



Annual Plan 2021

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, increasing and diversifying funding; taking volunteers on board; moving into an office; and recruiting paid staff. In 2021, we will both consolidate and further build on this eventful first year.

The Neighborhood Feminists mission

We support women and marginalized groups in the Netherlands by improving their daily lives in a tangible way, with a particular interest in addressing 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

While our actions are concrete, our ultimate goal is transformative, systemic change, resulting in greater equity and representation for all members of the community.

Program priorities in 2021

From February 1, we welcome two coordinators who will take over much of the day-to-day execution of our vision and mission. Working together with the board, they will play a key role in strategically shaping Neighborhood Feminists' professionalization both internally, in further developing processes, and externally, in raising funds, fine-tuning existing projects and helping launch new actions.



We will continue distributing Dignity Kits; this, our first action, also remains our biggest project. Other related projects, such as sexuality education workshops, which were delayed by covid-19 limitations in 2020, will occur in 2021.

Any project we consider must involve self-led community-based solutions while incorporating longer-term policy influence. We prefer to begin with a pilot phase then evaluate, aiming for sustainable results in our projects. Ultimately, however our goal is to render ourselves obsolete as an organization, by pushing for systemic change.

With this goal of transformative change in mind, we will prioritize advocacy work in 2021. Building on the momentum of the landmark Scottish decision to make period products free to all those who menstruate, we advocate to put period poverty high on the Amsterdam agenda, for local lawmakers and community stakeholders.

Building relationships within the community is at the heart of what we do. In addition to developing projects to better meet the (self-determined) needs of the community, we intend to establish the Kazerne as a grassroots, feminist hub for Zuidoost-- and the city as a whole. As a first step, we have made our office available for community members who need a place to work on their own social initiatives. To address the urgent and growing economic need due to the covid-19 crisis, future plans under consideration include establishing a model mutual aid network or a market/distribution point, both of which could include one-off events, such as a small-group session on resume-writing and interview preparation.

Rather than be overly prescriptive in determining community needs, we find it crucial to remain practical, requiring our projects be relevant, with real buy-in. For this reason, we invest time in building trust, so that Neighborhood Feminists can become part of the community. In 2021, we therefore intend to launch a Neighborhood Council. The Council will bring together a select group of active, locally-based community members who can advise on individual Neighborhood Feminists projects.

In advising, the Council will share a measure of ownership in these projects: while the day-to-day requirements will be carried out by the coordinators and volunteers, we hope Council members will also function as spokespersons for individual projects within the community, whether within Reigersbos, Zuidoost, or across Amsterdam. In collaboration with the Neighborhood Council--and depending on evolving corona measures--we will offer a range of activities and resources for community members.



Fundraising

Our current funds consist of a 2-year Utopa Foundation grant, single fund-raising events organized by companies on our behalf, and a modest number of individual donors. Our goal for 2021 is to diversify our funding, with a preference for non-governmental sources, in order to ensure greater neutrality and independence for local actions.

We prioritize diversifying grant funding to increase our sustainability, focusing on multi-annual programs or grants. (Additionally, the Utopa grant requires us to raise at least 15.000 euros of matching funding.)

We will launch an International Women's Day campaign to grow our individual donor base. We particularly appreciate the added value of community awareness-building which comes with individual donors, some of whom have become quite loyal in the past year.

Advocacy

Directly with the municipality, and at a community and citywide level, we amplify the ongoing concerns of the marginalized communities we work with. This includes developing strategy, policy, and advisory relationships with council members and city administrators, as well as alliances with other complementary initiatives, and relevant research. As our advocacy campaigns mature, we will expand our scope as relevant, possibly beyond Amsterdam. As earlier mentioned, the issue of period poverty will be front and center in 2021.

CSW 2021

We are a member of the [Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad](#) (NVR), an ECOSOC-accredited NGO, which hosts the Dutch women's representative to the UN (currently Angela Maas); our membership gives access to UN-level advocacy events and processes, as NVR and member associations organize preparatory meetings for UN commissions and events. While we do not anticipate a short term lead role in UN-level advocacy work, there is value for us in linking local, national and global levels. We want to bring local, lived experience to the international level, and use international decisions to drive local decision-makers and stakeholders to action.



We will participate in the upcoming [65th UN Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW), held March 15-26. This year's CSW themes are

- Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls
- Review theme: Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session)

Attending relevant meetings in the Commission and Side Events will position us to better assess our optimal international role in 2022.

Advocacy with the Amsterdam City Council

In December 2020, we began conversations with Amsterdam city council members about period poverty. We intend to continue these conversations in 2021 and hope to bring attention to period poverty as a human rights issue and support the development of a realistic plan with the City Council to support those affected by it. Through this, we hope Amsterdam can become an example to other cities on how to tackle the issue of period poverty and that other cities in the Netherlands will follow. We see these conversations as a first step in a long road to making period products accessible for all.

[Other projects](#)

SRHR/CSE workshops

The people who receive our Dignity Kits have asked for sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) workshops. Because we prioritize representation, a safe space and quality material, we place experienced trainers of color whenever possible, who receive a stipend. In response to demand, we are developing a stand-alone pilot workshop for Wereldhuis, with possible expansion to the Maya Angelou Huis. The workshop at Wereldhuis will take place as soon as corona measures allow.

Counseling

We would like to start offering donation-based counseling to the communities we work with at the Kazerne. Private counseling and support has not yet begun, due to the ongoing public health concerns and our space limitations. We hope to take further steps to make this happen once the covid-19 guidelines permit.



Legal aid

We would also like to start offering legal aid to the communities we work with at the Kazerne. This legal counseling has not yet begun due to the ongoing public health concerns and our space limitations. We hope to take further steps to make this happen once the covid-19 guidelines permit.

Board and staff

Board and staff members in 2021 are:

Anneloes Dijkman (Chair/Treasurer)
Camila Montecinos Díaz (Secretary)
Tammy Sheldon (General Board Member)
Ivanka Annot (Coordinator)
Nicole Römer (Coordinator)

We continue to benefit from a small pool of enthusiastic volunteers.

Finances

The budget for 2021 has been included as an addendum to this annual plan. Our forecast income is EUR 81.500 and our expenditures EUR 95.000. We have a surplus from 2020 of approximately EUR 14.000 that will be brought over to 2021.

We have confirmed funding until the end of 2022 from the Utopa grant, which is the majority of our current income. Because dependence on one funding source is not sustainable as earlier noted, it is a 2021 fundraising priority to raise additional funds for Neighborhood Feminists projects and overhead from different sources.