, they conducted the surveys. More than **2,200 respondents** from across the **Basra, Kirkuk** and **Salahaddin** governorates shared their experiences, perceptions and expectations for the future.

In our survey we ask how to best share the results with local populations. In Basra, 53% said that we should organize community meetings, 37% suggested posting findings on social media and 23% recommended local radio. In November 2017, the Iraqi Al-Firdaws Society organized a series of community engagement activities in Basra. In total, **2,000 pamphlets** detailing core survey findings were distributed and **16 community dialogues** with **420 participants** took place. These events are helping to raise the collective voice of victims of violence to hold authorities accountable for failing to fulfil their protection responsibilities for all people without sectarian or gender bias. In Salahaddin, the team had several meetings with security actors regarding the HSS results, and the supervisor was interviewed about the survey on television. To date, **30 advocacy** visits were made to a variety of governmental and non-governmental agencies.

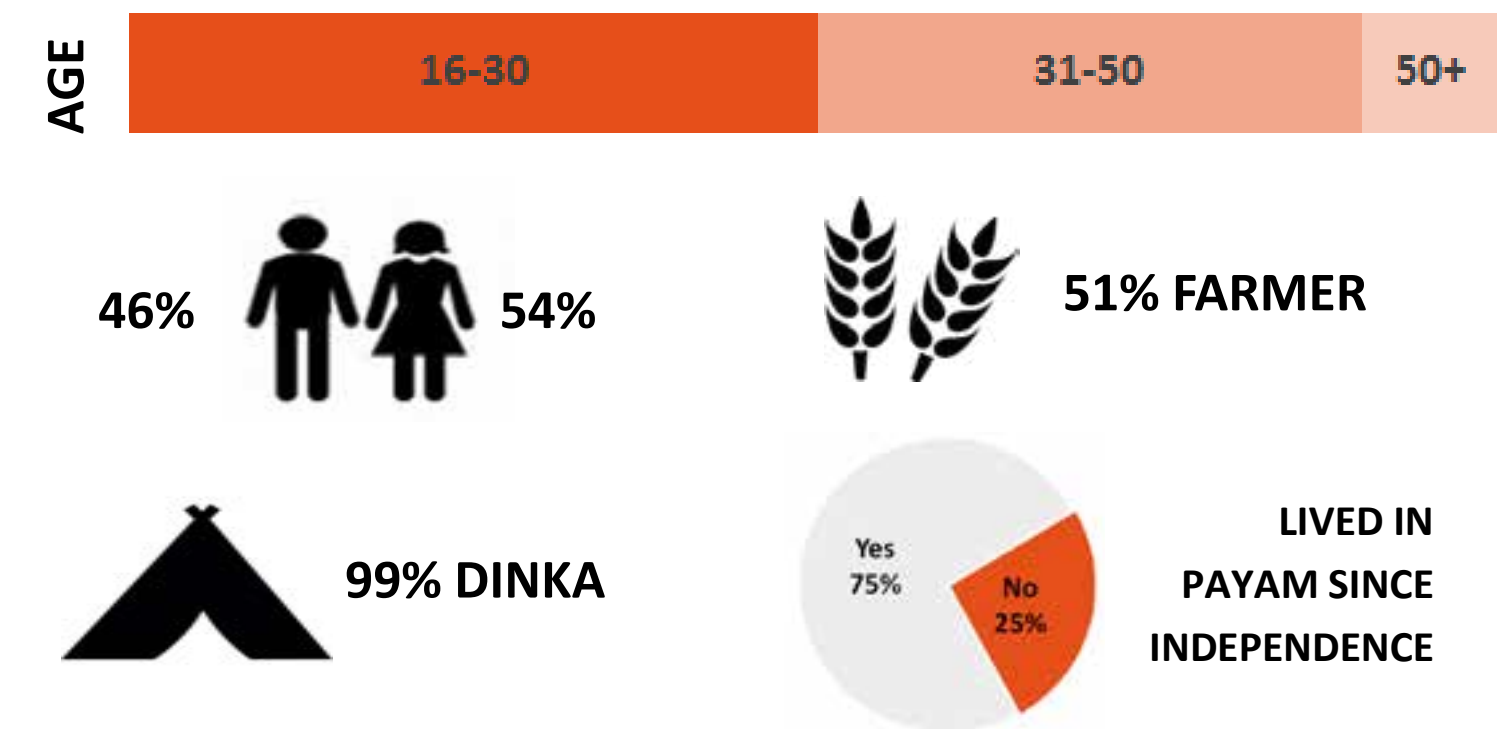


Human Security Survey Eastern Lakes State South Sudan — April 2017

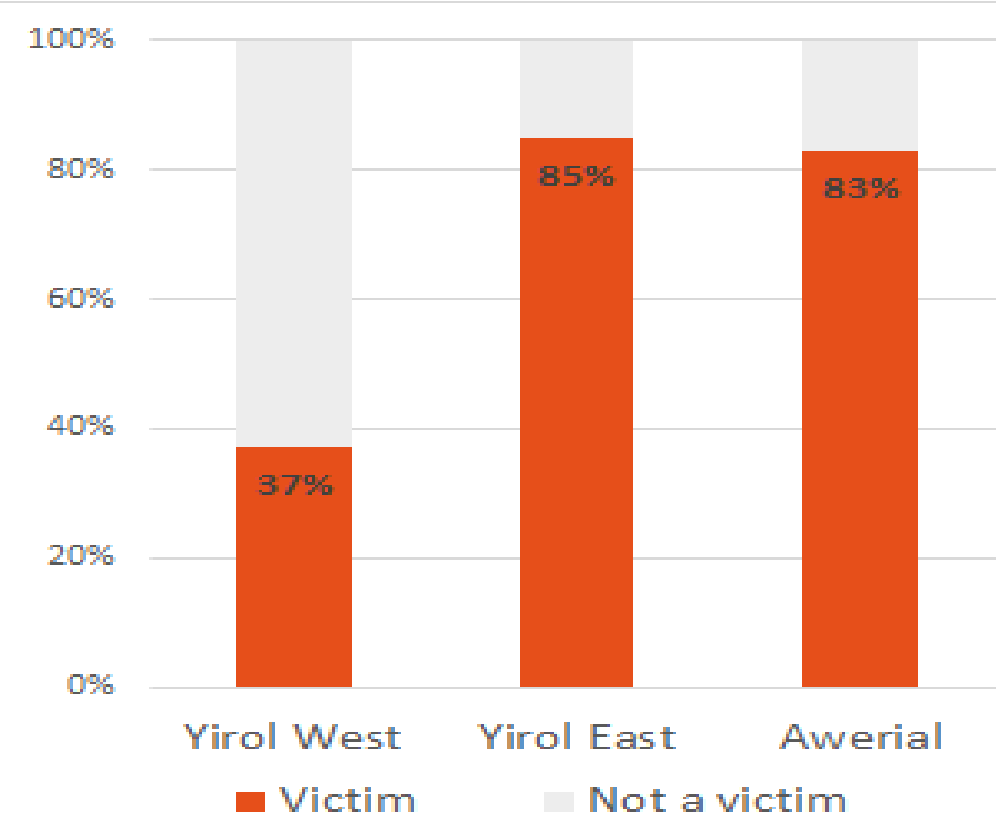
The **HUMAN SECURITY SURVEY (HSS)** is a methodology developed by PAX to collect data and facilitate dialogue about civilians' experiences and perceptions in situations of conflict. The purpose is to increase the understanding of local security dynamics and trends; enhance the 'claim-making capacity' of civilians to identify their priorities and hold security providers and decision-makers accountable; and enable international stakeholders to design and implement protection activities that reflect local priorities and experiences using evidence-based advocacy. PAX implements all aspects of the HSS in South Sudan in close collaboration with its local partner, the **SOUTH SUDAN ACTION NETWORK ON SMALL ARMS (SSANSA)**.

The survey in Eastern Lakes took place over 3 weeks in April 2017 where **538** surveys were collected across the state's three counties. Surveyed areas were selected in cooperation with the local partner on the basis of geographical and security-related access. Within the area clusters, households and individual respondents were selected using an approximately random procedure to allow for some generalizability.

HSS Respondents



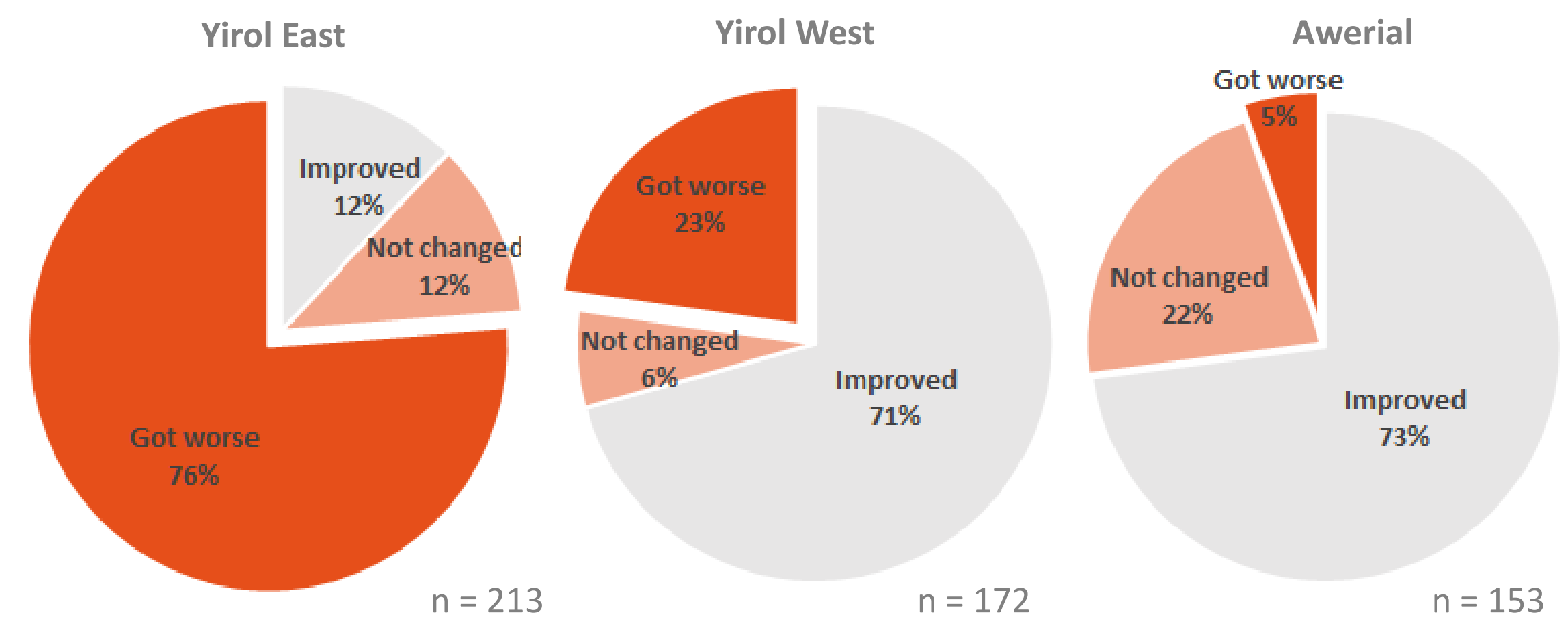
69%

 Households victim of at least one security incident in the previous year

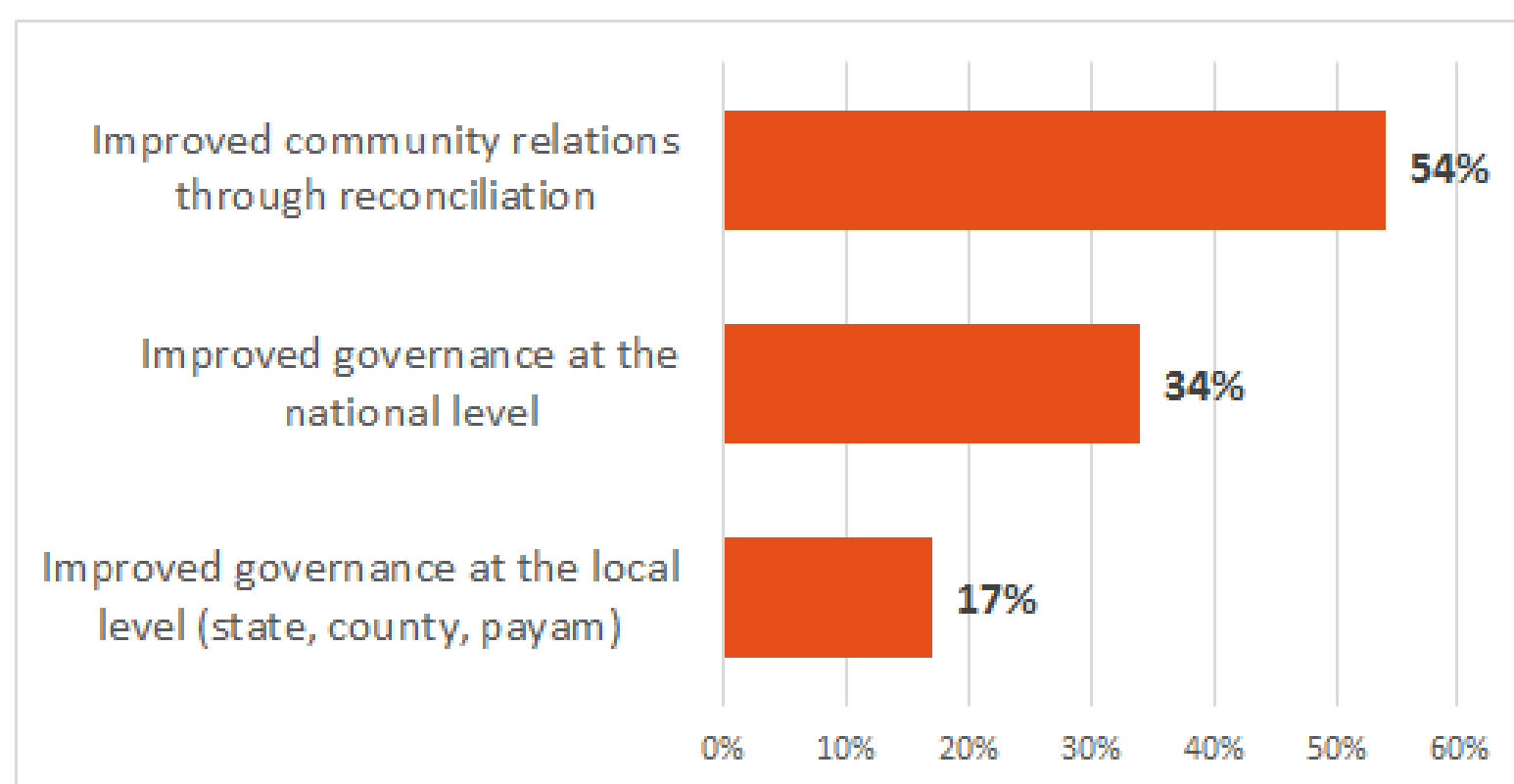
MOST FREQUENTLY REPORTED INCIDENTS (% OF 538 HOUSEHOLDS)

- 28%** Murder/attempted murder
- 20%** Cattle raiding
- 17%** Robbery

HOW DID YOUR PERSONAL SECURITY SITUATION DEVELOP IN THE LAST YEAR?



WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE MOST VIABLE SOLUTIONS FOR LASTING PEACE IN YOUR COUNTY?



