



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
To the Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation
Mrs. E.M.J. Ploumen
Postbus 20061
2500 EB The Hague

Regarding: NGO recommendations WHS High-Level Leaders' Roundtable Women and Girls

The Hague, 26 April 2016

Dear Mrs. Ploumen,

As we head towards the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in May in Istanbul, CARE Nederland, Rutgers and WO=MEN would hereby like to give you our recommendations for commitments to be made by the Dutch government at the WHS High Level Leaders' Roundtable *Women and Girls: Catalyzing Action to Achieve Gender Equality*.

First of all, we applaud your commitment to gender equality and SRHR in general, and in humanitarian crises in particular. The Dutch government has manifested itself as a strong gender champion in the run-up to the WHS. Thanks to our concerted efforts as governments and NGO's, the unacceptable gender-blindness, and exclusion of women and girls in decision-making in many crisis settings, are now firmly on the agenda of the WHS.

Now is the time for action. The High Level Leaders' Round Table on Women and Girls must lead to concrete commitments of all stakeholders involved to identify barriers that prevent the effective implementation of existing policies and frameworks, and take bold steps to remove these barriers, and enable women and girls to fully realize their rights in humanitarian crises. We are confident that the Dutch government will make a valuable contribution to this.

The attached recommendations were drafted by CARE Nederland and Rutgers. WO=MEN, the Dutch Gender Platform, coordinated input by other Dutch NGO's and networks with expertise on gender and humanitarian aid and facilitated a brainstorm session on Thursday 21 April¹, which was kindly hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Building furthermore on the ICVA NGO Brief for this specific Roundtable², the attached recommendations are strongly grounded in collective NGO experience and expertise.

¹ Contributions were made by: Gender Concerns International, ICCO, International Rescue Committee/Stichting Vluchteling, Netherlands Red Cross, Plan Nederland, Prisma, Stichting VOND, Women Peacemakers Programme.

² <https://icvanetwork.org/resources/women-and-girls-catalyzing-action-achieve-gender-equality>

Our recommendations focus on:

- the empowerment of women and girls as change agents and leaders;
- universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- and increased funding and accountability for gender-responsive humanitarian programming.

Lastly, we warmly invite you and your colleagues to the dedicated Side Event on Gender, which CARE is co-organizing with UNOCHA, UN Women and Action Aid, as well as the side event on Transformative Humanitarian Action for Sexual and Reproductive Health that IPPF, UNFPA and WHO are organising, and where these issues will be discussed further.

We remain at your disposal for any further discussion on these recommendations or related topics,

Yours sincerely,



Perry Heijne
Director CARE Nederland



Ton Coenen
Rutgers



Elisabeth van der Steenhoven
Director WO=MEN

Attachment: NGO recommendations WHS 2016 High-Level Leaders' Roundtable Women and Girls