

Annual report
&
Financial statements
2019



Foreword

With pleasure I hereby present the first annual report of the PrisonWatch foundation. This report provides information about the foundation, the activities that have been carried out in 2019 and the financial results.

The foundation has been established to watch over foreign nationals. The mission of PrisonWatch is to make a human connection with those detained abroad and to create awareness about their situation. By visiting them we can contribute to inclusiveness for those who are excluded. By doing so PrisonWatch likes to contribute to a humane, inclusive and fair society.

I like to thank the members of the Supervisory Board and the Advisory Board for the kind support and advice. The members of the Supervisory Board are Lisette Heerze (chairman), Thomas Loudon (treasurer), Emily Bremers (secretary) and the members of the Advisory Board are Hans Barendrecht (Director Gevangenzorg), Peter van der Sande (President ICPA, former director of the Dutch Custodial Institutions Agency), Judith Swinkels (judge and former member of the Dutch Parliament), John Cameron Webb (British consul) and Robert de Leeuw (former ambassador). I especially like to thank PrisonWatch-engagement partner Astrid de Jong for her work and Cees Niessen, prison governor of the penitentiary institution of Alphen aan den Rijn, for allowing me to spend four hours per week to PrisonWatch-activities.

Dr. Femke Hofstee-van der Meulen
Founder PrisonWatch and deputy prison governor of the penitentiary institution of Alphen aan den Rijn

Why PrisonWatch?

In recent decades prison populations have become less homogeneous. In prisons all around the world a huge range of nationalities and languages can be found alongside cultural and religious diversity. Foreign national prisoners (FNPs)¹ are detained in relatively large numbers. This is particularly true for countries in the European Union (EU), where on average nearly one in every five prisoners is a foreigner.

In daily prison life FNPs encounter many difficulties as a result of their foreign status, language difficulties and distance from their families. In practice, prison authorities are often not fully aware of the problems FNPs face and they do not address their special needs. As a result FNPs often feel socially excluded and are unable to exercise their rights. A PhD-study, conducted by Femke Hofstee, revealed that social visits from volunteers have a very positive effect on their well-being and their reintegration into society after release. More information about this study can be found at www.prisonwatch.org.

Official launch

On May 8th, 2019 the PrisonWatch foundation was officially launched. The first meeting with the Supervisory Board took place on May 20th. On October 9th the second joint meeting took place with the Supervisory Board and Advisory Board.

Activities

Pilot

As planned the activities of PrisonWatch started with a pilot in the penitentiary institution (PI) of Alphen aan den Rijn. This institution has a capacity of over 1,000 places. Annually around 8,000 prisoners enter this prison and around 25% of them have a foreign background. Of these 2,000 prisoners around 500 encounter language difficulties because they do not speak or read Dutch. As a result of the language obstacle it is hard for them to communicate with others and to understand the prison rules and procedures.

To address this issue PrisonWatch works with a dedicated group of members of staff that have special attention for foreign nationals and try to address their needs. These members of the PrisonWatch Team speak over twenty different languages, and some come from a non-Dutch background. In practice they are often contacted by their colleagues to provide language support, for example during the intake in prison. The PrisonWatch Team meets once every eight weeks to discuss the work. PrisonWatch works furthermore with prisoners who help other prisoners in their own language to get adjusted into prison life and to provide social support. The PrisonWatch Hosts receive a simple intake before taking up this voluntary job.

¹ FNPs are persons who are detained in relation to a criminal offence in a country of which they are neither a national nor a resident and to whom another country is entitled to provide consular assistance.



PrisonWatch-Team PI Alphen 2019

Website

In 2019 the PrisonWatch website was created with content about foreign national prisoners.

Documentation

Several brochures have been developed and printed in English and Dutch to inform newcomers in prison, prison staff and others about the work of PrisonWatch. For volunteers an information / training package has been developed.

Presentation

In order to promote the work of PrisonWatch and to attract PrisonWatch Volunteers a speech was given at the international Absolute Festival in Amsterdam (July) and at the international meeting of Féminin Pluriel in Amsterdam (September). Furthermore, several visits were organised in PI Alphen to inform potential volunteers and funders about the work of PrisonWatch.

Plans for 2020

There have been several meetings with staff in the penitentiary institution Ter Apel which exclusively holds foreign national prisoners. The wish is to start a pilot in Ter Apel as well. Also in the penitentiary institution of Nieuwersluis, which holds only female prisoners, there is also an interest to start a pilot.

ANBI

PrisonWatch has sent a request to the Dutch tax authorities to become registered as a Dutch public benefit organisation (ANBI).

Financial situation

In 2019, PrisonWatch did not receive financial support. The expenses were paid by PrisonWatch Advice. PrisonWatch received however from the foundation Nelis van Dril 500 picture dictionaries *Picture it in Prison*. These dictionaries were handed out to foreign national prisoners that arrive in the penitentiary institution of Alphen aan den Rijn. The dinner costs of one meeting of the PrisonWatch Team were sponsored by the penitentiary institution of Alphen aan den Rijn. The expenditures in 2019 were:

Printing material:	€ 1,155
Website:	€ 987
Vests host	€ 269
Administration:	€ 50
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Total costs:	€ 2,461

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Income & Expenditure		€
Income		
Donations		14520
Donation PrisonWatch Advice		2461
Total		16981
Expenditure		
Banking costs		0
Administration costs		50
Printing material		1155
Website		987
Clothing PrisonWatch hosts		269
Volunteer costs		0
Foundation costs (notary)		0
Development brand identity		14520
Total		16981

Assets & Liabilities			
Assets		Liabilities	
Brand identity	14520	Donations	16981
Clothing	269	Loss 2019	-1592
Printing material	600		
Bank	0	Accounts payable	0
	15389		15389