PERCEPTIONS OF SECURITY

Statement	AGREE	DISAGREE
I generally feel safe from violence in this community	74%	23%
The main source of conflict in our payam is bad relationship between communities	82%	16%
UNMISS is actively working to protect or support people in this payam	53%	30%
Disarmament of our weapons in the payam would reduce violence and crime	82%	15%
The police take reports from community members seriously and are helpful in resolving	93%	3%

94%

 Percentage of respondents reported that the police has a regular presence in their payam

59%

 Percentage of respondents mentioning POVERTY as the main factor likely to cause conflict in the next year (most mentioned)

For more information about PAX or the Human Security Survey in South Sudan, please contact: Anton Quist (quist@paxforpeace.nl)

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South Sudan

South Sudan is the country where we first piloted the Human Security Survey methodology in 2015. In 2016-2017, we implemented the HSS in four states across South Sudan. This was done in close collaboration with the South Sudan Action Network on Small Arms (SSANSA) and the Assistance Mission for Africa (AMA).

In 2017, 2,300 surveys were successfully conducted in the **Eastern Lakes, Southern Liech (Unity) and Jubek** states. In late 2016, the survey had already been conducted in Jonglei state. The surveys were conducted by the **45 enumerators** and supervisors that we trained in South Sudan. In all four states, community security dialogues were organized to present, validate and discuss the initial survey findings.

One of these dialogues took place in Bor, Jonglei state, in March 2017. PAX and SSANSA staff presented the survey findings to 30 representatives of local government, police, military and civil society organizations. On the first day, participants discussed and validated the survey data, followed by a two-day community security dialogue, called ‘Security is Everyone’s Business’. The participants identified the five important security priorities for follow-up activities: 1) cattle raiding, 2) child abduction, 3) poor road and communication networks, 4) proliferation of small arms and light

weapons among civilians, and 5) food insecurity. They then worked out an action plan to address these priorities locally. A Community Security Committee was set up to support follow-up activities. The Human Security Survey thus already contributed to local peace initiatives that originated from the community itself in an effort to improve their security situation.

An elaborate discussion of findings and results has been published in the annual HSS report for [Jonglei](#). In 2018, our partners SSANSA and AMA will return to the same locations for a second survey to assess changes in people’s security situation. PAX also hopes to expand the Human Security Survey to other areas in South Sudan.



© Jeppe Schilder, PAX Protection of Civilians Conference 2017

Conference

On 4 and 5 October 2017, PAX organized the conference ‘Protection of Civilians. Shared Goals, Different Visions?’ as part of our strategic partnership with the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The participants included experts from MINUSMA, MONUSCO and UNMISS, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands Ministry of Defence, Forsvarets Forskningsinstitut (FFI, Norway) and the Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC).

Topics that were discussed included: International PoC policy developments and national implementation; Integrated training and preparation for PoC missions; Security analysis and community engagement in PoC missions

Feedback from participants collected through a mobile app during the event was very positive.

Policy influencing

The findings of the HSS give us a unique lobbying and advocacy tool. We use the knowledge to inform international policymakers and diplomats and to advise on the deployment of resources by UN missions. We also engage with policymakers at the European Union and NATO. We increasingly receive feedback from these international actors about the significance of our locally-informed and evidence-based input for their discussions and policymaking on the protection of civilians.

UN, NATO and the Netherlands

In 2017, we reinforced our advocacy at the **United Nations** in New York. Our public affairs officer based in New York plays an important role in liaising with UN diplomats, and facilitates the visits by the PoC team to the UN. During those visits, we have used the findings from the HSS in South Sudan to give

“High expertise and candour: useful opportunity for sharing of difficult questions, lessons learned and creative solutions”

“Very informative, open exchange on practical approaches to PoC by a varied group of experts”

“Stimulating. Appreciated good conversations and thought-provoking presentations”

“Very good interaction, we are more alike than we think”



constructive recommendations about the deployment of UNMISS. We had active presence at UN debates, provided ‘talking points’ for diplomats and stepped up our engagement with the 17 member countries of the Group of Friends of the Protection of Civilians. In May, we spoke at one of their events about UNMISS hosted by the Swiss representative to the UN.

The PoC team, supported by our Brussels-based liaison officer, similarly focused on **NATO** in 2017. The implementation of NATO’s new PoC policy started in 2017 and will continue through 2018. Alongside organizations such as CIVIC (Center for Civilians in Conflict) and FFI Norway, PAX provided input and feedback on both the PoC Action Plan and Military Concept. We emphasize that local civilian perspectives matter in all phases of a mission cycle – from planning to implementation and certainly also evaluation.

An increasingly important strategic issue in 2017 was the subject of ‘civilian

harm’. We stressed that avoiding civilian casualties, including on the side of the enemy, is not merely a moral imperative enshrined in international law, but also a military-strategic one. Although NATO learned hard lessons in this regard in Afghanistan, we fear that avoiding civilian casualties is becoming less and less of a priority. PAX addressed this alarming development in the ‘[Syria & Iraq Alert III](#)’ launched in April 2017.

Finally, the PoC team focuses its policy influencing efforts at **the Netherlands**, especially at the Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs, Dutch members of parliament and other politicians. We feel that our input is increasingly being valued and used. In 2017, we partook in discussions about the future of the Dutch armed forces, the new International Security Strategy and the Dutch seat on the UN Security Council in 2018. PAX was pleased with the strong emphasis on the protection of civilians in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Letter to Parliament outlining the plans and priorities for

the Dutch seat. We equally commend the importance the Letter attaches to the need to engage with local civilians to shape protection strategies. We look forward to working with the Dutch government to translate these priorities into practical proposals and outcomes during the 2018 UNSC period and beyond.

New partners

In 2017, we started formally cooperating with two organizations: Airwars and Bellingcat. Both organizations track and investigate events around the world that harm civilians, using open-source technologies and social media to enhance transparency. In the same way that PAX and The Syria Institute do with the [Siege Watch project](#), they also work through networks of courageous civil activists on the ground who share their first-hand knowledge of what is happening in the worst conflict zones.

[Airwars](#), a UK-based organization, focuses on tracking and archiving the effects of aerial bombardments in the



international air war against ISIS and other groups in Iraq, Syria, Yemen and Libya. Since 2017, one Airwars staff member has been permanently based at the PAX office in Utrecht. We work together to raise public and political awareness of the civilian toll of current military campaigns against ISIS. In November, we spoke at a hearing in Dutch Parliament about the government's transparency on this subject. The investigative journalists from [Bellingcat](#) use open source and social media to investigate incidents in which civilians are harmed in conflicts being fought across the world. PAX and Bellingcat collaborated in fact-finding research on the alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria in 2017.

Finally, in our international efforts to influence policy on the protection of civilians, we also increasingly share strategies with the Center for Civilians in Conflict ([CIVIC](#)) based in Washington DC.



© Abdulmonam Eassa, Dust from bombardment destruction covers Hamouriya, eastern Ghouta, May 2017



6



**NATURAL RESOURCES, CONFLICT
& HUMAN RIGHTS**





Natural Resources, Conflict & Human Rights

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Ensure that human security and the human rights of civilians are respected and protected during the exploitation of natural resources by companies and governments.
 - ◆ Ensure that civilians who have suffered human rights violations as a result of the exploitation of natural resources can claim access to justice and reparations in a peaceful manner.
-

The exploitation of natural resources such as coal, oil, gold and uranium in countries that are prone to conflict can contribute to violence, human rights violations and state fragility. Investments by mining and oil industries all too often coincide with people being forcibly removed from their land and their habitats and livelihoods being destroyed. Those who dare to protest risk harassment or even murder. While the presence of natural resources in theory offers opportunities for economic growth, the risk of adverse impacts is enormous. Especially when there is no government willing or able

to safeguard the rights of their population and to protect the environment.

PAX runs projects under this theme in Colombia, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. We lobby for more effective norms and rules, and advocate the right to remedy for victims of violence and injustice.



Colombia

In November 2017, it had been one year since the government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) signed a historic peace agreement. It brought an end to decades of violent conflict in which 200,000 people were killed and 5 million people were displaced. However, violence and human rights abuses are still rampant in large parts of the country. The vacuum

created by the demobilization of the FARC is quickly being filled in by all sorts of armed and criminal groups, both old and new. Meanwhile, the government has made little progress in implementing the agreement, especially in terms of the protection of civilians, the reintegration of former FARC combatants, and stimulating economic development in rural areas. At the same time, the Santos government has turned mining into one of the key drivers of economic growth in Colombia, despite the controversies about the violence connected to large-scale mining projects.

PAX in Colombia

Since 2012, we have been investigating humanrights violations at nearby large coal mines in the Cesar region. Our 2014 report entitled ‘The Dark Side of Coal’, which drew attention to the relation between coal mining and large-scale human rights violations that took place in Cesar, forms the basis for our ongoing ‘[Stop Blood Coal](#)’ campaign. The campaign aims to contribute to the recognition

and reparation of victims of paramilitary violence. We support the victims in their search for truth, reparation and reconciliation and are pressuring mining companies to take their responsibility, according to international standards, and contribute to remedy for the victims. This campaign achieved significant successes in 2017. Additionally, we started an explorative study about conflict gold in Colombia last year.

PAX also runs projects in Colombia under the themes [Community-based Security & Citizens’ Rights](#) and [Dealing with the Past](#).

Stop blood coal

January 7 and February 4, 2017: two men are assassinated in the Cesar region. Aldemar Parra García and Edilberto Cantillo Mesa – both community leaders – had been advocating land restitution to farmers who were displaced from their lands to make place for large-scale mining operations. Their assassinations are by no means isolated events. New



paramilitary and criminal groups increasingly aim to silence human rights defenders and victims who claim justice and reparation. Since 2016, victim organizations in Cesar have become more vocal about the atrocities they have suffered and their right to remedy. PAX works closely with six local communities and the regional victims' organization, *Asamblea Campesina del Cesar*. They take the lead in speaking out and demanding that the government and the mining companies take action.

The conflict in the mining region of Cesar goes back more than 20 years. Between 1996 and 2006, at the peak of paramilitary violence, at least 3,100 people were murdered and 55,000 farmers driven from their land. Perpetrators and witnesses have declared under oath in legal processes and to PAX how the mining companies Drummond (US) and Prodeco (a subsidiary of the Swiss-based company Glencore) allegedly supported the paramilitary forces with financial support, equipment and



© Daniel Maissan, Land occupation by displaced farmers in the region La Jagua, Cesar, Colombia

information. Both mining companies have always denied the allegations. The victims are still waiting for recognition, truth and reparations.

In response to the murders and the deteriorating human rights situation, we stepped up our engagement with European energy companies that purchase 'blood coal' from Colombia,

including E.ON, Engie, Vattenfall and RWE. For several years we have been putting pressure on these and other energy companies. We ask them to use their economic leverage to force the mining companies to finally acknowledge the human rights violations and start to compensate the victims.



In 2016, Denmark's largest energy company, Dong, decided to stop buying coal from Prodeco until it takes concrete steps towards compensating victims. A second success followed in 2017 when Europe's biggest energy company, Italian multinational Enel, suspended its imports of coal from Cesar. The decision, announced at the company's shareholder meeting in May, was made in the context of investigations into the human rights impact in the coal mining region and Enel's de-carbonization strategy. At the previous shareholder meeting in 2016, PAX and Italian NGO Re:Common had spoken about the human rights violations in the company's Colombian supply chain.

Vattenfall

In March 2017, Swedish energy company Vattenfall (parent company of the Dutch Nuon) organized a three-week fact-finding mission concerning human rights violations associated with coal mining in Colombia. It was the first time that a European utility performed such an assessment so thoroughly. In Cesar, they

spoke with victims of human rights violations, with activists that are being threatened, with government institutions, and with the mining companies Drummond and Prodeco. PAX provided logistical help, facilitated the meetings with victims and activists, and acted as observer of the investigation.

In its [report](#) on the mission, published in November, Vattenfall uses very clear language. It urges the two mining companies to 'take concrete efforts to engage in constructive dialogue with victims of past human rights violations.' The report also states that 'companies should set up, publically communicate, and implement a zero-tolerance policy regarding threats, intimidation, and physical or legal attacks against human rights defenders...' Finally, Vattenfall also states that it is prepared to suspend its coal imports if mining companies do not take concrete action.

The report signifies an important breakthrough as it is the first time that a

European energy company is calling for dialogue between mining companies and victims of the human rights violations in the past. Together with our partners in Cesar, we have been advocating such dialogue for the past five years. It shows that our persistent joint campaigning on blood coal is starting to pay off.

Commemoration for victims

There was another significant 'first' last year. In September, a delegation of the mining company Prodeco attended a commemoration for victims of paramilitary violence in Cesar. Victims, church leaders, and local, regional and national authorities gathered in the town of Estados Unidos (Becerril municipality) to commemorate the massacres that took place in 1997. As many as 800 people attended the commemoration, which was organized by local victim groups. It was the first time since the paramilitary violence that so many people had dared to gather in the town's central square.



Evelio Aguirre from the municipality of Becerril in Cesar is board member of the regional victims' organization *Asamblea Campesina del Cesar*. Soon after providing the video testimony that aired in Europe and on the internet, he was called in for questioning by the police. Accusations had been made against him by someone associated with the paramilitary group AUC. These threats are not new. Evelio, who is a victim of three forced displacements, in earlier times miraculously survived an attack on his life when five bullets were gunned at him.

In the video declaration, he calls on mining companies to enter into a dialogue with victims of paramilitary violence in Cesar. Evelio and his community are concerned about the arrival of new illegal armed actors that are again threatening the peace in their area. He says: 'As yet there haven't been reparations for past injustices, nor has the State complied with what is contemplated in the Victim's Law. The minimum we demand is to be able to live in peace. A real reparation, first and foremost, is about having the peace of mind that what happened here, will not be repeated.'



And it was the very first time that one of the mining companies publicly expressed solidarity with the victims. A delegation member from Prodeco stated that the company ‘wants to contribute actively to regional truth-finding and to prevent any reoccurrence of past crimes.’

For PAX, this signifies another important step in a process which will hopefully lead to a reconciliation dialogue between victims and the mining company, and most importantly, to effective and just remedy for the victims. We even see this as an opportunity for such a dialogue to take the shape of a regional peacebuilding effort and to become an emblematic case within the larger framework of the Colombian Peace Process.

Campaigning in the Netherlands

In October, the Colombian government organized a high-profile conference in The Hague about the contribution of the coal mining industry to peace and development. The Colombian Minister of Mining, the Presidential

Counsellor on Human Rights and the CEOs of the biggest mining companies in Colombia were all present. All the energy companies in the coal supply chain between Colombia and Europe also attended. We seized this opportunity to once again stress the importance of establishing a dialogue about past and ongoing violence in Colombia’s mining areas.

The conference addressed the role of the mining companies in contributing to peace, but unfortunately victims of human rights violations in the coal mining region were absent. Leading up to the conference, PAX therefore asked Dutch citizens to urge energy companies to push for reconciliation and remedy for victims of blood coal. More than 800 people responded by sending e-mails. At the conference, we held a presentation and showed a video with the messages and viewpoints of our partners in Colombia, produced specifically for this occasion. Both the Minister of Mining and the Presidential Counsellor on Human Rights

constructively engaged in the discussion, and stated that dealing with the past is indeed an essential component of building a sustainable peace.

PAX also continued the campaign ‘[Free Amsterdam from blood coal](#)’. Around 30% of the coal that arrives at the Amsterdam port comes from Colombia. One result of this campaign was an item in the Dutch consumer television programme Kassa, where the COO of energy company Nuon announced that parent company Vattenfall would start a fact-finding mission into human rights violations in Cesar (see above).

