**Annex: Guidance to submit written contributions for the preparation of the 2024 report of the United Nations Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme of activities of the International Decade for People of African Descent**

Please provide information about concrete and practical steps taken at national level through the adoption and effective implementation of national and international legal frameworks, policies and programmes to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance faced by people of African descent, taking into account the particular situation of women, girls and young males, in particular in the following areas as identified in the programme of activities.

**1. Recognition**

**(a) Right to equality and non-discrimination**

* **National Program against Discrimination and Racism**

In 2022, the Dutch Government appointed a National Coordinator against Discrimination and Racism (NCDR), to strengthen an integrated and intersectional approach to discrimination and racism. The NCDR reports to the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom

Relations (BZK) and also works alongside the Ministry of Justice and Security, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (SZW), the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. The Ministers of these departments themselves remain responsible for the development, setting out and implementation of policy. The NCDR is charged with:

• consulting and maintaining relationships with social initiatives, movements and interest groups, as well as with the administrative bodies and companies involved;

• drafting a National Program consisting of a multi-annual component and an annual action program;

• urging all stakeholders to reach the goals laid down in the National Program.

One of the topics that the NCDR adresses, is institutional discrimination and ethnic profiling. The Dutch government’s acknowledgement of the existence of racism and discrimination is a important first step. Seeking to raise awareness and ensure that ethnic profiling and institutional racism are eliminated, the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations is working together with the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights for the government-wide roll-out of the review framework ‘Discrimination through Risk Profiling’.

The English version of the 2023 program is not yet available. This is the link to the 2022 program in English [National+Program+against+Discrimination+and+Racism+2022+-+English.pdf](file:///H%3A/Downloads/National%2BProgram%2Bagainst%2BDiscrimination%2Band%2BRacism%2B2022%2B-%2BEnglish.pdf)

**(b) Education on equality and awareness-raising**

**Some examples:**

* The Ministry of SZW will commission a knowledge synthesis on everyday racism stemming from the legacy of slavery. In a knowledge synthesis, information from existing research is combined with research on existing interventions from practice. The aim is to gain a better understanding of how the legacy of slavery influences contemporary experiences of discrimination and racism.
* Additionally, in 2024, the ministries of BZK and SZW will jointly commission an exploratory study on how various parties can collectively promote a social norm over several years to prevent discrimination and racism in society. The exploration will focus on a potential approach, involvement of parties, and required budget. The exploration should determine which parties could potentially undertake this task. These could be both public and private entities, such as municipalities, educational institutions, trade unions, employer and employee organizations, and companies. The knowledge synthesis and the exploratory study aim to identify interventions that contribute to preventing discrimination and racism. The government will invest €3.8 million from the slavery past fund in this project.
* See 3 c for an update on our curriculum review.

**(c) Information-gathering**

Information-gathering is facilitated by:

- translations of letters to the Dutch House of Parliament in English, Papiamentu en Papiamento;

- funding by the Ministry of SWZ to translate the Decade goals into Dutch;

- development of museums and archives, and in the protection of cultural heritage (see 2b).

**(d) Participation and inclusion**

The Ministry of SZW launched the following Decade projects and initiatives, aimed specifically at the participation and inclusion of people of African descent, the strengthening of local networks and capacity building:

* Launching of the Decade in 2016;
* Subsidy scheme for local projects by Dutch people of African descent;
* Subsidy to the Ocan Foundation, to support initiators with little or no experience with the process of subsidy schemes;
* Subsidy for Black Achievement Month;
* Decade Social Fund. This special fund supports social initiatives related to community well-being, with a focus on empowerment and inclusion of people of African descent. The fund addressed exclusion mechanisms such as stereotyping, prejudice, discrimination, and racism;
* Scheme from the Cultural Participation Fund (VN Decennium Cultuurfonds) for local cultural initiatives by people of African descent, aimed at awareness raising and uniting Dutch people of African descent with other groups in our society.
* Grants to municipalities to support them in their local implementation of the Decade goals on recognition, justice and development;
* Pilots to support intermediaries in establishing stronger relations between municipalities and local Dutch communities of African descent.
* Research into the backgrounds, causes and triggerfactors of discrimination of Dutch people of African descent in the Netherlands.

