



### **POLICY PLAN 2021/2022/2023**

The vision of the Foundation for the Day of the Endangered Lawyer is that human rights should be protected around the world. By human rights we mean those rights that are described in the European Declaration of Human Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In line with this vision, we feel it is needed to protect the Rule of Law. Based on the principles on the role of lawyers as enshrined by the UN, our mission is to support, protect and protest on behalf of lawyers who work to defend victims of human rights violations and are threatened or attacked.

The Day of the Endangered Lawyer has been held for over 10 years. Each year on January 24, by means of demonstrations and other manifestations in several places around the world, lawyers draw attention to the position of human rights lawyers in a specific country. Over the past 10 years, this has led to the participation of more than 40 different organizations in various cities and countries. Also, a platform was organized on which many organizations found each other and work together, the so-called Coalition.

We want to achieve a number of goals in the coming 3 years.

#### 1. We will expand our contacts in various countries in order to work together on the Day of the Endangered Lawyer.

The Foundation has contacts all over the world with lawyers and lawyer organisations. However, not all of those participate in the yearly celebration of the Day. And there are still many lawyer organisations with which there is no contact yet, and who do not participate in the celebration. In the coming years we want to increase the number of participants.

During the corona restrictions, we will develop activities for expansion in countries in which we already have contacts; the need to make personal contacts by visiting colleagues and organizations is less in situations in which we can be introduced. The countries we have in mind to work in in this period are Argentina, Peru, Brazil, Hong Kong, Zimbabwe, Sweden, Norway, Poland, Syria, Pakistan and India (including Kashmir). Sometimes a visit may still be necessary, but that probably will be limited.

As soon as the restrictions to travel due to Corona have come to an end, we will expand the territory we work on.

We would also like to start a cooperation with Russian Human Rights lawyers but so far, our experience has been that this has been difficult. We now want to re-examine whether there are possibilities to intensify cooperation.

#### 2. A second objective for the coming years is to investigate the possibilities to help (lawyer) victims and their families. We will try to establish contacts for them with existing safety nets in the country concerned.

3. A separate activity in this context is to investigate the possibilities to "adopt" threatened lawyers and/or their family by colleagues in their own or another country. By adoption, we mean supporting, maintaining contacts and, where possible, guiding and referring.

4. We will maintain contacts with the relevant lawyers in the countries we supported on earlier Days of the Endangered Lawyer.

5. A new focus is to examine the possibility that threatened lawyers in one country will protest on behalf of such lawyers in another country. We want to investigate whether in this way attention can be drawn to the activities of human rights lawyers without such an action being too threatening for the lawyers themselves.

6. We hope to achieve an important improvement because two volunteering lawyers will focus on publicity and social media. They will review the website and update it regularly with new publications; they will try to interest and activate the younger generation of lawyers in particular for the Day of the Endangered Lawyer through social media (Facebook, blogs, et cetera).

7. Interest the younger generation of lawyers, who did not grow up in the years of politicized international solidarity (like in the seventies in the last century), in problems of human rights lawyers over the world.

We will reach out to the younger generation of lawyers by visiting universities and law faculties, young lawyers organisations, large commercial law offices, etcetera, to promote our work and trigger input from young or future professionals.

8. We plan to investigate whether it is possible to obtain a regular column in established media (newspapers, lawyer magazines, magazines, et cetera) in several countries in which attention can be drawn to our target group and objective.

9. We plan to develop activities to achieve UN recognition of the Day of the Endangered Lawyer on the 24th of January.

10. For the coming years, we will have to attract new donors to finance the activities of the Foundation Day of the Endangered Lawyer. We want to investigate the possibilities of funding by bar organisations and lawyer offices.

11. In recent years, we have brought together a number of international and national lawyer organisations that are trying to support endangered lawyers. In 2020, more than 30 organisations attended a ZOOM conference concerning the Day of the Endangered Lawyer.

We will consider how this platform could function even better in ways of mutual cooperation throughout the year for the benefit of the endangered lawyer, and on which areas. Also we want to investigate if cooperation with other organisations is useful and, if so, if it can be intensified. The recent experience many organisations have with Zoom meetings and other ways of communicating by internet can be very useful in this matter. However we must also investigate the need for internet safety.

12. In addition, we want to examine the possibilities to bring together threatened lawyers or their organisations from different countries to give them the possibility to exchange experiences, give each other support and learn from each other. This could be done on our own (digital) platform, but also by connecting individual contacts.

An objective we are alert on for later years is the investigation of the possibilities to establish a knowledge centre (especially on safety for human rights lawyers).

Our main goal is to support, protect and protest on behalf of lawyers who work to defend victims of human rights violations and are threatened or attacked. That work will continue as before during the coming years. The coronavirus crisis may pose restrictions which will somehow have an impact on our work, but we will certainly also focus on new countries and situations in which colleagues are threatened.

We realise that our targets are ambitious.

We will therefore continue to strive to attract colleagues who are willing to make an effort on behalf of threatened colleagues in other countries. We will also try to attract a qualified person to take over (part of) the regular work of the coordinator concerning the coordination of the yearly Day, so he can work on the other mentioned goals.

We also wish to strengthen our board by incorporating new board members.  
We are confident that in 2021 we will start working towards our goals with new impetus.