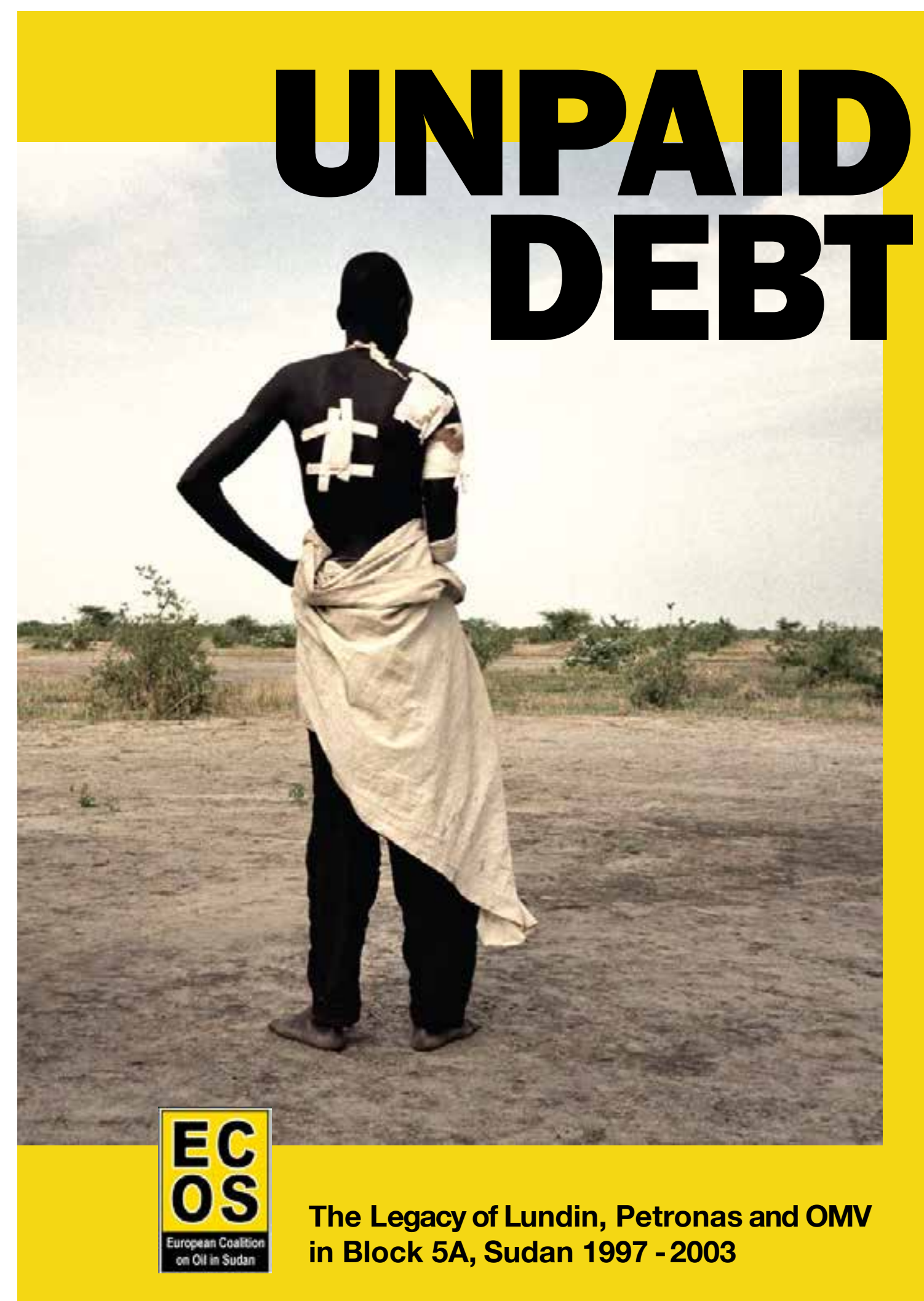


More work by PAX on the theme of Natural Resources, Conflict & Human Rights

South Sudan

2017 was a significant year in our efforts to seek justice for the tens of thousands of people in South Sudan who suffered war crimes in connection with oil operations in 1997–2003. In February, the Swedish public prosecutor for international crimes revealed that not only the current, but also the two former directors/CEOs of the Swedish oil company Lundin Petroleum are suspects in his war crimes investigation. In November, the prosecutor conducted a last round of interviews with witnesses and announced that a decision to prosecute was likely to be taken in the spring of 2018. A court case can then be expected in late 2018.

The investigation into Lundin Petroleum was triggered by the report [Unpaid Debt](#), written by PAX and published by the European Coalition on Oil in Sudan in 2010. In 2017, the victims formed the Ljech Victims' Voices, a network of various communities with representatives in all major refugee camps and villages in Lundin's former



concession area. PAX supports the work of the group and launched the dedicated [website](#) with comprehensive background information.

Democratic Republic Congo

In the north-east of the Democratic Republic Congo, PAX runs a programme to help improve security both within industrial gold concessions and artisanal

exploitation areas. In 2017, the world market prices for gold went up drastically, which caused industrial mining in the DRC to accelerate. The government passed a new mining code that has introduced higher taxation of the mining sector. These revenues help the Kabila government to stay in power. The issuing of new mining concessions has led to conflict in the eastern part of the DRC, especially in cases where force and violence are being used to move artisanal miners and communities away from the industrial mining concession.

In Mongwablu, our partner organizations have contributed to an agreement that allows the artisanal miners to stay in the industrial concession if they formalize their cooperatives. Artisanal miners in other regions of the DRC have expressed that they wish to learn from this positive example. In Haut-Uele, communities elected representatives to take part in the dialogue with the mining companies. They stepped up their local and national lobby and solicited international pressure on mining companies to comply with international standards. In Ituri, local peace committees have helped to improve the security situation in mining areas by lobbying the local state security services and implementing an early warning system.



Dutch Banking Sector Agreement

In November 2017, we presented our work for the Dutch Banking Sector Agreement at the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights in Geneva. The participants were keen to learn about this innovative Dutch agreement with the financial sector, which is the first of its kind worldwide. Together with Amnesty International and OxfamNovib, PAX played a significant role in the negotiations leading up to the adoption of the agreement in 2016. Currently, 14 Dutch banks, the Dutch government, trade unions and four NGOs have joined the agreement.

In 2017, we collaborated in several multi-stakeholder working groups discussing, among other things, the exact responsibilities of banks regarding human rights violations and their roles in providing remedy to the victims. We also identified ways for banks to increase their leverage over their clients, and the different roles that other parties to the agreement – NGOs, trade unions and the government – could play in this regard. The collaboration has created a better understanding of each other's viewpoints and has identified some challenges as well. We are looking forward to the joint reports on these issues that are being



© Peer Schouten, Goldmine in the Democratic Republic Congo

finalized and to the first progress report which is expected in June 2018.

Voluntary Principles

In 2000, the Voluntary Principles (VP) on Security and Human Rights were adopted by governments, major multinational extractive companies and NGOs to guide the security provision of extractive sector companies in a way that respects human

rights. We have been promoting the principles among both governments and companies as a tool to reduce the risk of violence and human rights violations in natural resource exploitation. In 2017, PAX joined the Steering Committee of the Voluntary Principles Initiative (VPI) and the Board of the Voluntary Principles Association.

Gender is a strategic policy priority for PAX. A gender-sensitive approach reveals the different ways that conflict and violence can impact women, girls, men, boys and people with a non-binary gender expression. Similarly, it helps us to understand the different roles they play, both in times of conflict and while building peace.

A gender perspective is important in all of our projects. But simply adding this perspective is not enough. PAX also actively supports struggles for equal rights, challenges harmful gender norms, and pursues peace and justice processes that are empowering and inclusive. We do this together with our partners in conflict-affected areas as well as in regional and international security policy advocacy. In 2017, we also supported the organization of two Women's Marches against intolerance and inequality.

The Gender, Peace & Security team supports and advises the board of directors on enhancing the gender-sensitivity of all organizational policies, strategies and instruments, including the PME system. The team advises PAX staff and partners on how to apply a gender-sensitive approach within their programmes. They do this through on-the-job



coaching, joint strategizing and implementation, and by giving training.

Gender pilots

In 2017, several 'gender pilot projects' were initiated to build the capacity of programme staff and develop innovative approaches and tools to strengthen our gender, peace and security work. In Colombia for example, evidence was collected on the use of sexual violence as a strategy to expel people from their land. This evidence will serve as input for the transitional justice process that PAX contributes to in coal mining regions. The Bosnia

team used the gender pilot to include female Dutchbat veterans in the dialogue with survivors of the Srebrenica massacre, and at the same time, to pay attention to the stories of male survivors.

NAP 1325 projects in Iraq...

The Gender, Peace & Security team played a significant role in two projects that took off in 2017 with funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs as part of the third Dutch National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP 1325, 2016-2019). In Iraq, we have been working towards the structural change of gender norms, laws and institutions, focusing on gender-sensitive security sector reform. We challenge the idea that sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is a private issue. In cooperation with the Iraqi Al-Amal Association, the Iraqi Al-Firdaws Association and Utrecht University, fifteen Iraqi academics were trained in gender-sensitive research methodologies. Their research projects will serve as input for lobbying and advocacy on addressing harmful gender norms and SGBV.

Making transitional justice and reconciliation processes more gender-sensitive is also a focus of this project. Together with Impunity Watch, we



© Steven Snoep, Women's March Amsterdam, the Netherlands, March 2017

therefore organized a visit to Tunisia, to learn about the transitional justice process there. For the Iraqi participants – our partners and several government officials – the meetings and discussions were extremely insightful as their country has been struggling with how to deal with its repressive and violent past ever since 2003.

..and South Sudan

In South Sudan, we have been working together with Plan, Health Works and STAD on the 'Women and Girls for Peace' programme. We supported our local partner Assistance Mission for Africa (AMA) with its capacity-building activities for traditional leaders, local courts and peace committees on gender-sensitive peacebuilding. A positive

outcome is that all peace committees in the three ethnically diverse counties where the project runs have committed to a minimum of 30% women members. An unexpected outcome of the training provided to the local courts was that one of the courts set up a gender desk to remove, or at least lower, the barriers for women to report cases to the court.

'I was fired from my job as a teacher and given a five-year travel ban because I took part in the demonstrations against the Assad regime. This was at the time that our revolution was still young, in 2011. Our dreams were many and we believed we could make them come true in a peaceful way. But gradually our country got submerged in a tide of violence. This has been extremely painful to witness. But it hasn't shaken my initial revolutionary beliefs in a free society where everyone's human rights count. If anything, I am only more convinced now that a solution to our country's conflict can only be found if all Syrians can participate – women and men, young and old, regardless of their religion or ethnicity.

After I lost my job, I founded an organization dedicated to the rights of women and children. Because women and girls are paying the biggest price for this war. They are losing their husbands, fathers and sons. They are being sexually assaulted in the streets, at checkpoints, in detention centres, and even in the shelters as we hide from the bombs. But it is not only their suffering that motivates me. It is as much my belief that women have a vital role to play in peacemaking. And strange as



© Moayed al-Hafi, The moment after a deadly air strike on a residential area of Hamouriya, eastern Ghouta

this may sound, the war has opened a few new windows for this to happen.

Syria before the war was quite a conservative country. Politically and socially we were repressed by the Ba'athist regime; but it was equally difficult to break through the wall of customs and traditions that fortified the homes of women before the war. Now that everything has been turned upside down, there is sometimes more space for women to engage in activities that traditionally were the realms of men. Our organization tries to promote this by raising women's awareness of their rights. Legal literacy contributes to political-empowerment. We also train women and girls in leadership skills and together we keep stressing how important it is that more women take part in peace negotiation committees.

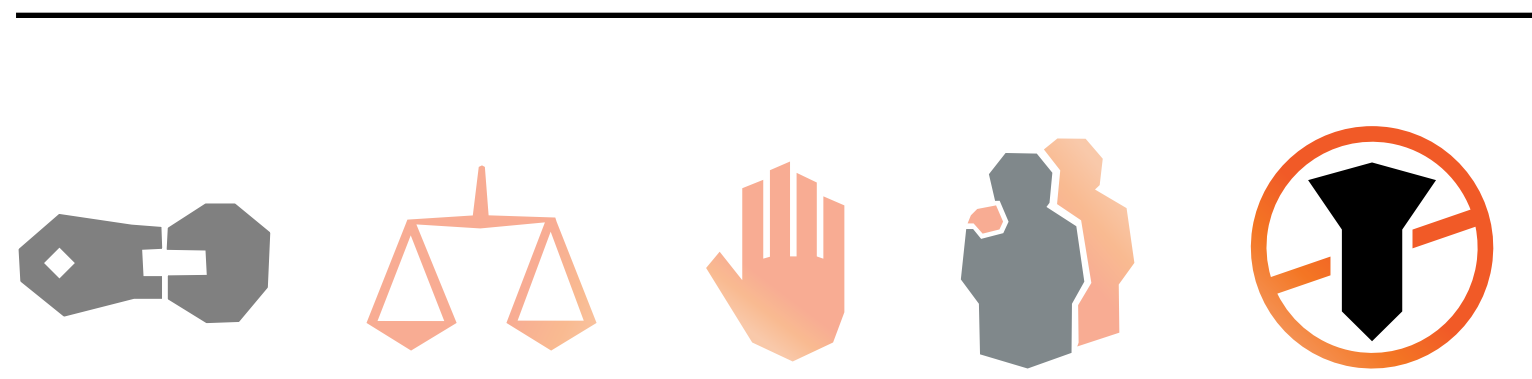
My hope is that eventually this will help to combat all forms of violence against women in our country, during war and during peace. The change will have to start inside people's homes. My wife and I both believe that we share everything as equal partners in our marriage; from housework and raising our daughter, to our public commitments for a better Syria.

In November, I was fortunate to follow a training programme on gender analysis tools together with other young activists involved in PAX's Rulluna Muwatinun project. It was great to have a safe place to exchange thoughts and experiences, and afterwards I shared what I learned with sixteen fellow activists through a four-day training supported by the project. I like this project because it focuses on promoting social cohesion through open dialogue. My home area Suweyda has become a hotchpotch of different communities that have fled the violence in our country. Sadly, seven years of bloody war and hate speech in the media have deepened divisions among them. We will need to work hard to turn this around. That's why PAX's project is important. It gives young people like myself the opportunity to participate in public affairs and express our deep belief in dialogue as the only viable route to peace and reconciliation – and to the future that we continue to dream of.'

KHALED'S REAL NAME HAS BEEN CHANGED FOR
SECURITY REASONS



7



HUMANITARIAN DISARMAMENT





Humanitarian Disarmament

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

- ◆ States, companies and other actors contribute to the effective regulation of trade in, and the significant reduction of the production and use of, forbidden and controversial weapons.
-

PAX mobilizes political and public pressure to regulate and reduce the production, trade and use of controversial weapons. The term 'humanitarian disarmament' means that we start from the perspective of civilians and the impact that weapons have on them. PAX takes on the entire chain: from the development of new weapons and investments in weapon producers and the arms trade, to the use of these weapons in armed conflict. In much of our work, we make use of the leverage of the financial sector, lobbying for disinvestment. We mainly work in international coalitions, often with a wide range of actors including

activists, researchers, scientists and survivors, and in close cooperation with states that share our goal to protect civilians in conflict. In 2017, we continued to work towards norm building (killer robots, armed drones and conflict & environment), norm setting (nuclear weapons and explosive weapons) and norm compliance (cluster munitions and arms trade).

The Humanitarian Disarmament programme links up with the country programmes through the activities on 'conflict & environment' (Syria, Iraq) and 'explosive weapons in populated areas' (Ukraine and Middle East).



Nobel peace prize

The Nobel Peace Prize 2017 was awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). PAX is a driving force behind this campaign and a member of the steering committee. On 10 December 2017, a delegation from PAX was present at the award ceremony in Oslo. We are incredibly proud that ICAN is now a Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

ICAN received the Nobel Peace Prize for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its groundbreaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted by 122 nations on 7 July 2017. Through a decade of advocacy, PAX and ICAN have played a crucial role towards the realization



© Jo Straub, Beatrice Fihn and Setsuko Thurlow receive the Nobel Peace Prize award

of this historic global agreement to ban nuclear weapons. The treaty was negotiated at the UN headquarters in New York over four weeks, with the participation of a great majority of the world's nations. It is permanent in nature and will enter into force once 50 nations have formally ratified it.

The Nobel Lecture delivered by Beatrice Fihn, ICAN executive director, and Setsuko Thurlow, survivor of Hiroshima and long-term PAX partner in our campaign for nuclear disarmament, can be read [here](#).



