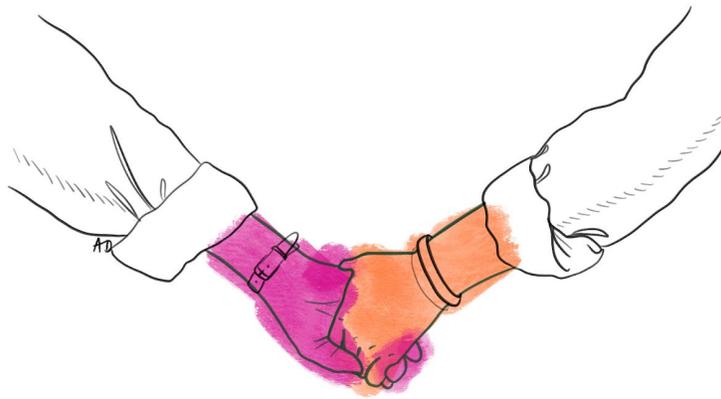




Annual Report 2019-2020





Introduction

Neighborhood Feminists began in September 2019 with a single project run from our living rooms. Over 2020, as co-founders, we have watched Neighborhood Feminists expand in various ways. As we continue to grow, we stay committed to a practical feminism that directly tackles concrete struggles.

We have increased and diversified funding despite the challenges posed by the corona crisis. Early in 2020 we developed a fundraising strategy but, sadly, we were not able to apply it due to the pandemic. Just like everyone in 2020 we are also learning to be more flexible and adapt to the ever-changing circumstances. In this spirit, we still found ways to work with other organisations; find out more in the Fundraising section of this report. We continue to receive individual donations, which go directly into the Dignity Kits project. And speaking of the Dignity Kits project, it has grown significantly in the past year! We are now working with two new locations – Maya Angelou Opvang and Jeannette Noëlhuis – and have increased the amount of Dignity Kits delivered at Wereldhuis from 20 to 50 kits monthly.

Last summer, we decided it was time to move all the boxes from our hallways and living rooms and find an office space in Amsterdam Zuidoost. We moved into an office at Broedplaats Kazerne in October and started taking volunteers on board. We laid the groundwork for two paid staff members, who started in February 2021.

This year we were also nominated for the Omarmprijs, an initiative that rewards organisations that are fighting against poverty in Amsterdam. This nomination led to a very interesting discussion about [ethical storytelling](#) and the values that we wish to uphold as Neighborhood Feminists continues to grow.

In November Scotland surprised us all with their landmark legislation countering period poverty, becoming the first country to make period products free and putting pressure on other countries to follow in their footsteps. France made period products free for students and Belgium pledged funds to make period products more accessible. All over the world period poverty is being recognized as a real issue and awareness of governments' responsibility in ensuring access to menstrual products is increasing.



People have been increasingly finding us online when looking for initiatives tackling period poverty in the Netherlands. Since the beginning of the Dignity Kits project we have been aware that, while what we do is valuable and important, it does not change the structural and underlying conditions that lead to period poverty. We hope to become obsolete one day and for the local and/or national government to address this issue. With this in mind, after a year of delivering Dignity Kits we decided it was time to start looking into ways to affect structural change through advocacy. We connected with municipal council members about addressing the worrying increase in period poverty within Amsterdam, linked to overall economic pressures.

To accomplish our advocacy and organisational growth goals we have increased our participation in networks. We became a member of the Nederlandse Vrouwenraad in order to connect with other feminist organisations in the Netherlands. We also joined Share-Net Netherlands, a network of professionals, students and researchers working on sexual and reproductive health and rights in the Netherlands and internationally. We look forward to intensifying our participation in both these networks in 2021 to share and generate knowledge with like-minded people and organisations.

We hope you enjoy reading what Neighborhood Feminists has been up to in 2020 in more detail in the following pages. While it was a year of uncertainty, it was also a year of opportunity and enthusiastic growth for us – and we look forward to growing further together with you!

