

H. Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women by the NL Government

From: National Statement NL page 49 -50

Indicators developed by the EU:

- H1. Status of governmental responsibility to promote gender equality
- H2a. Personnel resources of the governmental gender equality body
- H2b. Personnel resources of the designated body or bodies for the promotion of equal treatment for women and men
- H3. Gender mainstreaming

The Gender Minister

Human rights and equality between men and women are seen by the Cabinet as fundamental of the democratic constitutional state. The promotion of women's rights and LGBT rights, and the emancipation of women, men and LGBT people are therefore transecting themes for the entire Cabinet policy. The Minister of Education, Culture and Science has a policy coordinating responsibility for the theme of emancipation in the Netherlands. There are five roles for the coordinating Minister for Emancipation to distinguish:

- (i) The Minister has an agenda-making role in establishing the general framework for the emancipation policy;
- (ii) The Minister has a supporting role to fulfil in anchoring the emancipation policy in the ministries. Where necessary or preferred, the Minister reaches agreements with the responsible ministries on contributing to the achievement of the emancipation objectives. An example of this is the cooperation with the Minister of Social Affairs and Employment (SZW) in the area of equal pay and the division of work and care;
- (iii) The Minister supports the emancipation process in society with a good knowledge infrastructure and goal-oriented subsidies. There is, for example, cooperation with municipal governments, which are supported with the development and implementation of an emancipation policy.
- (iv) The Minister coordinates for the Netherlands the implementation of UN agreements in the area of gender by the Netherlands. It therefore coordinates the reports submitted by the Netherlands to the CEDAW committee on the compliance with the UN Convention on Eliminating all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, as well as the present report in the context of the Beijing Platform for Action.
- (v) The Minister is generally responsible for monitoring and verifying progress in the area of emancipation in the Netherlands. In this connection, she sets up an Emancipation Monitor every two years

The Dutch government has outlined the main points of the policy up to 2016 in its Emancipation Outline Memorandum 2014 - 2016²². The Outline Memorandum also indicates which ministries and social organisations have entered into alliances. Through the interministerial coordination, the involvement of all senior politicians and senior civil servants will be guaranteed in the international and national reports on gender. In

²² Hoofdlijnenbrief Emancipatie 2013 - 2016 Vergaderjaar 2012 - 2013. 30 420 .

current themes, explicit emancipation policy will be created and responsibilities established in each ministry.

Personnel resources and organisation

The coordinating Minister for Emancipation is supported at official level by an “Emancipation Directorate”. The directorate has a staff of 20 FTEs to coordinate and support the government - wide emancipation policy. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has an Emancipation Department/Task Force within the Directorate of Social Development (Directie Sociale Ontwikkeling) involving 5 FTEs. In some other ministries as well there are gender experts present, such as at the Ministry of Defence.

For the main themes of the emancipation policy, interministerial steering committees will be set up. In addition, the Emancipation Directorate will take part in relevant interministerial consultation, e.g. in the areas of work and care, human rights and transgender people.

Knowledge infrastructure and women’s organisations

The government subsidises institutions that strengthen the knowledge infrastructure for women’s emancipation. Three types of institutions are recognised in this regard:

(i) Knowledge institutions that have set themselves the goal of making data on the position of women and girls in society and the heritage of the women’s movements accessible: The knowledge institute Atria, which is subsidised in this context, was established in 2013 after a merger between two leading knowledge organisations in the areas of women’s studies and history.

(ii) Institutions with a national and regional platform function for women of all ages, cultures and disciplines: WOMEN Inc. receives a subsidy in this context. In 2014, WOMEN Inc. is organising activities that are closely related to the subject of the economic independence of women under the theme “women and money”. The emphasis lies at the regional and local levels. A second theme which the organisation aims specifically at professionals is the theme of “women and health”.

(iii) Institutions that promote the emancipation of women and girls in society by fulfilling an international role as representative, a national role as agenda - setter, and a consultative and supporting role in the area of promoting the emancipation of women and girls in society: In this context, the Netherlands Women’s Council (Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad -NVR) is subsidised. Many women’s organisations that are regionally active are members of the NVR. The largest of these organisations are Vrouwen van Nu and FNV vrouw.