© Ari Beser, Susi Snyder and Beatrice Fihn with the Nobel Peace Prize medal

'It was a massive surprise when we heard that ICAN was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. It is true we had been nominated, but no one expected we were top of the list. I have been working at resisting nuclear weapons for twenty years and it is wonderful to have received this major acknowledgement. In 2010 I started working for PAX, which soon after became a board member of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). PAX gave me the opportunity to fully commit myself to this cause. Our goal has always been clear: a world without nuclear

arms. Why? Because they are the most inhumane weapons ever created. They threaten the very survival of humanity and our planet.

For a decade we worked towards a treaty that would get us closer to our dream of a nuclear-free world. And then came the 7th of July 2017, and it turned out to be a historic day. After four weeks of intense negotiations at the UN headquarters, 122 countries voted to adopt the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. I was there in New York, together with some of the people with whom we had worked so hard and shared so much. We thought, "Wow, if today two-thirds of all UN member states voted for this ban, then we may actually live to see our dream become reality."

It's no coincidence that this landmark treaty was adopted last year. I believe that people are more and more conscious of the fact that it has been a matter of mere luck that nuclear weapons haven't been used for so long. We are witnessing alarming developments and deepening controversies on the world stage. The fact that capricious Trump has sole authority to launch all the nuclear weapons in the United States, may well have contributed to the renewed global commitment for nuclear

disarmament. Ironically, the US government has meanwhile started a programme to modernize its nuclear arsenal, at the cost of a trillion US\$ in the next thirty years.

Shortly after ICAN became a Nobel laureate, I was invited to speak about the role of civil society in nuclear disarmament at a conference at the Vatican. On that occasion, Pope Francis called the possession and use of nuclear weapons a sin. One needn't be a Catholic to pause at those words. Meeting the Pope was a magnificent experience – he congratulated me, smiled, and looked deep into my eyes. My own smile felt like it started in my toes and radiated through my whole being. It's not so much that I needed encouragement, but the incredible experiences and successes of 2017 will keep me going in the coming years to convince people wherever I go to help rid our world of nuclear weapons.'

SUSI SNYDER, WHO IS AMERICAN AND WORKS FOR PAX IN THE NETHERLANDS, HAS BEEN PART OF THE ICAN CAMPAIGN FROM ITS VERY START IN 2007.



Weapons and disinvestments

For many years, PAX has been campaigning to end investments in banned or contentious weapons. We target financial institutions that invest in such weapons so that they use their leverage over weapons producers. We have been using this strategy for different weapons and with increasing success. In 2017, the Dutch pension funds collectively indicated their willingness to engage in talks with civil society to establish a responsible investment covenant.

Nuclear weapons

PAX has been working to ban nuclear weapons on an international level as well as in the Netherlands for many years. Strengthened by the political capital of the Nobel Peace Prize, we will continue our [No Nukes campaign](#). We will convince states to swiftly ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and encourage other states, including the



© Selma van Oostwaard, Ban the Bomb campaign picture in New York

Netherlands, to join the treaty. Together with ICAN, we will promote adherence to and implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We will also put the modernization of American nuclear weapons in Europe and the need to reduce the tensions around North Korea in a diplomatic way on the international agenda.

A vital part of our campaign is the research report [Don't Bank on the Bomb](#). This report about global investments in nuclear weapons producers continues to impact the financial industry's perspective on nuclear weapons. It has become a resource for financial institutions looking to expand their policies and get more information



about what companies to exclude from investment. The latest update of the report shows that in 2017 fewer financial institutions invested in selected companies producing nuclear weapons, but they invested more money. It is encouraging that in 2017 more financial institutions developed public policies that explicitly address nuclear weapons, and also that more financial institutions made public comprehensive policies that explicitly forbid any type of investment in any type of nuclear weapons producer.

Cluster munitions

International treaties and conventions only make a real impact on the ground if they are strictly interpreted and implemented. We therefore closely monitor compliance with the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). Part of our work on cluster munitions was the publication of our research report '[Worldwide Investments in Cluster Munitions; a shared responsibility](#)'. In the 2017 report, the number of institutions with policies excluding investments in

cluster bomb producers grew to 88. At the same time, however, the total worldwide investments in companies producing cluster bombs went up. In November, the US announced that it will once again allow the use of cluster munitions in military operations.

Two important successes in 2017 demonstrate the impact of our worldwide campaign. First, the last two US cluster munitions producers publicly announced having terminated their cluster munition production. One of these was Textron, which had announced this decision in 2016 after many years of PAX urging investors, banks and other financial institutions to withdraw their financial support from Textron.

Second, campaigners in Japan actively promoted the publication of *Worldwide Investments in Cluster Munitions 2017*. This resulted in a great deal of media coverage as well as access to the Japanese government. In December 2017, four Japanese financial institutions stated

to Japanese journalists that they would no longer invest in producers of cluster munitions.

Fair Finance Guide

PAX is part of the Dutch Fair Bank Guide and the Fair Insurance Guide. Both online guides offer consumers information on the investment policies and practices of their banks or insurance companies, for instance, do they invest in controversial arms?

In 2017, the [Fair Insurance Guide](#) published a report showing that six insurers operating in the Netherlands were investing a combined total of 3.6 billion euros in the world's five largest weapons manufacturers. These companies supply military equipment to Saudi Arabia. For several years, Saudi Arabia has been involved in Yemen's civil war, which has cost more than ten thousand people their lives. The Saudi-led coalition has used cluster munitions, conducted attacks on civilians and committed other human rights abuses. The report generated a lot of attention in



the Netherlands. Six insurers engaged in dialogue with PAX and the Fair Insurance Guide regarding their investments. Two insurers improved their policies to avoid investments in companies involved in the controversial arms trade.

Conflict and environment

PAX documents and monitors environmental impacts in conflict and post-conflict settings. Unexploded bombs, toxic residue, radiation sources, and attacks on industrial sites where hazardous substances are stored and processed can pose health risks to communities long after the conflicts they have lived through are over. Recent examples are the hazardous waste of makeshift oil refineries in Syria, and in the impact of burning oil wells and chemical factories on health and the environment in Iraq in the battle against the Islamic State.



© Wim Zwijnenburg, Burning oil wells and spills in Qayyarah, Iraq

During the last three years, PAX pioneered an approach using open-source information tools to monitor what happens on the ground in conflict areas that are typically hard to get to for security reasons. Satellite analysis and open-source information offer many novel opportunities to identify and map potential environmental pollution

hotspots. The data can help us to build a faster and more efficient humanitarian response to affected communities and ensure that proper remediation and cleanup work is undertaken to minimize and prevent exposure to conflict-related pollution. PAX developed and led a set of workshops during the UN Environmental Emergencies Forum in Nairobi, a biannual



meeting of the leading humanitarian and environmental organizations that meet to discuss improving environmental work in humanitarian response.

In September, we won the prestigious Green Star Award for leadership in the protection of civilians from environmental pollution during war and armed conflict. We were especially recommended for collecting and sharing data about Syria, Iraq and the Ukraine. The Green Star Award was established by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UN Environment (UNEP) and the Green Cross and is presented every other year to three organizations that prepare for and respond to environmental emergencies.

In December, a unique resolution was adopted by 193 UN member states during the UN Environment Assembly. This resolution on pollution in conflicts can contribute to the quicker clearing of toxic war remnants so that citizens are



not exposed to it. The resolution was submitted by Iraq. PAX contributed to the international negotiations by launching a research report [Living under a black sky. Conflict pollution and environmental health concerns in Iraq](#) together with the Iraqi delegation, and lobbied other states during the conference for a strong resolution text.



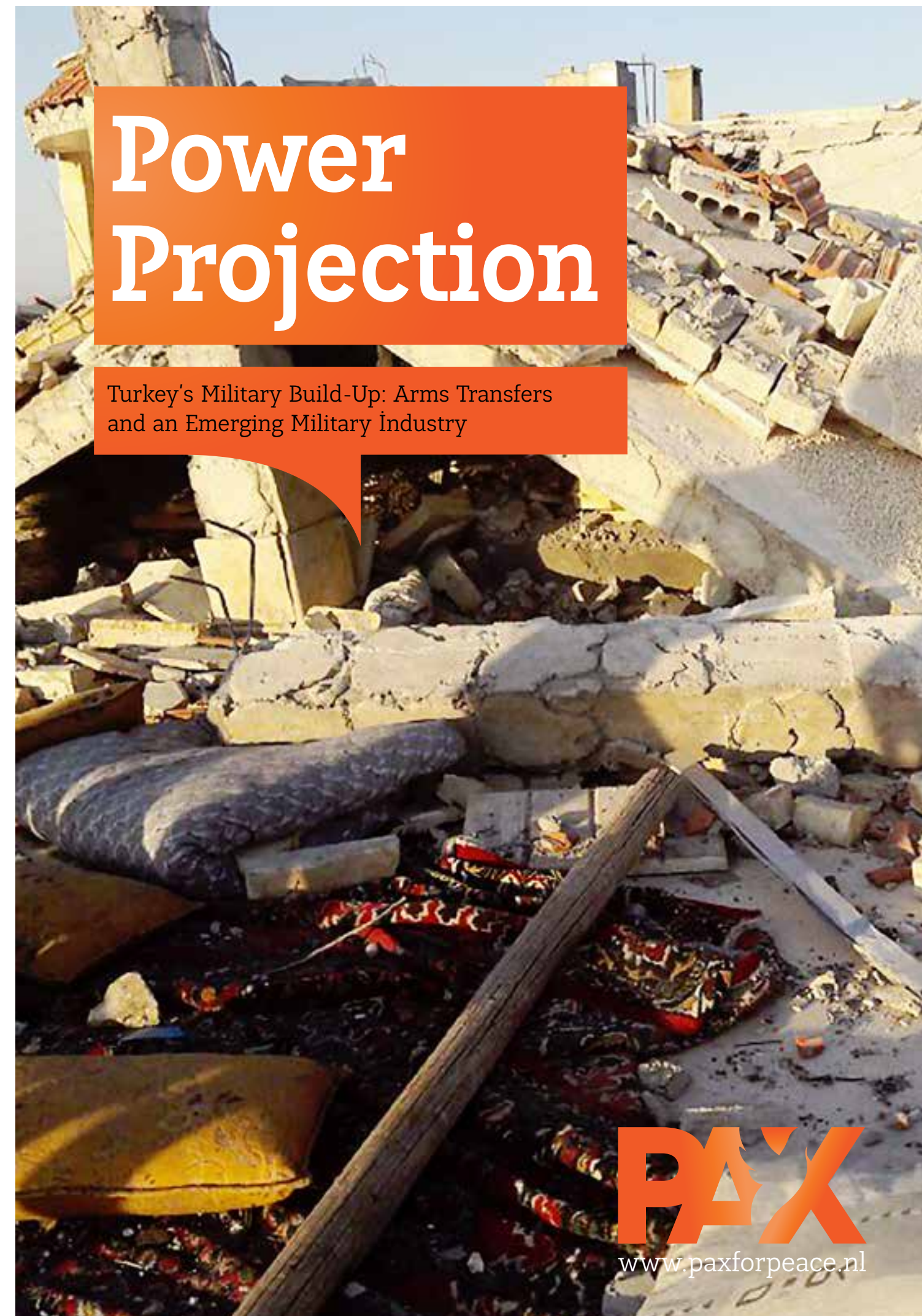
More work by PAX on Humanitarian Disarmament

Killer robots

PAX is co-founder of the international Campaign to Stop Killer Robots. In 2017, we continued to work to preemptively ban fully autonomous weapons that would be able to select and attack targets without any form of meaningful human control. In August, 116 CEOs from tech companies signed an open letter calling on the UN to take steps to address the issue of autonomous weapons. A 2017 milestone was the fact that the first Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) took place at the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. PAX takes part in all of the meetings at the CCW, where we meet with diplomats and speak at side events.

Armed drones

PAX coordinates the 'European Forum on Armed Drones'. We highlight the need for international regulation concerning the use and export of armed drones to be put on national and international agendas. In June, the European Parliament Subcommittee on Human Rights published their draft Common Position on armed drones. This was done with input from PAX.



Explosive weapons in populated areas

PAX is a steering committee member of the International Network on Explosive Weapons. The group of states acknowledging the harm caused by explosive weapons in populated areas has grown from 70 to 78, and the group calling for action has grown from 56 to 65. In 2017, we spoke at and participated in meetings with governments and UN

agencies. Our ambition is to have an international political declaration in 2018 that reduces the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

Arms trade

PAX monitors compliance with the UN Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) as well as Dutch export policies within the context of the EU's Common Position on arms exports, which is the only legally binding region-wide arrangement on conventional arms exports. In this context, we published the case study report on controversial arms trade to Saudi Arabia mentioned above. In December, the Dutch foreign minister promised the Dutch parliament to press EU member states to uphold strict implementation of the EU arms export policy regarding the conflict in Yemen. We also conducted research on the rapidly emerging Turkish arms industry. In the report entitled Power projection. Turkey's military build-up we urge states to stop the transfer of weapons to Turkey if there is a real risk that they could be used to harm civilians.



PEACE ACTIVISM IN THE NETHERLANDS



Peace activism in the Netherlands

People are a force for change. Our slogan 'Peace. Are you in?' is an invitation to everybody to join our peace work. Our work is driven by solidarity and human dignity. Thousands of people in the Netherlands express this solidarity by organizing activities in their towns and neighbourhoods, all through the year and especially during Peace Week. Thousands more join us by supporting our campaigns, supporting the work of our partners in Syria or using their critical mass to put pressure on energy companies to stop buying 'blood coal' from Colombia.

We work together in co-creation with people in the Netherlands – teachers, artists, religious leaders, students, journalists, writers and many more – while designing our projects and campaigns. We believe that all of these steps, whether small or large, truly matter and will contribute to a just and peaceful world.

PAX maintains continuous and close contact with the 'Embassies of Peace', 75 large and small local groups throughout the Netherlands who carry out a range of activities for peace. In May, all of the groups were invited to Ambassadors' Day, in preparation for the Peace Week.

Peace Week

In the third week of September, we celebrated Peace Week for the 51st time. Our motto this year was 'The power of imagination'. Through initiatives big and small, thousands of people committed themselves to contributing to peace and showing solidarity with people in conflict areas. The Embassies of Peace across the country played a big part in organizing these activities, such as art projects, symposia, Walks of Peace, dialogues in churches and mosques, film nights, concerts and neighbourhood peace lunches. At least 270 activities were organized, reaching around 10,000 people.



Hetty de Graaf,
Embassy of Peace, Ieuden

'Our Embassy of Peace focuses primarily on connecting people. Peace becomes a tangible notion when we meet other people, build warm relationships with them, and eat and laugh together. We enjoy each other's talents during this meal and thus offer newcomers a place in our local community.'



Participant in dialogue evening at Mevlana mosque,
Embassy of Peace, Amersfoort

'That was so inspiring. I didn't expect to be welcomed so openly here. This has really given me positive energy again.'



© Lize Kraan, Two PAX Dove recipients: Felix Albers and Mekonnen Ykeallo

PAX Doves

For the first time, PAX toured the country in a Volkswagen old-timer to present the PAX Dove to people who devote themselves to mutual understanding and solidarity in their cities and neighbourhoods. During a special ceremony in Amsterdam on 21 September, the International Day of Peace, we awarded the PAX Dove to a number of people who are committed to peace in a special way. Among them were the artistic director of the Dutch National Ballet, Ted Brandsen, who set up a fund to invite the dancer Ahmad Joudeh from Syria to study and dance in the Netherlands, the artists from Lampedusa Cruises and a multicultural group of mothers from a disadvantaged neighbourhood in The Hague. In total, 23 PAX Doves were awarded.



Felix Albers,

artist and inventor of the Paco Šako peace chess game

'PAX's appreciation really moved me. It's truly special to be recognized with a PAX Dove.'