The Neighborhood Feminists co-founders

Anneloes Dijkman

Camila Montecinos Díaz

Tammy Sheldon

Please note: Neighborhood Feminists was founded in fall 2019, and was not obligated to draft a separate financial and narrative annual report over 2019. This annual report therefore spans late 2019 and 2020.



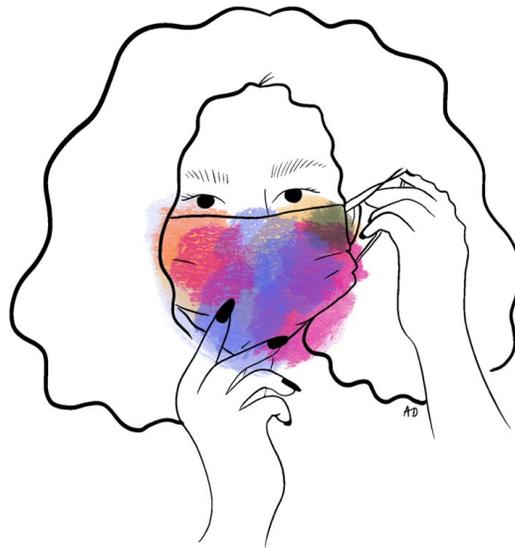
The Neighborhood Feminists mission

We support women and marginalized groups in the Netherlands by improving their daily lives in a tangible way, with a focus on intersectional feminist and anti-racist issues.

We do so by:

- setting up and running small-scale projects in the community with a direct impact on our target group
- providing needed tools to target groups to better reach individual potential
- complementing and strengthening other initiatives with similar goals through informal collaboration and strategic amplifying of shared issues

While our actions are concrete, our ultimate goal is transformative, systemic change, with a view to greater equity and representation for all members of the community. We emphasize longer term, sustainable approaches; integral to this is our aim to make ourselves obsolete as an organization, by systematically influencing policy changes that better address actual community needs and by promoting community-driven solutions.





Programmatic developments



582

**Dignity Kits
distributed**



19194

**Pads & tampons
distributed**



90

**People supported
monthly**

The Dignity Kits Project

As we researched the unmet needs of marginalized people in Amsterdam and existing programs, period poverty came up as a persistent, systemic issue that disproportionately affects the poor and people of color in Amsterdam (as elsewhere). This led to our first pilot, the Dignity Kits project.

We believe access to hygiene is a basic right, and our starting point in this project is that people can have a stronger sense of dignity when they are able to adequately care for themselves. Through our Dignity Kits project, we provide marginalized people in Amsterdam with period products and other essential toiletries. We provide this support on a regular basis, which means the people we help have one thing less to worry about every month. We currently mostly support undocumented women who live in shelter houses or frequent walk-in support locations in Zuid-Oost, Oost and Centrum.

After the success of the first six-months, we decided to extend the pilot period until fall 2020 in part because of the economic and public health uncertainty. Both need and demand continued, so continuity was the best strategy. After evaluation in the fall and positive external response, we extended the project. In December 2020, we reshaped the project to focus more on period poverty and the provision of period products. This decision was for both logistics and the unvarnished, persistent fact that the needs of people who menstruate are usually overlooked in programs that support marginalized groups. The revision of the project's focus means continued delivery of Dignity Kits with travel-size essentials for homeless people who



menstruate. For other locations, our focus is on delivering period products, enabling us to expand the number of people helped by distribution of these products.



“Thank you all for the thought of this organisation, this stuff was really helpful to me and my friends.”

-- email received from C. on January 26, 2020

In 2020, the amount of people supported monthly grew from 30 to 90. In addition to structural support, we have provided period products and toiletries incidentally in urgent situations. For example, we have provided care products for a group of new mothers and newborns frequenting Wereldhuis in the summer. We also supported a group of [50 women](#) who lost their livelihoods due to the corona crisis with three months worth of period products.