**2. Justice**

**(a) Access to justice**

As an example of our efforts to increase access to justice, a short update on our coming campaign:

The government will step up its efforts to fight discrimination and racism, as indicated in the government response of 19 December 2022. In order to further increase the findability, visibility and reporting accessibility of the antidiscrimination agencies (hereafter: ADVs), the Ministry of BZK will in 2024 and 2025 develop and roll out a public communication strategy in line with the campaign ‘Meld het wél! Discriminatie.nl’ (‘You should tell! Discriminatie.nl’). For this purpose, the government will make €1.7 million available.

**(b) Special measures**

* **Apologies for slavery past**

On July 1st, 2023, formal apologies were made by various representatives of the Dutch government. Our King asked forgiveness from descendants of enslaved people in the European and Caribean parts of the Netherlands. The first of July 2023 marked the 150th year of the abolition of Transatlantic slavery in the Netherlands.

In the past six months, dialogue sessions have been held in the European Netherlands, to exchange views with participants on what the Slavery Past Memorial Committee should look like, and what shape the scheme for social initiatives in the European Netherlands should take.

The Ministry of Justice and Security is working on the temporary scheme to allow descendants of enslaved people to change their names without charge.

The Dutch government will make further investments in the conservation and further development of museums and archives, and in the protection of cultural heritage. Existing museum and archive collections contain sources about the slavery past. There are also organisations which, with the help of a heritage community, find and preserve new sources, widely sharing the associated stories and encouraging discussions about them. It is important that descendants have a central role in this. We will therefore use the funds made available to support institutions which offer this pluralistic perspective of cultural heritage. For this purpose, the government will make €4.5 million available from the slavery past fund for the years 2024-2034.

[voortgangsbrief-slavernijverleden-engels.pdf](file:///H%3A/Downloads/voortgangsbrief-slavernijverleden-engels.pdf)

* **Slavery Past Memorial Year**

Slavery Past Memorial Year will end on 1 July 2024 but, as the letter in the link below shows, there will be no end to commemorating, and the attention for the slavery past will not diminish. We see that the Memorial Year has created a movement, with widespread attention and recognition for the slavery past and dialogues and knowledge building about this past. Now that this movement has started, we are working together on a structural dialogue about our shared history, on knowledge and awareness raising in society, on joint commemoration and on fighting the impact of the slavery past. Some examples of areas of progress in the implementation of the Memorial Year.:

* the Memorial Year involved the creation of two subsidy schemes with the Cultural Participation Fund and the Mondriaan Fund. The schemes amount to €7.2 million in total: €6 million provided by central government and €1.2 million by the Cultural Participation Fund itself. In addition, the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Science (OCW) supports several projects in countries with a connection to the Dutch slavery past as part of the Commemoration Year. By now, around 200 projects in total have been supported in the European Netherlands and the Caribbean region of the Kingdom. These projects relate to visual arts, heritage, performing arts and literature, but also podcasts, dialogues, safe space sessions, workshops, commemorative events and celebrations. The Cultural Participation Fund has appointed scouts to support initiators in both parts of the Kingdom in submitting project applications.
* As part of the Commemoration Year, the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Science (OCW) facilitates international knowledge collaboration in the field of the slavery past. OCW provides additional research funding to enable research on the slavery past from various countries. For collaboration with Aruba, Curaçao, and Sint Maarten, €375,000 is available until 2027. Budget is also allocated for Bonaire, Saba, and Sint Eustatius, and efforts are underway to collaborate with Suriname, South Africa, and Indonesia to establish a chair to further facilitate research there.
* November 2023 saw the launch of the online campaign ‘Geschiedenis, van ons allemaal’ (‘History, of every one of us’). This campaign focuses on people’s personal stories about the slavery past and its impact on the present. The stories are shared on [www.OCW-verhalen.nl](http://www.OCW-verhalen.nl) and the social media channels of the Ministry and the participants.
* The NiNsee will arrange the closing ceremony of the Slavery Past Memorial Year. The NiNsee is already responsible for organising the National Slavery Past Commemoration and the Keti Koti Festival. The commemorative events, celebrations and gatherings in Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Maarten will be arranged by organisations on the islands, with a contribution from the NiNsee if there should be a need for this.

[Vertalingen Kamerbrief voortgang vervolgtraject excuses Slavernijverleden | Kamerstuk | Rijksoverheid.nl](https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2024/04/22/vertalingen-kamerbrief-voortgang-vervolgtraject-excuses-slavernijverleden)

**3. Development**

**(a) Right to development and measures against poverty**

The Central Statistics Office (CBS) closely monitors the socio-economic position of various groups with a migration background. In terms of income, the groups with a Sub-Saharan background have a relatively large disadvantage compared to the group without a migration background. The gap is much smaller among the group with a Surinamese and Dutch Caribbean background, but there still remains a significant income gap. There is progress between generations: the income of the 2nd generation is higher for all groups with a migration background than for the 1st generations.