PAX
VREDESWEEK
Vrede.
Wie durft?

PAX
Vrede.
Wie durft?
Verbindt

66 YB 85
www.vrc.nl/pepenteen.nl



Ahmet Nazligul,

participant in the Harderwijk Walk of Peace

'We joined the Walk of Peace because at our Turkish mosque we feel it is very important that we have peace in Harderwijk, the Netherlands and the world. And we always want to play our part too.'

Walk of Peace

Instead of organizing a single national walk as in previous years, this year we decided to support regional groups to organize their own local Walks of Peace. And it worked!

At 22 locations all over the Netherlands, a '[Walk of Peace](#)' was held during Peace Week. On average, 70 people participated in each of the 22 walks. In some places, there were even 200 or more. Overall, 2,000 people walked for peace in the Netherlands during that one week in September.

People who do not necessarily encounter each other in their daily lives met during the walk. They struck up conversations, exchanged stories and thus gained a better understanding of each other's lifestyles and views. In the long run we hope this will help to create more lasting bonds in Dutch society. So that people can find each other during difficult times as well. It seems that what often connects people is the desire for peace

and tolerance, simply the idea of being able to live side by side in a pleasant and respectful way. The Walk of Peace is inspired by the World Council of Churches' call to join a 'Pilgrimage for Justice and Peace'.

In half of the places where a Walk of Peace was organized, it led to initiatives with lasting relationships afterwards, for example by setting up peace platforms, alternative activities or continuing dialogue. In Enschede, for example, members of Pegida held a nasty protest late last year against the construction of a new mosque. The bond between the different religions had become so strong as a result of participating in the Walk of Peace that they wrote a letter to the imam together, and a small delegation visited the mosque to show their solidarity.





Bas Kusters,

designer of the Peace Suits for Manifest

'I want to use my art and creativity to make the world a better, more beautiful place. I'm not driven by the idea that I want to become an activist. But I feel that we're on the eve of a new revolution, though it saddens me that we even need a revolution. But let's all rise to the challenge!'

Manifest

PAX concluded Peace Week with the *Manifest*, a 'freespace for peace'. Artists who are all in their own way dedicated to peace performed theatre, dance, spoken word and music, and conducted workshops. The Manifest targets an enthusiastic younger audience: nearly 800 peace-infused partygoers visited the festivities at the Volkshotel in Amsterdam. The programme was put together by the 'night mayor' of Amsterdam, Mirik Milan, an expert on new nightlife trends. The festival was opened by a 'Peace Suits Parade' initiated by the famous Dutch fashion designer Bas Kusters. Two weeks before the festival the designer, together with Makers Unite, led a co-creation session where participants designed and made their own outfits.

The concept that guides the organization of the Manifest is that everyone can, in his or her own way, do something for peace. This concept was also reflected in the options for acquiring tickets to the festival: 'pay as you like', 'co-create

Manifest (volunteer option)', and 'co-create Manifest Lebanon'. In other words, the festivalgoers were encouraged to act instead of merely 'consume' the events of the day. The Manifest Lebanon will take place in mid-2018. A group of creatives will join PAX's partner organization Tiro Association for Arts to organize a theatre festival in Tyre, Lebanon. There, creating cultural freespaces is essential for building understanding and peace.

This was the third year that Manifest was organized and lessons have been learned on how to engage a younger community with PAX. These lessons will be taken on board in our strategic youth policy that is due in the spring of 2018. This policy, in turn, will determine the future of Manifest for the coming years.





Participant in the Activist Lab

“I feel that I now have more tools in my mind, which together with imagination and creativity can create the framework for practical, small, but real change in the right direction.”

Activist Lab

In 2017, a first Activist Lab was organized in the Netherlands. [The Activist Lab](#) is a unique tool designed by PAX to inspire and improve the work of civil society activists and to let them connect and collaborate creatively on vital local issues. In the past years, we have organized Activist Labs in cities such as Beirut in Lebanon and Mitrovica in Kosovo. Activists from different backgrounds came together to develop innovative and concrete actions on a priority issue. In this case, the focus was on the increasing polarization in the Netherlands. The Activist Lab in Utrecht focused on [Syrian activists in the Netherlands](#) and how they can enhance their voice to bridge gaps in Dutch society. A follow-up lab will be organized in 2018, together with the youth initiative WelnU in the city of Utrecht, which organizes language cafés for newcomers to the Netherlands.



DENK EN PVV ZIJN HET EENS

ZIEN HET BELANG VAN WELNU NIET ALLEEN IN ROTTERDAM

Uit een enquête van het Seisat Vlaanderen blijkt dat onder de achterban van beide politieke partijen een grote steun is voor het 'laatste vluchtelingen' dat integratie van bevordert.

Het Vluchtelingen WELNU is verbond met de oprichter Marje van der Poel. Via verhalen te plakken van dit vluchtelingen Ton van Feijenoord. Mijn vrouw zank

van het Nederlands de bevestigd. Bovendien is gestuurd door de Vlaanderen

katw 75 →



WELNU

Campaigns

Throughout 2017, we continued our two campaigns on [nuclear weapons](#) and on [blood coal](#). Both campaigns celebrated important achievements, which are discussed in the chapters on Humanitarian Disarmament and Natural Resources, Conflict & Human Rights.

Through our campaigns, we mobilize the Dutch public and connect them to people in (post)conflict areas. Peace, after all, is not only PAX's ideal but something shared by people all over the world. When PAX wants to exert public or political pressure, we use an 'action alert' to ask our constituency to take action, for example by sending an email or signing a petition. By the end of 2017, 49,473 people were signed up for our online 'action tool'. They supported our actions and campaigns 16,054 times: 7,584 times on nuclear weapons, 2,537 times on Syria, 3,617 times on blood coal, 2,030 times on the Peace Week and 286 times on various current issues.



© Marjolein van Rotterdam, Activist Lab, the Netherlands

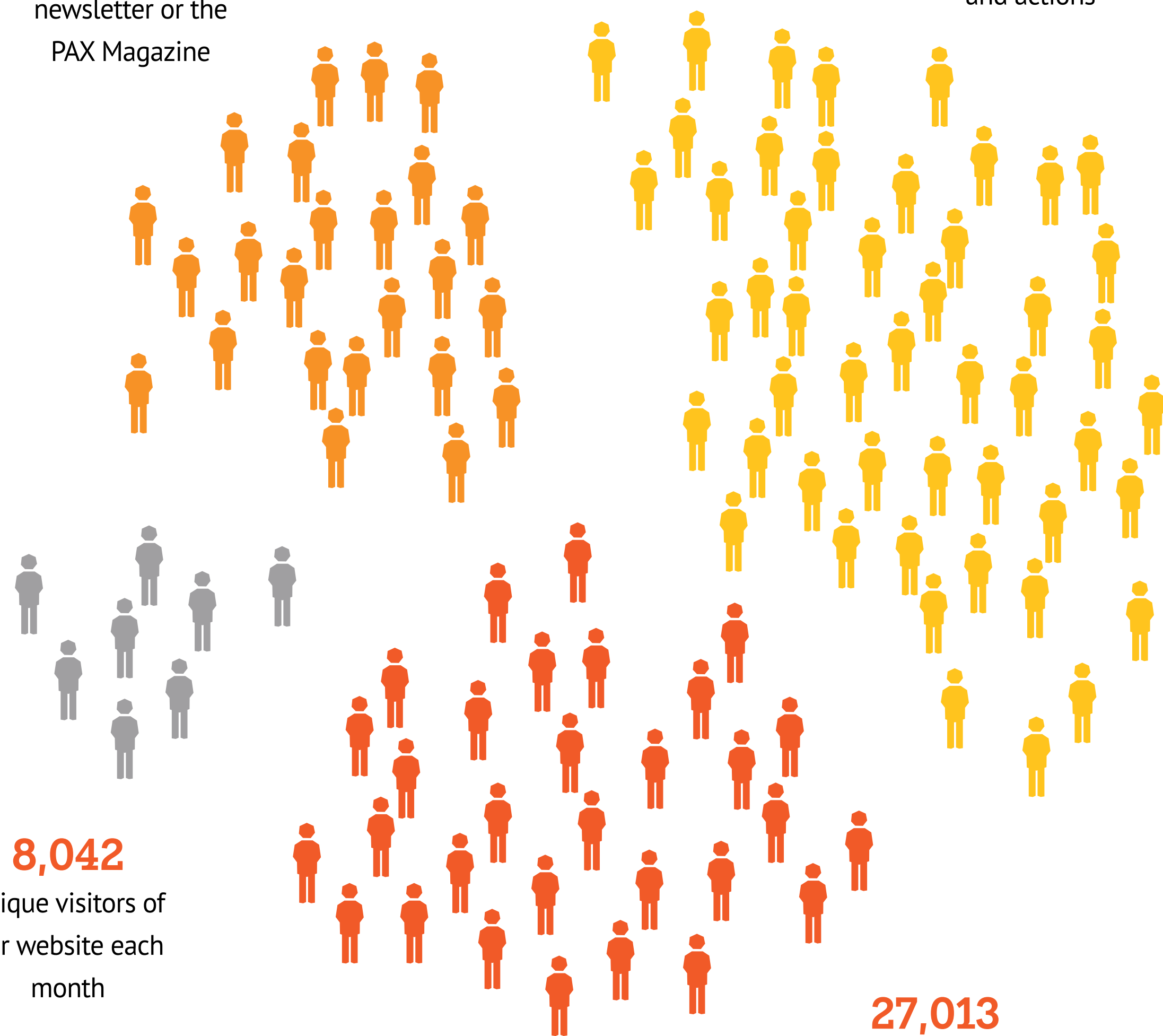
ONLINE SUPPORT

22,405

people receive our newsletter or the PAX Magazine

49,473

people signed up for our 'action tool' wanting to support our campaigns and actions



8,042

unique visitors of our website each month

27,013

follow us on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn)

= 1000

PEACE WEEK



75 Embassies of Peace contributed to Peace Week



2,000 people joined **22** Walks of Peace



400 students participated in **13** PAX College Tours



10,000 people participated in **270** activities



1,000 young people celebrated at Manifest



40 schools paid attention to Peace Week

Women's March

PAX's expertise in organizing demonstrations was highly welcomed by the organizers of the Women's March that took place in Amsterdam on 21 January. The demonstration against intolerance and inequality was one of many demonstrations in the world the day after the inauguration of United States president Donald Trump. After this initial effort, PAX's Gender, Peace & Security team took a lead position in the organization of another Women's March in the weekend before the Dutch parliamentary elections. On 11 March, 20,000 people marched the streets of Amsterdam, calling on Dutch citizens to #VoteAgainstHate in a bid to stop the spread of right-wing populism in the Netherlands and Europe.

Elections and refugee rights

In the run-up to the elections in March 2017, research agency Motivaction conducted a study on behalf of PAX. It revealed that Dutch people are concerned about the human rights of

refugees in countries that the EU has made so-called refugee deals with. The majority of Dutch voters indicated that the new government should monitor whether these countries are in fact respecting refugees' human rights. PAX called on the political parties to clarify their position before the election about conducting so-called human rights checks when making refugee deals, so that voters will know what to expect from each party on that issue.

Stay Human

PAX is one of the driving forces behind Stay Human, a collaboration project of 55 societal actors, ranging from Scouting Netherlands to The Netherlands Red Cross Society and from the largest employers organization in the Netherlands (VNO-NCW) to the Dutch Council for Refugees (Vluchtelingenwerk). Stay Human started out as a campaign to influence the polarized debate on refugees. In 2017 the coalition redirected its efforts to talking with different groups in society about issues that involve us all. The aim remains

to turn around the increasing polarization, a trend in which the Dutch public's perception of refugees is one of many important issues. Four masterclasses were conducted as well as training for thirty churches and educational institutes. The outcomes of the research into polarization and the perception of refugees in the Netherlands was laid down in a white paper '[Het gelijk van iedereen](#)'.

Moral support for eastern Ghouta

PAX followed developments in eastern Ghouta, Syria with great concern last year. A humanitarian disaster took place in this area to the east of Damascus, which Assad's regime has held under siege for years (see also our [section on Syria](#)). In the meantime we know how tragically it all ended in eastern Ghouta.

On 5 December PAX called on Dutch citizens to email the House of Representatives of the Netherlands to exert political pressure on the allies of the Assad regime to bring the siege to a halt. 80% of the people approached

voiced their concern about the situation in eastern Ghouta and asked the House of Representatives to take measures to guarantee the safety of the citizens there. Strengthened by the impressive response, we asked people to write a message of solidarity to the people trapped in Oost-Ghouta. As Dutch people wrote:

*Dear people of Ghouta,
You are not forgotten. We think of you
and we hope you will survive this terrible
war. Feel the attention we give you, you
are all in our hearts.
With love from the Netherlands*

Mohammed, a dentist from eastern Ghouta responded,

'Thank you very much, it means a lot to me, and the people of Ghouta are very glad to hear these messages.'

Syrian activist Marcell Shehwaro, who works with people on the ground in eastern Ghouta, wrote:

PAX Vrede. Wie durft?

delen met je vrienden:   

Geef de burgers van het Syrische Ghouta hoop!

Jouw boodschap geeft de burgers in het Syrische Ghouta hoop. Keer op keer horen we van onze partners en vrienden ter plekke dat solidariteitsberichten van mensen zoals jij, hen helpen om de moed niet op te geven. Laat jouw bericht hieronder achter, dan zorgen wij dat zij je bericht ontvangen en kunnen we je op de hoogte houden over ons werk en onze resultaten. Dank je wel dat je de mensen in Syrië niet vergeet!

JA!
IK DOE MEE!

LEES MEER

'In the Christmas story, it is important to learn how to look for the star in the darkness to help you reach love. Thank you for being one of those stars of hope in such dark times.'

Peace flights

'Peace flights' is a PAX project in which people involved with the Embassies of Peace, or other communities and church groups, can express their appreciation for those who are dedicated to peace. Peace doves were sent from many churches to peace workers nearby or far away in conflict areas.



