



*A better and fairer world for all of us*

Peace SOS

# Annual Report 2020

14 April, 2021

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Bussum, January 28, 2021

Dear reader,

In the beginning of 2020, Peace SOS focused on, amongst others, the need for a nuclear ban. We are very concerned about the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. It is 100 seconds to midnight – the apocalypse – according to the Doomsday Clock of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists of the University of Chicago. We published an op-ed in the Dutch quality daily *Het Parool* about the need to turn back the Doomsday clock, organized an event in front of the Dutch Parliament building and took part in a meeting about nuclear weapons organized by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Furthermore, we were shocked by the bombings and the lives lost in Syria. In the beginning of March, the founder of Peace SOS and another supporter went to the Syrian embassy in Brussels. They didn't want to invite us in, however. In addition, Peace SOS published an article on the chemical attack that took place in the Syrian city of Douma on April 7, 2018 in *Diplomat Magazine*. The OPCW conducted an investigation into the chemical attacks in Syria and consulted Peace SOS. Consequently, Peace SOS is mentioned in the appendix of the report.

The humanitarian tragedy in Yemen continued in 2020. We continued to visit the Iranian embassy to ask them to support a diplomatic solution in Yemen. Our trainee, Loris Cornelissen, wrote his MA thesis about European policy concerning the JCPOA. In addition, we kept close contact with the Yemeni embassy in the Netherlands, and the Dutch embassy for Yemen, which is temporarily located in the Hague as well. Tragically, as in the previous year, while we write this annual report, there are still 24 million people dependent on humanitarian aid in Yemen. Its population is starving and suffering from violence. So we will continue our call for peace and humanitarian aid in Yemen.

We maintained our good relationship with Sapir Handelman of peace organization Minds of Peace, which organizes public peace negotiations between people from Israel and the West Bank, in 2020. In addition, together with our partner World Solar Fund, Peace SOS

supplied Burundian Women for Peace and Development with 10 solar mobile phone chargers. Peace SOS and World Solar Fund also provided two cooking stoves to people in need in Zimbabwe. Please read the blog ‘Freedom stoves’ of Manica Youth Assembly. There are also more blogs on our website, for example from Brahim Khudeda, who escaped from ISIS and fled to Sinjar Mountain, and from Food Plant Solutions. Food Plant Solutions wrote a blog about how they are developing a worldwide database with local edible plants, to fight starvation.

Furthermore a new, global, peace manifesto *For A World in Which All Children Can Play* was presented. It was sent to the embassies of the countries in the UN Security Council and to several countries currently at war.

Lorraine Diaoen was our first treasurer, we are very grateful for her support. She passed on her task to Sander Glas, who wrote the financial part of this annual report. In addition, we are very happy that Loris Cornelissen, Alonie de Lange, Karlijn Roex and Jason Sindram joined the team of Peace SOS.

Sadly, Paul Dijkstra, our partner from ‘worldpeace.nl’ passed away on March 13, 2020. We are extremely grateful for his passion for world peace and what he did to promote peace. I am sure that, together with God, he is directing us from heaven now.

As always we continue our work with dedication, each message from people suffering from the terrible effects of war serves to strengthen our resolve. We will continue to strive for a world in which all children can play. Please feel free to reach out and join us.

Greetings from the heart,

May-May Meijer  
Chairperson Peace SOS

## COUNTRIES

### BURUNDI

Our partner Burundian Women for Peace and Development (BWPD) developed a proposal for community radio in Kirundo. Peace SOS sponsored three microphones for the journalists. The funding was provided thanks to an award from PricewaterhouseCoopers. Due to the fact that activities of international NGOs were forced to be suspended, it took some time for this project to get off the ground.

In addition, together with World Solar Fund, BWPD and Peace SOS provided solar chargers to community leaders in rural areas in Burundi.



*Two people from Burundi show off their solar phone charger*

## ISRAEL-PALESTINE

Minds of Peace organizes public peace negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians from the West Bank. In 2017, the chairperson of Peace SOS participated in public peace negotiations organized by Minds of Peace in Tel Aviv. See the annual report of 2017 for more information. Peace SOS believes that this initiative of Dr. Sapir Handelman contributes to peace. It is important that local people support peace initiatives. Peace SOS continued its relationship with Minds of Peace in 2020.



*Public peace negotiations at Rabin Square in Tel Aviv (2017). Organized by Minds of Peace*

## SYRIA

As mentioned in the introduction, May-May and a friend took part in a protest in front of the Syrian embassy in Brussels with a sign saying *Please think of the children, the civilians in Idlib*. The people of the Syrian embassy did not want to talk to us, however.