Advocacy

We amplify the ongoing concerns of the marginalized communities we work with in ongoing contact with the municipality and across the city. This includes developing policy strategy, through advisory relationships with council members and city administrators, as well as informal alliances with other complementary anti-poverty, anti-racist, and feminist initiatives. We build awareness of these issues to the larger public. As we continue to expand our scope, we foresee a role for relevant advocacy beyond Amsterdam.

Provinciale Staten

In late 2019, we supported the development of a motion in the Provinciale Staten Utrecht to distribute free period products through public libraries, which would fall under the provincial budget. Unfortunately, this motion was to be put up to vote right when the pandemic hit the Netherlands in the spring of 2020, and was therefore retracted until further notice.

National rape law consultation

In the summer of 2020, the Ministry of Justice opened a call for input related to the proposed adaptations of the Wet Seksuele Misdriften, the sexual crimes criminal law. Neighborhood Feminists was one of the 101 individuals and organizations that [submitted input](#). Part of this proposed adaptation was an extension of the criminal classification of rape. Minister Grapperhaus announced in 2019 that the Dutch law would no longer require the use of force for abuse to be qualified as rape (not moving to a full consent-based law, but moving in that direction), following the agreements under the Istanbul Convention that the Netherlands ratified in 2016.

The proposed change was to split the article in the Dutch criminal law in 2: one for “rape with force” and one for rape without the use of force (*seks tegen de wil*, in the proposed adaptation), for which the penalty would be half of the existing rape penalty. However, statistics show that about 75% of victims fully freeze during rape and will not resist (i.e. often not resulting in very visible marks of the use of force, thus unable to prove use of force if a case does come to court).

Recognizing the topic touched upon current societal opinions and norms related to sexual boundaries, the Ministry opened up an [online consultation](#) requesting input on the proposed adaptation of the law, fielding input from professionals and citizens alike. The main point of our input in the consultation was that there is no such thing as *seks tegen de wil*: sex against your will is the definition of rape and should be punished accordingly. We collaborated with a



rape survivor to include her personal story underlining the many instances rape may take place without additional physical violence or force

The Ministry [took the received input to heart](#), ultimately abandoning the idea of making a difference between “rape” (with use of physical force/violence) and “sex against your will” (without additional physical force/violence). All will now be criminally considered rape in the newly revised proposed law.

Municipal advocacy

In December 2020, building on the momentum witnessed in Scotland, France and Belgium, we initiated conversation with members of the Amsterdam city council to seriously address period poverty through an initiatiefvoorstel. Work on this period poverty proposal will continue in 2021.

CSE Workshops

People at the locations we work with for the Dignity Kits project have expressed a need for comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) workshops, wanting information topics such as safe sex, sexual and reproductive health services, and to be able to address cultural norms around sexual and reproductive health and rights, and effective communication of personal boundaries. Development of a module began in 2020 and a pilot workshop for Wereldhuis is ready to go in 2021 once the corona measures permit.

Undocumented Rights Flyer

The needs of migrants and refugees have only increased in the 2020 winter of covid-19, its variants, and resulting job and home loss. Without a lot of fuss, there are a few small groups in Amsterdam continuing to work very hard, making great efforts for people without papers.

One such organization is [Human Aid Now](#), which, despite its small size, provides direct help to refugees in several countries. Human Aid Now is also quite active in [Amsterdam](#), providing food packages to those without access to options such as the food bank, or Voedselbank, and we work together with them to help those falling through the “cracks” in the system. Another group very visibly engaged with refugees is [Amsterdam City Rights](#). ACR identifies and develops projects that contribute to an inclusive city, in order to better accommodate the legal rights and needs of undocumented migrants.



Amsterdam City Rights, Human Aid Now, and Neighborhood Feminists came together to develop a simple, easily updated and/or reproduced flyer which outlines the existing legal rights undocumented people have in the Netherlands, as too often, both refugees and locals are not fully aware. [Steungroep Vrouwen Zonder Verblijfsvergunning \(SVZV\)](#) and national refugee information centre [Stichting Los](#) also contributed, compiling the information in cooperation with ACR.