Vrede.
Wie durft?
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you can bomb
the world to
pieces, but
you can't bomb
PEACE
PAX
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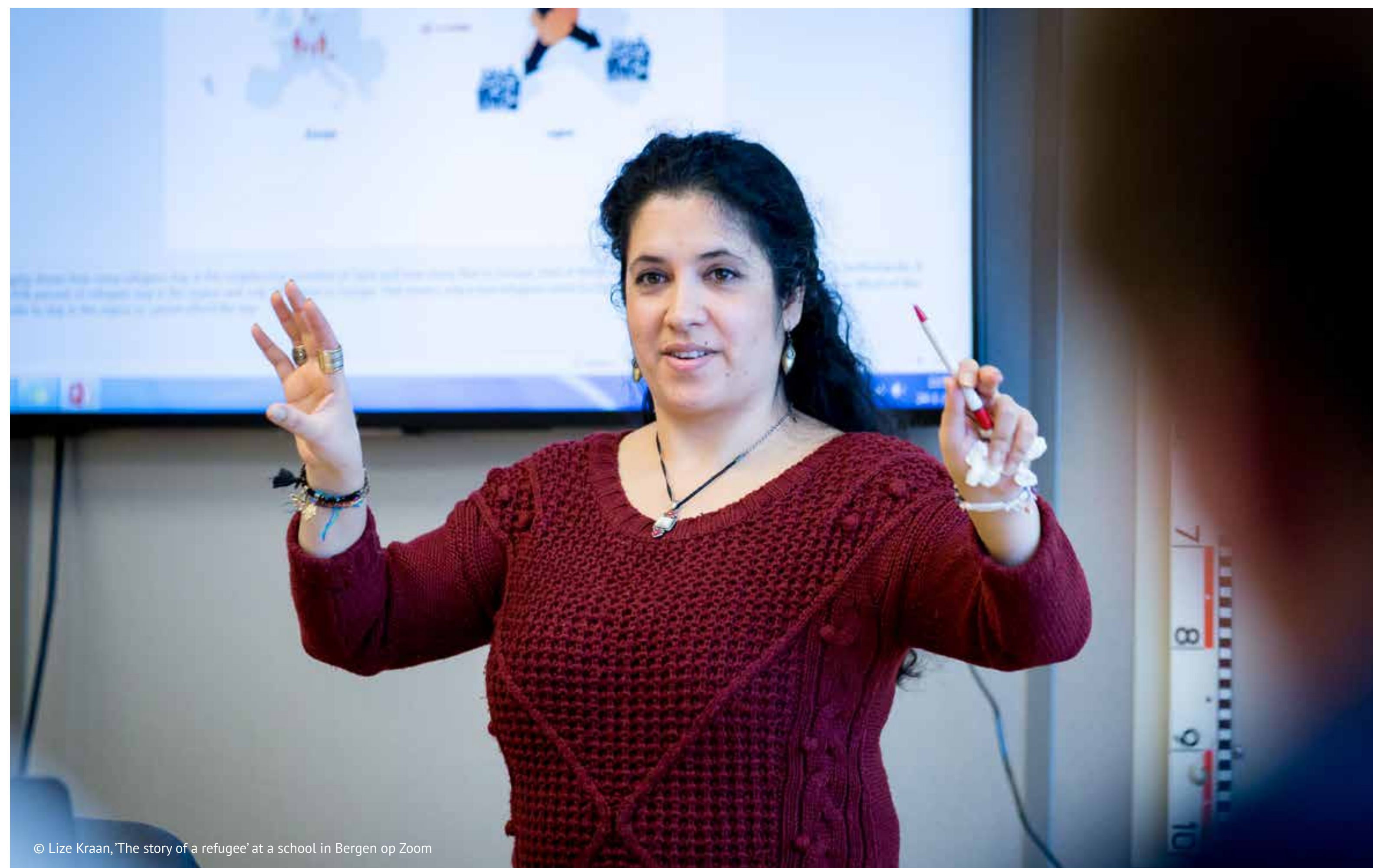
WISE UP
WISE UP
WISE UP

Vrede
PAX

The story of a refugee

For a number of years now, PAX has been supporting and accompanying Syrian refugees who go to schools to tell their personal story. It has turned out to be a huge success: thanks to these meetings, students have more understanding for the situations that refugees find themselves in. More and more schools have been asking us to visit them. In 2017 the Dutch National Postcode Lottery decided to support us, which has enabled us to expand our 'Story of a refugee' and continue through 2019. We have struck up a partnership with Critical Mass for that purpose, an organization that specializes in making interactive exhibitions, videos and games about issues that affect us all.

The tangible result of this partnership is the ['serious game'](#) that was specially developed for the project. By playing the game, in which students are assigned a



© Lize Kraan, 'The story of a refugee' at a school in Bergen op Zoom

character, they are confronted with the often impossible dilemmas that many Syrians have had to face. We have noticed that they participate with much more interest in the conversation in class as a result. Afterwards, lessons are drawn, with teachers and school leaders, from the experiences of the students and teachers, and we encourage them to develop a

policy for talking about difficult issues at school. With this project, we have brought the refugee issue out into the open and we hope at the same time to be able to address the them/us mentality more broadly. In 2017 'Story of a Refugee' reached more than 4,500 students and their teachers.

Visibility and profile

The communication concept ‘Peace. Are you in?’ drives our communication. In 2017 a broad representation of people from PAX formed a working group and studied the positioning of PAX’s peace work in the Netherlands. A number of policy-related choices were made based on a broad context analysis, which will be further elaborated in 2018 and finalized in consultation with our supporters in the Netherlands.

PAX continues to nurture the organization with the concerns of our supporters. That’s why we regularly talk to Embassies of Peace, churches, youth, our volunteers and the community of thematic campaigns. We do our best to ensure that our activities and communication dovetail with their wishes and ideas.

Building bridges

Dutch musician and artist Eddy Zoëy



created the artwork ‘Building bridges’ for PAX. PAX had an illustration of the painting printed on a sustainable, organic bag. ‘By showing understanding for each other, being curious in a positive way about each other’s differences and discussing them, you create a bond with each other,’ says Zoëy. ‘That’s what “Building Bridges” is about: creating a bond by working together. Become closer instead of repelling each other. Engage in conversation, don’t avoid communicating. Talk. Cry out. Shout if need be, but keep

communicating. Reach out and touch.’

PAXingpaper

Our campaign team travelled through the Netherlands in December to rePAXage Christmas gifts in our PAXingpaper, specially designed wrapping paper with peace messages on it. Poet laureate Ester Naomi Perquin, theologian Janneke Stegeman, author Abdelkader Benali and cabaret artist Vincent Bijlo shared their Christmas message on PAXingpaper, thus ‘shrouding’ the gifts in peace.



Actress and film-maker Sanne Vogel received the PAX Dove in 2017 for her work with Syrian refugees. During the time that new people were arriving in the Netherlands every day, fleeing from war violence in Syria, there were also Syrians arriving at Central Station in Amsterdam every day.

Some were in transit to see family or seeking a hotel, others ended up in refugee camps. Evening after evening, Sanne was at the station to help people find their way. One of these meetings

turned into a friendship with the then 19-year-old Muayad Hilamia and later with the 30-year-old Amir Namou.

The men stayed at Sanne's home for a while, because the refugee camps weren't particularly pleasant. Heumensoord near Nijmegen was nothing short of horrible. Ninety refugees shared a single tent there on muddy terrain in the middle of the winter.

'I felt extremely guilty during that period,' Sanne says. 'When I saw people in a camp who were so much worse off, I basically didn't do anything for myself anymore and pushed myself beyond my limits. And Muayad and Amir taught me that I can't heal another person's sadness. Luckily I can alleviate it a bit.'

Sanne has a busy life as an actress and director. When Muayad and Amir stayed with her, she took them with her everywhere. As a result, they got to know each other better and better.

Eventually she came up with the idea of doing a theatre performance with them, which they called 'New Family'. After 43 performances

and discussions afterwards, many people in the audience became inspired to take action as well.

'Often people want to do something, but they don't know where to start,' Sanne says. 'The performance showed that it's actually very easy, it's all about friendship. If you've lost everything, then the best you can hope for is friendship. If you live in a camp, then you yearn for a living room with food on the table and a warm radiator. A safe, cosy environment. Changing things at the political level is difficult. But you can change people's views of refugees by giving them a face for a wider audience. It's the small personal stories that make people realize that we're all the same, whether we have fled our countries or not.'

SANNE VOGEL IS A DUTCH ACTRESS AND DIRECTOR.

9

FUNDRAISING



Fundraising

Individual support

Individual support constitutes a valuable source of income for PAX. The support comes from the members of PAX Christi, from donors who make single or periodic contributions, from bequests and legacies, and from the annual collection organized throughout the Netherlands during Peace Week in September ([see chapter 8](#)).

In 2017, we approached our 17,161 PAX Christi members and donors five times with a request for a structural or occasional donation. During Peace Week, churches across the Netherlands

raised over €100,000 for our peace work. Committed individuals involved in the 75 Peace Embassies across the Netherlands organized all sorts of fundraising activities. PAX members, volunteers and private donors supported us through the 'Ask a Friend' campaign, which resulted in 428 new friends for PAX who also contribute financially to our work. The committed support shown by our members and donors confirms PAX's mission: all contributions, big or small, help us to protect civilians and build just and peaceful societies together, across the globe.

Legacies

In 2017, we received a total of €53,485 from legacies and bequests. The fact that

people include PAX in their will signifies considerable trust in our work and approach to building peace, for which we are very grateful. PAX has a policy that guides our conscientious handling of such funds as well as a brochure for interested donors.

Handling complaints

In 2017, PAX received a total of 12 complaints. Three complaints concerned donation requests. Two complaints were about how PAX approached the complainant and five complaints were about an administrative issue. All these complaints were handled by the private fundraising team according to procedure. The remaining two complaints concerned

recent media statements about the Potočari Memorial Centre in Srebrenica. These complaints have been dealt with by the board of directors and a programme leader from PAX respectively.

Institutional fundraising

The focus of our five-year institutional fundraising strategy is a proactive approach towards institutional fundraising and strengthening donor diversification, with a particular focus on achieving the increased fundraising targets for 2018-2020.

In 2017, we continued working within the 'Strategic Partnership on Dialogue and Dissent' with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Our 'Freedom from Fear Alliance' together with Amnesty International aims at achieving structural changes of behaviour in fragile and conflict-affected situations. In order to

'Working on peace is not an academic matter. It's a philosophy of life that motivates people to act. I support PAX because the organization is capable of mobilizing public opinion and exerting pressure on our government. It's all about 'me' these days and being stronger than the other. Our thinking should be driven much more by collective security.'

EDY KORTHALS ALTES (93 YEARS OLD)

achieve its objective, the Freedom from Fear Alliance will receive up to €59.5 million over the total five-year period of the strategic partnership (1 January 2016–31 December 2020).

The Dutch Postcode Lottery expressed its support for PAX's work not only by continuing to support PAX's core business, but also by awarding our '[The Story of a Refugee](#)' project with €2,040,000 for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 December 2019. Through this project, which is discussed in chapter 8, PAX aims to create more understanding for the situation of refugees and thus counter the trend of increasing polarization in Dutch society.

Our international fundraising approach has resulted in new contracts. The Canadian organization Development & Peace supports our [Kulluna Muwatinun](#) project in Syria, while Open Society Foundations supports our efforts to strengthen international norms to ensure a clear legal framework on the use and

proliferation of [armed drones](#). We have expanded our corporation with foreign governments, such as the US Department of State's Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. This bureau has provided funds for our '[The Day After in Ninewa](#)' project in Iraq (see chapter 3) as well as for a project in [Colombia](#) aimed at strengthening the participation of victims and their organizations in transitional justice efforts (see chapter 4). The German Federal Foreign Office provided funds for a new project in the [Ukraine](#) for the period 2017-2018. This project aims at creating a culture of dialogue and reconciliation on the road to durable transformation of the Ukrainian society and (political) systems (see chapter 3).

PAX continued to receive funding from donors based in the United Kingdom in 2017. To solve the complex, global issues connected to Humanitarian Disarmament, perseverance is needed for long-term change strategies. PAX applauds the long-term vision demonstrated by both the Sigrid Rausing Trust and the

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. The Sigrid Rausing Trust helped us continue our leading role in the Stop Explosive Investments campaign and research on explosive weapons in populated areas with a grant of €50,000. The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust's dedicated backing with the same amount has helped PAX continue to end investment in nuclear weapons, with major successes achieved in 2017 (see chapter 7 on [Humanitarian Disarmament](#)).

In late 2017, we conducted our biennial survey among funding partners to ensure that we are maintaining a high standard of donor stewardship. The quality of our work, reporting and the relationship with our donors received high marks from the respondents. PAX was referred to as 'tenacious and capable'. The main lesson learned from the survey outcomes, was that we need to be even more realistic when it comes to timing, both in planning our activities and in reporting the results. We will give this issue more thought in 2018, aware that given the

volatile circumstances in the conflict areas where PAX works, this will always remain a challenge. More time and effort has been invested into donor stewardship and donor compliance. This will be given equal attention in 2018.



© Roy Beusker Fotografie, The lottery supports PAX every year with an unearmarked contribution of €500,000. In 2016 the lottery pledged €1,240,000 for the extra project 'Lessons in Peace'. In 2017, PAX received €2,040,000 for the extra project 'Story of a Refugee'.



'PAX stands for peace and brings people together who have the courage to fight for peace. The Dutch Postcode Lottery supports an educational project called "Lessons in Peace" in Syria because this impressive project is exemplary for the important work that PAX is doing in conflict areas and hot spots in the Middle East.

Years ago I travelled often to the Middle East for my work. At the time, I experienced how difficult it can be to speak openly and forthright about human rights. This project is succeeding in doing that through the education of young children.

Children, all over the world, have a right to education. Schools in many Syrian cities have been affected by war violence. Sometimes school buildings are being deliberately targeted by bombings. Countless children can no longer go to school as a result. Peace activists from Rēsh Malek, one of PAX's local partners, wanted to do something about that. In the schools that they have set up, children are learning how to read, write and do arithmetic. But there's much more happening. Pupils are being exposed to knowledge and insights, and taught concrete skills in order to become tolerant, active and free citizens. And everyone is welcome: girls and boys, regardless of their ethnic or religious background.

This inclusive education at the Rēsh Malek schools gives off an important signal in a deeply divided country. It also offers a tangible alternative to the indoctrination by jihadist groups that also took advantage of the educational vacuum.

As it turns out, "Lessons in Peace" is not a simple project. The plan was to set up seven schools in Aleppo, to accommodate 2,300 children. But in 2016 the situation in the besieged city became increasingly difficult. It was no longer safe for

children to go to school. A caretaker was murdered. By the end of the year the city had fallen. Many of the pupils and teachers became displaced.

At that point we had lengthy discussions with PAX about how to continue the project. I'm extremely impressed with the peace activists' determination in 2017 to successfully re-launch the project. There are now four schools and an educational centre in the area west of Aleppo. More than 1,600 children are receiving an education. All children and their teachers receive psychological support to help them deal with the traumas of war and violence. Parents are knocking on the door every day to ask if there's a place for their children as well. The schools are a glimmer of hope.

"Resilience" is a frequently used word in development cooperation these days. Sometimes it almost seems as if it's losing its resonance. But when I think of the work that these peace activists are doing in Syria, then to me they embody resilience in the truest sense of the word.'

FELICIA HUDIG WORKS FOR THE DUTCH POSTCODE LOTTERY.



10

GOVERNANCE AND REPORT OF THE SUPERVISORY BOARD

Governance and report of the supervisory board

PAX employees

In late 2017, 150 people worked for PAX (FTE 133.9). 136 of the employees were based in the Netherlands, while the remaining 14 were based in several other countries where PAX works. Moreover, in several countries where we cannot register as an organization, we have hired several additional employees through other organizations that are registered locally. In 2017, the total number of PAX employees grew by 12 persons. This was necessary to be able to implement new projects and activities that are made possible thanks to growing financial support for PAX's work via several grants. 53% of PAX's employees work on a part-time basis.

Organizational changes

PAX continuously needs to adapt its organization to external developments in order to strengthen our work and accomplish our mission. In early 2017, three project working groups started tackling the following issues: Organization, Quality & Learning, and Planning & Control. To ensure an inclusive process, the working groups liaise with sounding boards of representatives from within the organization. Notable achievements include strengthened collaboration in multidisciplinary teams, enhanced efficiency in the planning and budget cycle, improved financial control mechanisms, and an enriched learning

vision for PAX. The working groups will continue their work on these three themes in 2018.

An important change concerned the composition of the board of directors. Until 1 May 2017, this board consisted of a general director, who focuses primarily on the organization's strategy, and a director tasked with operational implementation. After a 15-year employment period, the operations director Freek Landmeter decided to leave the organization to look for a future outside of PAX. In April 2017, after consulting the Works Council, the board decided to appoint an acting director for the peace programmes & fundraising and an acting director for the

organization. After thorough study and consultation in the following months, PAX opted to formally change to a three-person board of directors. This will be implemented in 2018.

Occupational health policy

The percentage of absenteeism due to illness at PAX in 2017 increased by from 4.1% to 5.0% (the Dutch average was 3.8% in 2016). The increase was mainly caused by the fact that a few employees called in sick for the long term. PAX works with a professional occupational health and safety agency that provides professional medical support. Employees and volunteers can report undesirable behaviour or sexual harassment to the occupational health and safety officer.