*May-May Meijer, chairperson of Peace SOS, in front of the Syrian embassy in Brussels*

## YEMEN

The war in Yemen, one of the poorest countries in the Arab world, is a humanitarian tragedy. Peace SOS made several phone calls with the Yemeni embassy in 2020. We also regularly received statements/press releases from the Yemeni embassy.

## ZIMBABWE

Together with Manica Youth Assembly in Zimbabwe and World Solar Fund, Peace SOS provided two cooking stoves to vulnerable people in Zimbabwe. For more information, read the blog by Manic Youth Assembly write on the website of Peace SOS:

“The stoves are very convenient, eco-friendly, safe, fuel-efficient and user-friendly. They are also handy because they are not just for cooking but they can also light up the home using the accompanying LED light, as well as charge cell phones, making it a wonderful utility gadget for the home. Children can now easily study at night without the danger of burning down the house using candles.

Additionally, because the stoves use only a small amount of dry wood chips, offcuts or sawdust, they pollute the environment much less than wood, and cause fewer health problems. At MAYA, we now call the stove the ‘Freedom Stove’ because the stoves can free women and children from walking long distances to fetch firewood, free women from being abused by police and Environmental Management Agent (EMA) officials, and from the risk of being arrested for wood poaching. The stoves are healthier as they emit very little smoke, giving women, children and even men time to concentrate on productive economic activities rather than fetching wood. This is freedom.”



*Young lady in Zimbabwe using the Freedom Stove*

## VISTING EMBASSIES

Peace SOS regularly sends out requests for meetings with embassy staff to discuss the situation in war-torn countries.

In 2020, Peace SOS visited the Iranian embassy twice. Barbara Groeneveld and Loris Cornelissen alternately accompanied May-May Meijer. We talked again about the need for peace in Yemen and Syria, the nuclear agreement (JCPOA), human rights and journalism in Iran, the death penalty – Peace SOS advocates a worldwide ban on the death penalty – and the position of Baha'is. At Peace SOS we talk about the importance of respect for life, a world in which all children can play. For the past few years, Peace SOS has been visiting the Iranian embassy regularly.



*Loris Cornelissen (left, Peace SOS), Saeid Asadi First Counsellor (Public Diplomacy, Iranian embassy) and May-May Meijer*

In 2020, May-May and Loris had an online meeting with ambassador Pete Hoekstra and the political unit chief of the U.S. embassy in the Hague. We talked about: nuclear weapons, the need for a global ceasefire, the war in Yemen, the tension with Iran, the death of George Floyd, and the death penalty.

Peace SOS also reached out several times – via e-mail and phone calls – to the Saudi embassy; one of the topics discussed was the war in Yemen. On one occasion, the Saudi embassy called Peace SOS, but no physical has materialised as yet. This was also the case in 2019. It is extremely difficult to get in contact with the Saudi embassy, although we had a meeting with a political analyst some years before.

We were also unable to have a meeting with the Russian embassy. We e-mailed and called the protocol department several times to request a meeting with HE Mr. Alexander Shulgin, the Russian ambassador, to talk about the need for peace and humanitarian aid in Syria.

## **MEDIA AND EVENTS 2020**

In 2020, Peace SOS wrote an op-ed opinion article for *Het Parool*, a quality Dutch newspaper.

- ‘The Doomsday clock can still be turned back’ in *Het Parool*, January 2020
- ‘Towards A World in Which All Children Can Play,’ *Diplomat Magazine*, February 2, 2020

Karlijn Roex wrote an op-ed article in *Het Parool* about how discussions about facts will not protect us against nuclear weapons. She also referred to the previous op-ed written by Peace SOS in her article.

- ‘Discussions about facts will not protect us from nuclear weapons,’ in *Het Parool*, January 14, 2020.

In January 2020, Peace SOS organized an event in front of the Dutch Parliament building. The aim of the event was to raise awareness about the need to turn back the Doomsday

Clock and to create unity. We had a large video screen on which the following films were displayed:

- A film about Tetsuko Surlow, a survivor of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. This was a film by peace organization Pax
- A film about May-May calling for a worldwide nuclear ban. This film was made by Paul Dijkstra of WorldPeace.nl
- A film featuring the song ‘Who will stop the nuclear clock?’ from Igloo songs was shown, as well as photos of Karlijn Roex during her visit to Hiroshima
- A film of the song ‘One Day’ performed by Koolulam
- The YouTube film “Plan A” by Princeton University in which a plausible escalating war between the USA and Russia was simulated.

The people who walked by were given small heart-shaped charms with the text: “For a World in Which All Children Can Play.