We intend to provide this information flyer with every Dignity Kit, and also maintain a periodically updated PDF version [on our website](#). The intention is also to have the flyer regularly updated, and available in relevant languages.

Community hub

Building relationships within the community is very much at the heart of what we do. In addition to developing projects to better meet needs as determined together with the community, we wish to establish ourselves as a grassroots, feminist hub for Zuidoost, and the city as a whole. We like to remain practical, requiring our projects be relevant, with real buy-in from others. For this reason, we have been investing time in building trust one on one, so that Neighborhood Feminists can become part of the community organically over time.

As an example of a first step, we have made our office available to [Carabic](#), an organization led by two community members who needed a place to work on their own social initiative. We remain open to offering space to others, as conditions permit. Other planned community-focused workshops and activities have unfortunately been postponed in 2020 due to corona measures.



Internal Organization

After registering as an official non-profit organization in 2019, we were also granted ANBI status by the Dutch government. Neighborhood Feminists is thereby officially recognized as an organization for the common good without a profit motive, and board members remain unsalaried.

Volunteers

Wanting to ensure smooth management of both the Dignity Kits project and our own development, we did not take on volunteers for the first year, beyond some one-of assistance, such as during the Wieden+Kennedy art sale event. We began accepting volunteers once we moved into Remmerdenplein 100. All volunteers have reached out to us through social media, without us actively promoting our search for volunteers. We closed off 2020 with a group of about 7 volunteers.

“I knew that Neighbourhood Feminists saw the links between dismantling the patriarchy, white supremacy, and economic inequality. It has become somewhere that I can use my skills in a productive way, but also keep learning and doing the necessary work to be able to call myself an intersectional feminist.”

--Lizzie, Neighborhood Feminists volunteer

It's our intention to cultivate a space of growth and connection for everyone involved--including volunteers. With this in mind, we encourage longer term commitments, clearer individual responsibilities, and a sense of connection as feminists, keeping in mind the differing interests and levels of capacity. One aspect we do require remains a firm commitment to intersectional feminism and anti-racism action.

Staff

In 2020, we laid the groundwork for recruiting a Coordinator as our first staff member. As we are growing programmatically, a natural next step is to move project execution to staff members, with more strategic decisions being handled jointly between staff and board. With some really strong candidates applying, we decided to select two great candidates who will work together as Neighborhood Feminists Coordinators per February 2021.



Board

The board consisted of the following members in 2020, all co-founders of Neighborhood Feminists:

Anneloes Dijkman (Chair/Treasurer)

Camila Montecinos Díaz (Secretary)

Tammy Sheldon (General Board Member)





Fundraising

When possible, we seek private funding in order to ensure relative independence for our local actions. We particularly appreciate the added value of community awareness-building which comes with individual donors who give small amounts monthly, but often engage more actively on these issues within their own networks.

While the board drafted a fundraising strategy for the year in February 2020, this plan was quickly rendered obsolete because of the COVID19 pandemic, greatly limiting our ability to organize events, workshops and other fundraising and outreach activities which involved the greater public.

Wieden+Kennedy

Luckily, right before the first lockdown in March 2020 we were able to hold a fundraising event at the Amsterdam offices of advertising agency Wieden+Kennedy. To mark International Women's Day, W+K organized the [The Intersection](#) art auction bringing together some 60 creators from Amsterdam. All proceeds from the sold artwork went to our Dignity Kits project, ultimately raising approx. EUR 3.000 which went directly to filling Dignity Kits.

Lush

Lush Amsterdam supported us with their [Charity Pot in-store](#) action in October 2020, raising over EUR 1.000 despite greatly limited shopping opportunities for customers due to corona measures. In December 2020, we also submitted an application for their national Charity Pot fund, which was approved in January 2021. The national Charity Pot fund will raise money from the purchase of the Charity Pot both in all Dutch stores and online.