Security policy

In 2017, we conducted a major review of our safety and security policy for staff working in and visiting the field. The process was facilitated by an external security expert. As a result, our policy and procedures were updated, and where

necessary extended, to reflect PAX's duty to safeguard the security of its employees while at the same time encouraging and supporting them to take ownership of this policy and the responsibilities it entails. Specific Field Security Plans were drafted for South Sudan, Eastern DRC and Iraq. PAX's crisis response protocol was updated and tested during an intensive crisis simulation training involving the CMT (crisis management team). Newly recruited staff members received a thorough 'hostile environment awareness training' (HEAT) prior to their first deployment, while a refresher training was organized for other staff. Moreover, we held tailored workshops that provided travel advice for our female staff and guidelines for family liaison officers on how to deal with the families of colleagues in crisis situations.

We hired an experienced security manager in late 2017 who will build on the progress achieved in 2017 and continue our efforts to develop an integrated security approach. One of the

security manager's tasks is to set up a central security monitoring and briefing system and work with the ICT team to continue strengthening digital security and procedures for data protection against cyberattacks, which remains an important issue for both PAX and our partners. Finally, we also worked on preparing our organization for the new privacy legislation (the General Data Protection Regulation) that will take effect in the European Union in May 2018.

Integrity policy

PAX has an [integrity policy](#), a code of conduct and an arrangement for whistle-blowers in order to ensure that employees can report potential problems related to standards of integrity without risk to their careers or jobs. PAX also pursues a safe and trusted environment that provides protection to partners, staff members, volunteers and other people we engage with. Our integrity policy is published on our intranet and on our website. In 2017, there was one integrity issue at PAX. It concerned the

suspected fraud of €2,500 at our field office in DR Congo. Careful investigation did not provide a conclusive alternative explanation, as a result of which the employee concerned was dismissed. Because DR Congo has no functioning rule of law, PAX decided not to file a report with the police. PAX accepted the loss in its accounts.

Employment conditions

PAX complies with the collective labour agreement of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands. In 2017, we conducted monitoring and research to ensure that employment conditions are in line with organizational developments and the personal circumstances and needs of our staff. Where needed, we introduced minor adjustments to the employment conditions agreement.

Development and training

PAX continually invests in programmatic and organizational learning and strategic thinking. PAX staff actively participated in learning activities, such as the staff work-

shops that were convened to discuss strategies for certain programmes and regions, among others the entire Africa programme.

Forty PAX programme staff participated in one or more of five 'learning cycles' that introduced content and methods for reflective learning and organizational learning. The programmatic topics that were addressed include: community-based security, evidence-based advocacy, dealing with armed groups, nonviolent action, and new technologies. The learning cycles contributed to the individual learning of programme staff as well as to increased support for a more learning-oriented culture and working methods.

Each year PAX organizes 'inspiration days', during which PAX staff discuss and learn about certain topics. In 2017, we used these days to exchange views on organizational developments at PAX, share thoughts about our values and motivation for peace work, and to discuss programmatic issues.

PAX has made an overall budget available equal to 3.0% of the wage bill for both individual and general training. In 2017, 1.7% of the wage bill was spent on training and development programmes.

Additional investments were made in Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation to further strengthen the documentation of project information. This has improved how we reflect and learn at the project level as well as across projects.

Recruitment

PAX recruited employees through its own website and network. In 2017, PAX also published job vacancies via the Foundation for Refugee Students (UAF), an organization that supports and counsels highly skilled refugees in the Netherlands.

Employee and volunteer diversity PAX advocates equal opportunities for everyone. Respect for diversity is one of the basic conditions for human dignity. Each human being, and each

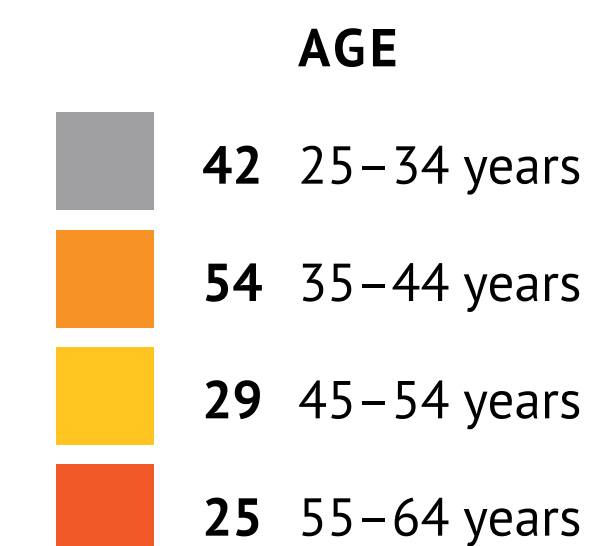
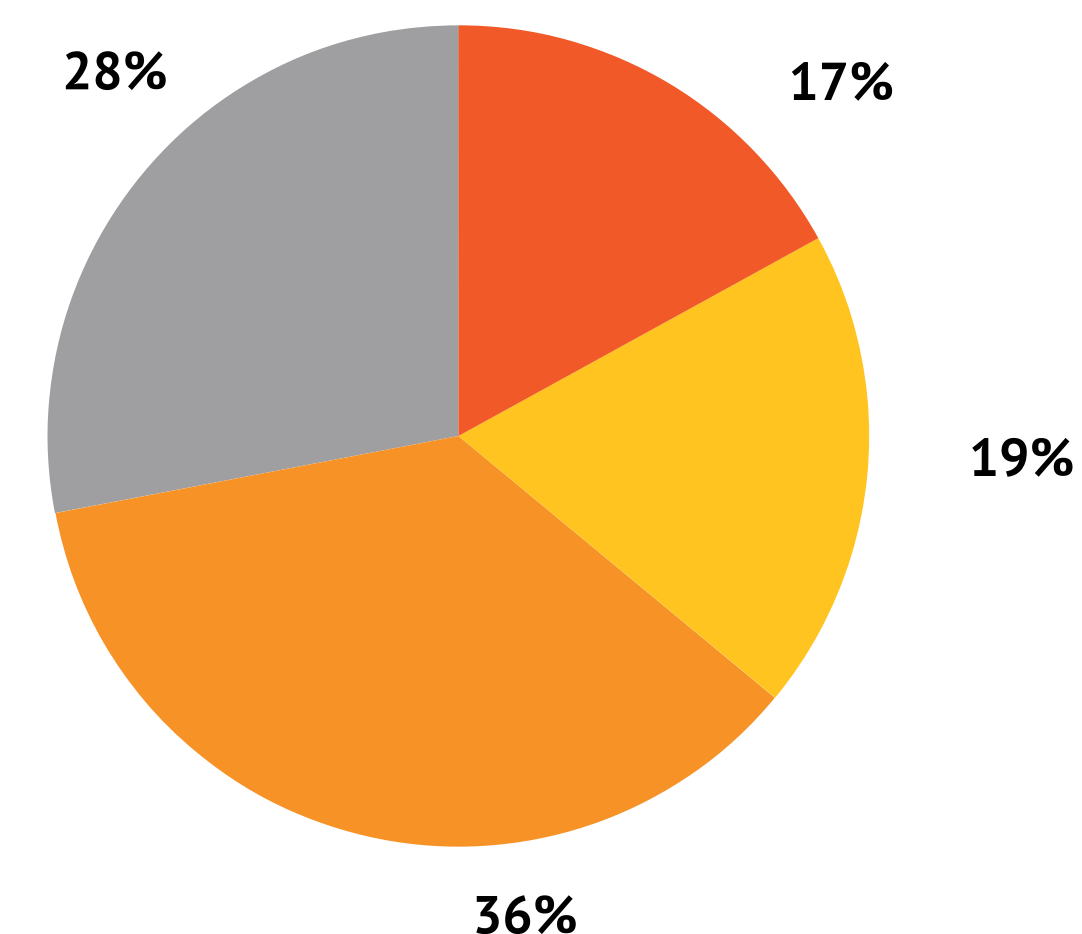
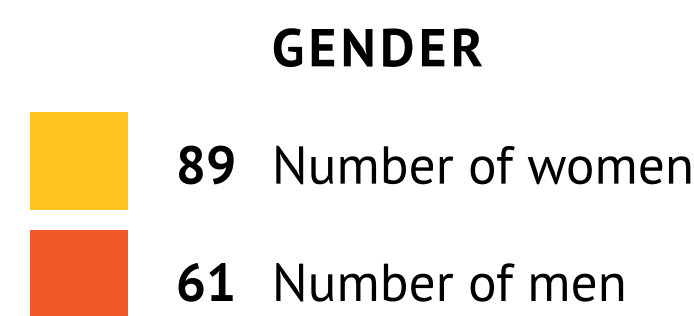
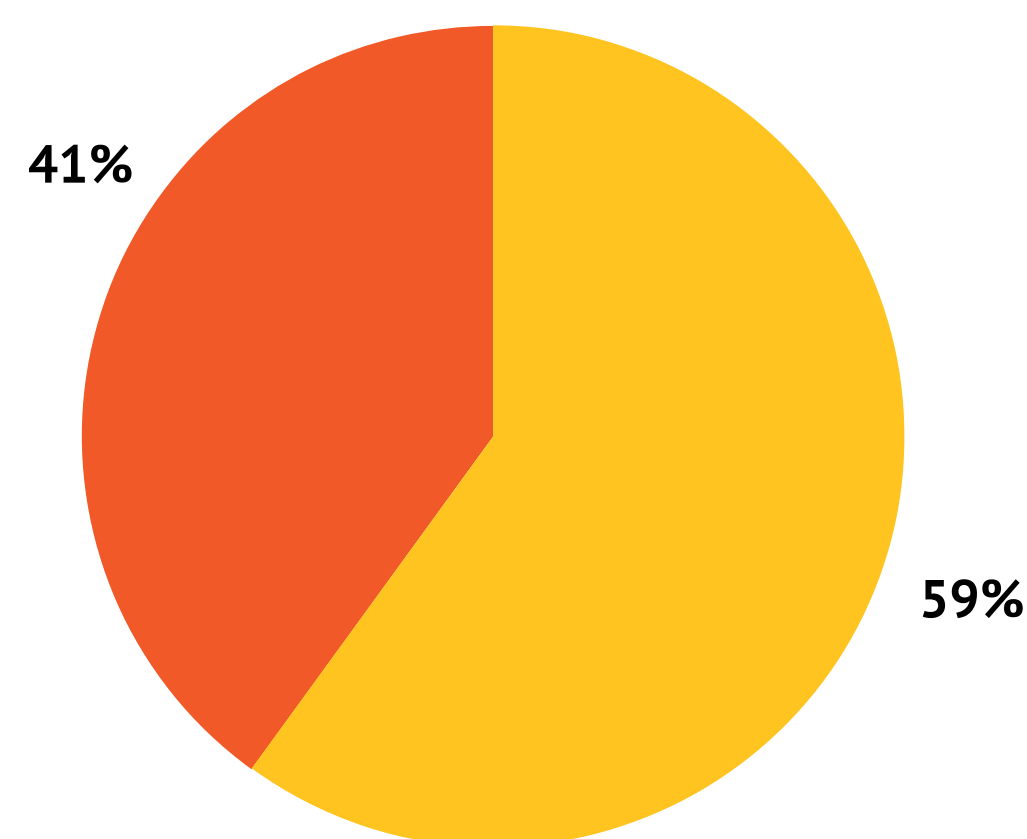
population group, is unique, has its own characteristics, and those specific qualities are what contribute to the society to which he/she belongs – and this pertains to the local, national and global levels. PAX wants to optimize the potential that diversity offers in its own organization. Our vacancy announcements reflect this philosophy. We encourage people from all backgrounds to apply for positions at PAX.

The male : female ratio among PAX employees is currently 41% : 59%.

Volunteers and interns

PAX works with a group of 65 volunteers, mainly students or recent graduates. Once or twice a month they carry out public actions on behalf of PAX (informing the general public about PAX's work and campaigns), or they support us at the office or during demonstrations and events, such as the Women's March, Manifest and other activities during [Peace Week](#). In addition, each year we work together with the Embassies of

EMPLOYEES IN THE NETHERLANDS AND ABROAD BY GENDER AND AGE GROUP



Peace across the Netherlands to hold the Peace Week in September.

At least once a year PAX organizes a meeting for all its volunteers in order to stay in touch with them and encourage them to remain dedicated. PAX organizes a workshop for the volunteers at this gathering. Last year the theme was

polarization. We are exploring additional ways of including the volunteer pool in PAX's work, while looking for ways to offer assignments that fit the volunteers' expertise. PAX has a volunteer policy that covers the fields of Recruitment and selection, Assistance, Binding, Safety and confidentiality.

In addition to the volunteers, the PAX team is frequently strengthened by interns, mainly students or recent graduates. In 2017, PAX took on 41 interns who supported us by taking on temporary research and project assignments. We appreciate their dedication and their sharing of knowledge and innovative ideas with our colleagues.

The many volunteers contribute to PAX's programmes, campaigning and peacebuilding activities without any financial reward, including those who support our peace movement at the organizational level (members of the supervisory board, PAX Christi Members Council and the Interchurch Peace Council).

Works Council

The works council consists of seven members from various positions within the organization. The council meets every six weeks and subsequently meets with the board of directors. In 2017, the council's focus was on the process that led to the board's decision

PEOPLE



136 staff work at our headquarters in Utrecht



14 staff are based in other countries outside the Netherlands



41 interns strengthened our team in 2016



65 volunteers are committed to support our work in the Netherlands



The total number of PAX employees grew by **12** persons in 2017

to change the composition of the board of directors mentioned above under 'organizational changes'. Other important issues discussed by the council included the policy on securing the well-being of employees, ensuring the fast development of a new job classification structure and developing a clear timeline on several organizational processes that are expected to be rolled out throughout 2018. Moreover, the council developed new working methods to ensure that individual members have expert knowledge on specific issues and to introduce more effective advisory processes.

Governance and supervision

PAX legal structure

PAX is the result of a united partnership with a unique structure. It originated from a long tradition of peace activism in the Netherlands and was founded in 2006 as a joint work organization of Pax Christi Netherlands and the Interchurch Peace Council (IKV). Pax Christi Netherlands was founded in 1948 as an

HUMAN RESOURCES

	NUMBER OR PERCENTAGE IN 2016	NUMBER OR PERCENTAGE IN 2017
Total number of personnel	138	150
Full-time equivalent	120.9	133.9
% of full-time personnel	46%	47%
% of part-time personnel	54%	53%
Personnel entering/leaving employment	46/8	38/26
Number of personnel with permanent contract	65.9%	62.0%
Absenteeism due to illness	4.1%	5.0%
Spent on education as % of the gross wage sum	1.9%	1.7%
Interns	29	41
Volunteers	60	65

independent sector of the international Pax Christi movement. It emerged during the aftermath of World War Two from the impassioned hope: war never again. IKV was founded in 1966 by the churches of the Netherlands and Pax Christi with the aim of promoting political solutions for crises and war situations. IKV and Pax Christi Netherlands are PAX's primary

patrons and represent constituents of the peace movement. PAX runs all of the peace programmes, manages all financial resources and employs all of the staff.

Governance and supervision

Governance and supervision are strictly separate processes at PAX. The supervisory

board's first task is to assess whether PAX is fulfilling its mission well according to the values of the peace movement. The board is responsible for achieving the strategic objectives in an efficient and effective way. In doing so, the supervisory board monitors the risks and degree of risk management in the organization and whether there is a healthy social environment. The supervisory board receives support from two advisory committees, the audit committee and the remuneration committee.

PAX's executive board is formed by a statutory board of directors tasked with managing the organization, for which it has full administrative responsibility. The board of directors generally makes its decisions based on consensus. The general director has the deciding vote if the votes cast by the board are a tie. The board of directors is accountable to the supervisory board.