During International Peace Day on September 2020, Peace SOS presented its second peace manifesto ‘*For A World in Which All Children Can Play*. The manifesto was signed by 31 organizations from various countries, including a number of umbrella organizations, NGOs and religious organizations. The peace manifesto was sent via the embassies to members of the United Nations Security Council and to some countries engaged in war: the Yemen embassy, the Iranian embassy, the Palestinian Authority, the Syrian embassy in Brussels, the Afghanistan embassy. North Korea does not have an embassy.

## **SPONSORING AND FUNDING**

With regard to funding, Peace SOS is funded by a few private individuals and not by any government. Therefore we can fully concentrate on our peace mission and use the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as our starting point.

As in previous years, the chairperson of Peace SOS works approximately 0.8 FTE without a salary to boost the activities of Peace SOS. Peace SOS also notes that some NGOs express opinion articles in paid publicity value. However, for us it is more important that our calls for peace are heard.

In the first two months of the year, May-May worked regularly at Seats2Meet Amersfoort until Covid 19 made this impossible. At Seats2Meet you do not have to pay to hire a workspace, but have to be open to meet other people working there. This concept of helping each other fits nicely with the philosophy of Peace SOS. As can be seen in the financial statement, the operating costs of Peace SOS are low. As in previous years, the Postcode Loterij applies a threshold which Peace SOS did not meet.

## **BOARD AND ADVISORS PEACE SOS**

The legal form of 'Stichting Peace SOS' is a foundation. Peace SOS has been active since 2015 and was formally founded on April 22, 2016. In the year 2020, the Board and advisors of Peace SOS consisted of the following persons:

May-May Meijer, chairperson and founder of Peace SOS.

Elio Lazo Lopez, secretary of Peace SOS. Elio Lazo Lopez works as senior consultant at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Lorraine Diaoen is treasurer of Peace SOS and register accountant

Martijn Müller publishes the newsletters of Peace SOS

Kumar Jamdagni is a Dutch-English translator at Peace SOS..

Alonie de Lange is a general advisor of Peace SOS.

Jason Sindram, is webmaster of Peace SOS, he is also founder of DP web solutions

Sander Glas is the new treasurer of Peace SOS; he wrote the financial part of the annual report 2020.

Karlijn Roex is a nuclear weapons specialist

## Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020

<b>Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020</b>		
<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>EUR</b>	<b>EUR</b>
Material Fixed Assets	81	323
Deposits	47	-
Prepayments	148	-
Cash & Bank	1,506	2,184
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,782</b>	<b>2,507</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>EUR</b>	<b>EUR</b>
Equity	1,782	2,475
Accounts Payable	-	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,782</b>	<b>2,507</b>

## **Notes to the Balance Sheet**

### **Material Fixed Assets**

The tangible fixed assets include the costs of developing the website of Peace SOS Foundation. These assets are depreciated equally over 5 years

### **Deposits**

The deposit relates to office rent and will be refunded at the end of the rental period.

### **Prepayments**

During 2020, annual costs for domain names are paid in full. The services related to this payment will partly be consumed in 2021.

### **Cash & Banks**

Cash and cash equivalents are recognized at nominal value.

## Statement of Income & Expenses 2020

Income	2020 EUR	2019 EUR
Grants	-	-
Gifts	3,811	2,133
<b>Total income</b>	<b>3,811</b>	<b>2,133</b>
Expenses	2020 EUR	2019 EUR
Organization costs	743	494
Depreciation	242	242
Activities	3,557	619
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>4,542</b>	<b>1,355</b>
<b>Result</b>	<b>-731</b>	<b>778</b>
<i>Result destination:</i>		
<i>Change in equity</i>	<i>-731</i>	<i>778</i>

## Notes to the Statement of Income & Expenses

<b>Gifts (from individuals)</b>	<b>EUR</b>
Various	3,811
 <b>Organization costs</b>	
IT costs	158
Translation costs	218
Insurance costs	137
Bank costs	183
Other costs	47
<b>Total</b>	<u>743</u>

The other costs relate mainly to banking charges.

### **Projects**

Time for world peace – nuclear ban demonstration	2,007
ICAN congress Paris	250
Battery chargers Burundian Women for peace & development	300
Microphones for journalists in Burundi	750
Freedom Stoves Zimbabwe	250
<b>Total</b>	<u>3,557</u>

### **Depreciation**

Website	242
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### **Gifts**

In 2020, the chair donated an amount of €3,026 to Peace SOS.

### **Remuneration of the Board**

The directors did not receive any remuneration in 2020. The chairperson works an average of 0.8 FTE on Peace SOS.

## **Statement of approval of the Annual Report 2020**

The Board of the Foundation Peace SOS has discussed the annual report in one of her board meetings and approved the finalized annual report of 2020 during an online meeting on March 20, 2021.