In the Netherlands, more than 900,000 people live in poverty, including 221,000 children. Since July 2022, the Dutch government has implemented additional measures to prevent and address financial concerns, poverty, and debt. The primary goal is to reduce poverty by half by the year 2030, compared to the levels in 2015. Additionally, the government aims to have half as many children growing up in poverty by 2025 as there were in 2015. To achieve these goals, the government has implemented several measures:

- Increased income for people in poverty by raising the minimum wage and enhancing various benefits, such as old-age pensions (AOW) and social assistance (bijstand).

- Enhanced Social Benefits: as of January 1, 2023, health care, housing, childcare, and child-related allowances were raised. Efforts are being made to encourage people to utilise existing support services they are entitled to.

-Support for Children and Families: additional funding is provided for children’s needs, including school supplies, birthday celebrations, and extracurricular activities.

- Financial Literacy Education:the government aims to teach children and young people better money management skills through educational programs.

**(b) Education**

The Dutch government is mindful of the slavery past in the current curriculum review. In detailing the draft attainment targets as part of the curriculum review, proposals are being included where relevant on how to embed racism, discrimination, antisemitism, the colonial past and migration history in the curriculum. The revised draft attainment targets for citizenship and digital literacy were presented on 6 March 2024. These address the themes of discrimination and racism. The draft attainment targets for the other learning areas, including man and society, will be delivered at the end of 2024.

**(c) Employment**

The Program for an Inclusive Labor Market (VIA) aims to create a diverse and inclusive labor market by reducing disparities for individuals with a migration background. It strives for an employment environment where everyone receives equal opportunities. The VIA program focuses on improving the labor market position of people with non-Western migration backgrounds through various initiatives and pilot projects.

The VIA program has an generic approach on diversity and inclusiveness, as this is the most effective approach in reducing discrimination in hiring and selecting an diminishing disparities in the labour market.

**(d) Health**

The government wants to counteract the negative impact of the slavery past in the area of health and wellbeing. An initial inventory among the communities revealed aspects such as the effect on (mental) health. For instance, there may be an intergenerational trauma for which regular health authorities cannot always offer the right support. We are taking these signals seriously. The Ministry of Public Health, Welfare and Sport (hereafter: VWS) therefore intends to develop a number of specific interventions, in consultation with parties in the healthcare and wellbeing domain and descendants of enslaved people, with the aim to counteract the impact of slavery on the health and wellbeing of descendants. The government will invest €1.7 million from the slavery past fund in this project.

**(e) Housing**

The ‘Regeling Huisvesting Aandachtsgroepen’ (RHA, Housing Attention Groups Regulation) is a program in the Netherlands aimed at ensuring adequate housing for specific vulnerable populations. As a municipality, you can apply for financial assistance through this program to make more suitable housing available. The RHA supports various groups, including:

- Homeless Individuals: Those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

- Status Holders: Refugees who have been granted asylum and need housing.

- Transitioning from Institutional Care: People leaving institutional care settings.

- Migrant Workers: Providing housing for temporary labor migrants.

- Out-of-Town Students: Accommodating students who live away from home.

- Travelling Communities: Supporting residents of mobile homes or caravans.

- Socially or Medically Urgent Cases: Individuals with urgent social or medical needs.

As a municipality, you have the discretion to determine who qualifies for social or medical urgency. This may include people at risk of homelessness, those with physical, intellectual, sensory, or psychological disabilities, sex workers seeking alternative living arrangements, or Dutch repatriate families who are homeless upon returning to the Netherlands.

There are no policies targeted at specific ethnic groups (but they are included in the above mentioned vulnarable populations, for example refugees from Ethiopia and Eretrea).

**4. Multiple or aggravated discrimination**

See 1 a) for the input on our integrated aproach on (multiple and aggravated) discrimination.

**Please provide concrete recommendations for future courses of action to ensure the continued protection and promotion of the human rights of people of African descent after the conclusion of the Decade.**

As the Kingdom of the Netherlands, we will commission an external research agency to evaluate our own contributions to the ID PAD. The final report will be published in March 2025 with an abstract in English we would be happy to provide you with. The evaluation report will contain recommendations for future courses of action.