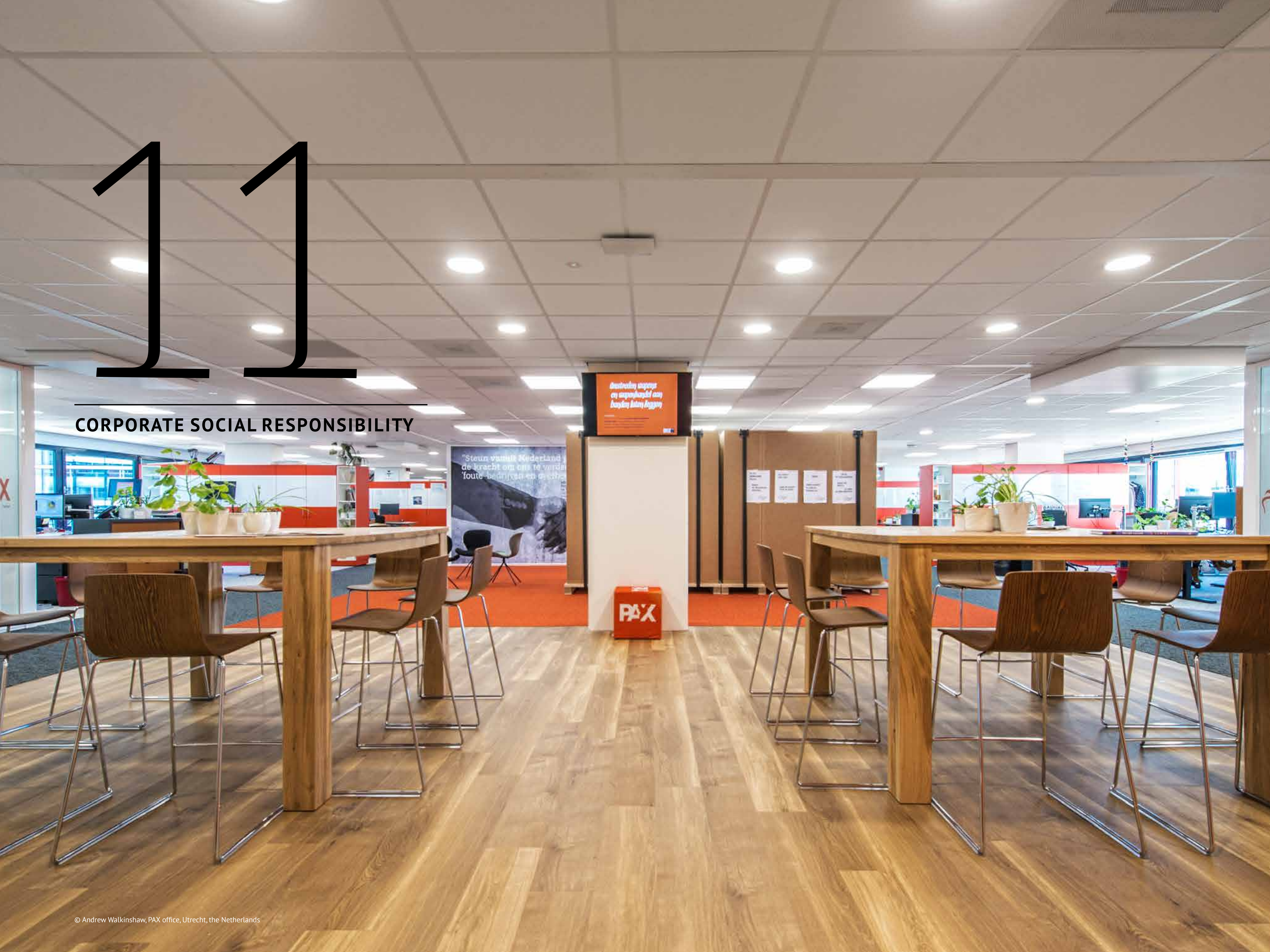
External supervision

In addition to internal supervision, PAX

is also subject to external supervision, which helps to ensure quality assurance. External supervision entails: 1) the ISO certificate 9001:2008 for the entire organization and all of its activities, audited on an annual basis by an independent and accredited agency; 2) external and independent accountant audit carried out in accordance with Dutch law; 3) membership of the Association of Fundraising Organizations (Goede Doelen Nederland) and compliance with all of its codes of conduct; 4) membership of Partos, the Dutch association for NGOs working in international development, and adherence to its Code of Conduct; 5) registration as a Public Benefit Organisation (ANBI).

11

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



Corporate Social Responsibility

Corporate social responsibility is a reflection of our core mission and objectives, and it is embedded throughout our organization. The PAX principle is: Practice what you preach. We confront companies, financial institutions and government bodies about their practices, particularly when it comes to the exploitation of natural resources and responsible investment.

We consciously choose our suppliers and hired services. As one of the forces behind the [Fair Finance Guide](#) we use responsible banks whenever possible. Energy is supplied by Greenchoice, a local energy supplier that provides our office

with 100% green energy. Our choice for this energy provider was determined by our desire to strengthen the sustainable energy industry, as well as our commitment not to contribute to the mining industry, which is linked to human rights violations, assassinations and land confiscation. Our procurement policy always takes into account environmental concerns, for example when we purchase computers, printers and other office supplies. We also use Fair Trade products as possible.

We recognize that besides pursuing a sustainable procurement policy, we also need to make sure that the products we purchase are used in a sustainable way.

That is why all PAX employees need a code to print documents, as this limits the amount of paper that is printed. And of course we try to keep our energy consumption to a minimum, and we sort and recycle our waste.

In 2017 PAX opened a new office at a different location in Utrecht. In choosing our office equipment, we opted for the more sustainable LED lamps with sensors so they switch off automatically when nobody is in the area. PAX also purchased as much second-hand furniture as possible. As energy efficiency was an important criterion in setting up our new office, we purchased 60 new computers and renewed all screens. To ensure a

relatively low carbon footprint, the new location is easily accessible by public transport. As in previous years, PAX will continue to adhere to the principle that 100% of its employees commute by train, bus or bicycle.

Our staff is forced to travel regularly by aeroplane in order to implement projects and work closely with our partners in (post)conflict areas. We compensate for these CO₂ emissions via the Climate Neutral Group, which selects projects that combine energy, the environment and development solutions into sustainable business opportunities in developing countries. We chose Gold Standard's Energy Efficient Cook Stove Project in Kenya, which has developed a special cook stove to replace traditional cooking over an open fire. This wood oven uses less fuel and produces little or no smoke, which reduces CO₂ emissions. PAX flew 3.4 million kilometres in 2017, causing 689 tons of CO₂ in the process. We are compensating for these emissions by means of the above project.

12

FINANCIAL SUMMARY



Financial summary

Analysis of the 2017 sum of income and expenses

The consolidated financial statements present a financially sound year for PAX. PAX achieved growth in terms of both income and activities/expenditures.

PAX set ambitious objectives for growth for 2017. The implementation was not able to completely live up to the projected growth objectives, which is why the 2017 income levels were slightly behind our ambitious 2017 budget. The available income in 2017 for objectives amounted to €19.6 million. This is €1.4 million or 7% more than in 2016. However this is €3 million below budget.

The main deviations were in the following areas:

Funding ‘Dialogue and Dissent’ Strategic Partnership for Lobby and Advocacy (SP)

This deviation is partially due to underspending in the Strategic Partnership Framework. PAX grew considerably in 2016 and 2017 but our expectations were even higher. The difficulty of working in unstable, conflict countries made it challenging to increase our budget to the planned level. The budgeted 140% growth proved to be overly ambitious, but managed to chart an impressive growth of €2.7 million or 125% under the Strategic Partnership nonetheless.

Dutch government funding (non-SP)

We also underspent regarding other funds from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs funding (non-SP). A major project that was supposed to be funded by a Dutch embassy was postponed until 2018, and the Dutch MoFA-funded project ‘Engendering the Transition to Peace and Security in Iraq’ was a little slower to get off the ground than expected, which led to underspending in 2017. These developments account for the €800,000 difference in expenditures that needed to be postponed to 2018.

Foreign government funding

The €300,000 difference in expenditures from foreign governments is mainly attributable to an extension of the 'The Day After for Ninewa' project, which shifted funding to 2018 as well. There was also underspending in the 'Culture of Dialogue' project in the Ukraine.

Lottery organizations

The funding granted to PAX by the Dutch National Postcode Lottery exceeded expectations thanks to the funding received for the 'Story of a Refugee' project in 2017. Indeed, this windfall accounts for the substantial increase in income. The Story of a Refugee project aims to bring refugee experiences to schools in the Netherlands.

In line with PAX's fundraising strategy we slightly reduced the dominance of grants from governments from 88% to 86%. The PAX fundraising strategy aims to further diversify funds.

Fundraising

In line with PAX's fundraising strategy we slightly reduced the dominance of grants from governments from 88% to 86%. The PAX fundraising strategy aims to further diversify funds.

Expenditures

The expenditure on objectives amounted to €16 million for PAX and €1 million for our alliance partner Amnesty International, in the Freedom for Fear programme. The total expenditures came to €17.2 million, which represent a €1.15 million or 7% increase compared to 2016. The expenditures on objectives remain €4 million below budget. We have been using a programme structure based on the five themes since 2016. The fact that expenditures were below budget can be mainly attributed to cost of two programmes, namely Community-based Security and Citizens' Rights and Natural Resources and Conflict.

Continuity in income

All of PAX's income is considered temporary. A few funding streams are guaranteed for five-year periods, thereby assuring continuity of income for PAX to a certain extent. Of course, the most important of these is the Strategic Partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2016-2020) and the annual contribution from the Dutch National Postcode Lottery (2016-2020). The likelihood of renewal of the latter is high, but it is not guaranteed.

Key ratios

Within the Dutch charity branch there are three key ratios for 1) expenditure on objectives, 2) fundraising costs and 3) Management & administration costs. The KPI for expenditures on objective (related to income) indicates how much PAX spends on objectives related to every EUR income. In 2017 the KPI decreased slightly from 88.2% in 2016 to 87.9%. The other 2 KPIs lost their significance for historical comparison. This was the result of a change in allocation

introduced in 2017. The modified Dutch reporting Guideline RJ650, in addition to a new guideline from Goede Doelen Nederland, were the reason for changing the allocation. The modified allocation limits comparison to last year and to the budget. The fundraising KPI grew from 2.1% to 2.9%. And the KPI for management & administration increased from 5.4% to 7.8%.

Continuity reserve

The positive sum of income and expenditure in 2017 amounts €289,270. This positive balance is being used to strengthen PAX's continuity reserve. This brings the size of continuity reserve to €3.2 million. This is below the required bandwidth of €3.4 to €4 million. The aim is to further increase this reserve to the required level, if and when financial results will allow. According to the 2018 budget the required minimum level will be achieved that year.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	ACTUAL 2017	BUDGET 2017	ACTUAL 2016	CONTINUED	ACTUAL 2017	BUDGET 2017	ACTUAL 2016
	€	€	€		€	€	€
INCOME							
Income from individuals	848,002	824,687	831,569	Cost of fundraising	565,097	401,400	391,841
Income from companies	15,377	25,000	24,103	Cost of management and administration	1,538,110	742,000	979,193
Income from lottery organizations	1,268,314	881,795	789,893	Total expenditures	19,340,028	22,395,454	17,454,724
Grants from governments	16,789,071	19,819,330	15,986,418	Sum before financial income and expenses	265,783	245,000	784,059
Funding from other non-profit organizations	685,047	1,089,642	606,800	Financial income and expenses	23,487	5,000	50,615
Total income	19,605,811	22,640,454	18,238,783	Sum income and expenses	289,270	250,000	834,674
EXPENDITURE				Appropriation of result			
Spent on behalf of the objective	9,096,192	10,298,744	9,860,602	Addition to continuity reserve	289,270	250,000	734,674
Community-Based Security and Citizens' Rights	2,168,308	1,614,641	1,438,067	Addition to earmarked reserve	-	-	100,000
Dealing with the Past	1,984,138	2,891,393	1,735,848	Total	289,270	250,000	834,674
Humanitarian Disarmament	1,846,590	3,629,441	1,475,688				
Natural Resources and Conflict	1,169,330	1,656,879	691,678				
Protection of Civilians							
Networks for peacebuilding	63,986	66,600	53,832				
Freedom from Fear Alliance partner SP	908,277	1,094,356	827,975				
	17,236,821	21,252,054	16,083,690				

13

LOOKING AHEAD AT 2018



Looking ahead at 2018

In the international context in which PAX operates, far-reaching developments, which we already observed in 2017, continue to fuel uncertainty and unpredictability.

Geopolitical uncertainty is a poor foundation for preventing and solving conflict. From the perspective of peace and security, we witness both worrying and hopeful developments. These will have an impact on our peace work and the context in which it takes place:

- ◆ With Russian aggression on Europe's eastern frontier and in the Middle East, the Cold War appears to have made a comeback;

- ◆ The North Korean nuclear threat and talks between North Korea and the US with an unpredictable result and at the same time uncertainty about the future of the 'nuclear' deal with Iran;

- ◆ The threat to the rule of law in Europe, as a result of non-democratic, right-wing populist politicians, and at the same time a European Union that has become more assertive and is showing more unity, in part because of Brexit;

- ◆ A larger focus on one's own national interests and security, for example by the American president, which is an unpredictable factor in international cooperation;

- ◆ A group of countries that is distancing itself from international standards, undermining the effectiveness of existing treaties and blocking the UN Security Council in particular;

- ◆ A growing group of countries that is committed to regulating banned and controversial weapons by means of agreements, the final historical highlight of which is a treaty banning nuclear weapons;

- ◆ Increasingly, Transitional Justice and Dealing with the Past are being incorporated into peace treaties and reconstruction processes following armed conflict. At the same time, a lack

of international consensus means that many war crimes and crimes against humanity are going unpunished;

- ◆ The continued closing of civic space for civil society, independent media and the rule of law and at the same time a rapidly expanding young generation that wants to shape its own future and lead a dignified existence;

- ◆ A multi-layered security environment characterized by (a) regionalized intra-state conflict with cross-border military activities by neighbouring countries or armed groups; (b) the concurrence of state and non-state violence, in which violence between local communities appears to be increasing, and (c) a growing diversification and fragmentation of non-state conflict actors who, though not strong militarily, are adaptable and mobile;

- ◆ Constant instability and increased violence on the frontiers of Europe, as a result of which more people are

becoming displaced and forced to search for a safe future for their children.

Trends and review

Three trends summarize what is happening in the regions where PAX operates:

1. Militarization and growing and more fragmented violence
2. A steady erosion of international norms
3. The continual limitation of civic space within which civil society organizations can operate.

In light of these trends, PAX has no choice but to assess the effectiveness of its strategy – again and again, programme by programme, project by project – and adjust it accordingly. 2018 is halfway through the 2016-2020 planning period, at which point we will conduct a review of all of our

programmes. We will compare the strategic relevance of the programmes with PAX's mission and proposition and assess the added value of the programmes for society, for donors and other stakeholders. In doing so, we will also look at each programme's uniqueness and competitive strength.

Generations for peace

The theme for Peace Week 2018 is 'Generations for Peace'. It poses a clear challenge: Everyone has to do something for peace. Indeed, everyone *can* do something for peace. Our Peace Week relates perfectly to this challenge. Participating in actual peace activities, gaining experience and feeling what it's like to join in – this is the core of our work here in the Netherlands. Abroad in conflict areas, young generations are often taking the lead in conflict areas with non-violent action, which is understandable because they are the ones who often pay the highest price for violence and oppression. In a context in which armed violence

dominates, any break with the logic of violence is a victory, no matter how small the break may seem. Indeed, therein lies the power of the 20 words that Paride Taban is upholding in his war-torn country South Sudan: *love, joy, peace, patience, compassion, sympathy, kindness, truthfulness, gentleness, self-control, humility, poverty, forgiveness, mercy, friendship, trust, unity, purity, faith and hope*. These are words that break with the logic of violence and make it clear that peace is not an unattainable dream, not a distant hope.

Peace has already started, even in countries torn by violence.



© Emeritus Bishop Paride Taban of Holy Trinity Peace Village Kuron, South Sudan

PAX

Colophon

Text: Dr. Ellen Iammers and PAX

Translations and English editing: Mark Speer

Graphic design: Het Ijzeren Gordijn

A PAX publication, June 2018

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