Soroptimist Leiden Aurora

Neighborhood Feminists was one of the two main 2020 beneficiaries of Soroptimist club Leiden Aurora. They raised EUR 1.000 for our Dignity Kits project through an online auction and actions from individual members, such as selling facemasks.

Utopa Foundation

Our biggest single donor in 2020 was the Utopa Foundation. Utopa began supporting the Dignity Kits project in late 2019. In the summer of 2020, we had an extended discussion about sustainable, results-oriented community building, advocacy and policy development – and what we'd need to get started. Utopa agreed to fund a significant percentage of our



overhead and start-up costs for 2 years, amounting to EUR 60.000 annually, with a guarantee of EUR 12.000 should other matching funding grant applications be unsuccessful.

Individual donations

Grassroots, individual donations were very limited, initially due to our capacity. In 2020, our minimal capacity was further compounded by the wide-ranging impacts of the pandemic. With increased capacity in 2021, we see actively building this source of support.



Finances

Neighborhood Feminists became an official NGO in October 2019; with a start late in the calendar year, we were not obligated to draft a financial annual report for 2019. We have therefore included the financial reports over the last quarter of 2019 and over 2020 separately with this narrative report.

Included in the following pages are therefore the following required financial overviews:

- 2019 (page 15)
 - Balance 31-12-2019
 - Profit and Loss 01-01-2019 through 31-12-2019
- 2020 (pages 16-17)
 - Balance 31-12-2020
 - Profit and Loss 01-01-2020 through 31-12-2020

Additional notes

For 2019, the year-end surplus is because we received part of the Utopa grant for 2020 in the final week of December 2019.

Neighborhood Feminists closed off 2020 with a surplus of EUR 14.301,22., due to a number of factors:

- While we had budgeted EUR 7.500 to hire an employee per October 1st, 2020, we did not end up hiring staff until February 2021.
- We underspent by EUR 2.600 on Dignity Kits because as we grew, we could buy in larger quantities, at better rates.
- Our anticipated office rent and amenities turned out to be considerably lower as we were able to move into a (subsidized) *broedplaats* space, while having originally budgeted for a commercial rate.
- We did not organize any events or workshops because of the corona measures, and did not pay as much in volunteer fees and remuneration due to canceled activities.



Balance t/m 31-12-2019

Code	Description	Assets	Liabilities
1010	Bank	6.282,49	
1420	General reserves		6.336,09
1600	Sales tax (<i>Voorbelasting</i>)		0,40
1650	BTW R/C	54,00	
	Balance		
		6.336,49	6.336,49

Profit and loss 01-11-2019 through 31-12-2019

Code	Description	Loss	Profit
0120	Product cost Dignity Kits	324,46	
4550	Bank costs	9,76	
5000	Donations		1.200,31
5100	Grants		5.469,91
9998	Result	6.336,09	
	Balance		
		6.670,22	6.670,22



Balance t/m 31-12-2020

Code	Description	Assets	Liabilities
1010	Bank	19.871,84	
1420	General reserves		20.637,31
1630	Sales tax to pay (BTW Af te dragen Hoog)	0,07	
1650	BTW R/C	761,00	
	Balance	4,40	
		20.637,31	20.637,31



Profit and loss 01-01-2020 through 31-12-2020

Code	Description	Loss	Profit
0120	Product costs Dignity Kits	8.385,96	
4540	Business gifts	8,68	
4550	Bank costs	141,66	
4600	Kilometer allowance	48,64	
4650	Travel costs	26,80	
4700	Office furnishing and supplies	1.904,15	
4740	Printing, postage and shipping	1.160,59	
4780	Office rent	1.524,17	
4790	Other office costs	69,01	
4800	Insurances	60,00	
5000	Donations		2.750,85
5010	Events and collaborations		5.047,01
5100	Grants		20.000
6001	Volunteer fees	166,98	
9998	Result	14.301,22	
	Balance		
		27.797,86	27.797,86