



Policy plan 2024/2025/2026

Based on the principles on the role of lawyers as laid down by the UN, our mission is to support and protect lawyers who defend victims of human rights violations and are threatened or attacked, and to protest on behalf of and for them.

The Day of the Endangered Lawyer has been held for more than 14 years. Every year on January 24, lawyers use demonstrations and other manifestations in a large number of places around the world to draw attention to the position of human rights lawyers in a specific country.

In recent years, this has led to the participation of more than 40 different organizations in as many different cities and countries. An international platform has also been organized on which many organizations find each other and work together, the so-called Coalition.

We want to achieve a number of goals in the next 3 years:

1. The foundation wants to actively participate in the Coalition. We want to support the Coalition in looking for ways of mutual cooperation during the year for the benefit of the threatened lawyer.

We also want to investigate whether cooperation with other organisations, such as journalists, is useful and, if so, can be intensified.

The Coalition is working to achieve UN recognition for the Day of the Endangered Lawyer, and we want to support that activity.

We also want to promote that the Coalition will work to support threatened lawyers from countries previously selected for the Day, so that follow-up activities also take place.

2. We want to ensure that the day is well organized in the Netherlands. In doing so, the Foundation wants to stimulate the active participation of Dutch colleagues and Dutch law organizations and also interest young lawyers in the problems of human rights lawyers worldwide.

3. An ongoing goal for the coming years is to explore the possibilities of helping (lawyer) victims of atrocities and the families of murdered lawyers.

We will try to help them financially if necessary.

We will try to establish contacts for them with existing safety nets in the country in question.

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

4. We will liaise with the relevant lawyers in the countries we have previously supported on the Days of the Endangered Lawyer.

5. For the coming years, we want to attract new donors to finance the activities of the Day of the Endangered Lawyer Foundation. We want to investigate the possibilities of funding by bar organisations and law firms.

6. We will expand our contacts in different countries to work together on the Day of the Endangered Lawyer. The countries we want to work on during this period are Georgia, Kashmir, Pakistan, Zimbabwe.

The Foundation has contacts with lawyers and lawyers' organizations all over the world. However, not everyone participates in the annual celebration of the Day. And there are still many lawyers' organizations with whom 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.

7. We want to be alert to opportunities to bring together threatened lawyers or their organizations from different countries to give them the opportunity to exchange experiences, support each other and learn from each other. This can be done on our own (digital) platform, but also by connecting individual contacts. This subject can also be implemented through the Coalition and we will bring this forward.

8. An objective that we are alert to for later years is to investigate the possibilities of establishing a knowledge center (especially on safety for human rights lawyers).

9. The Foundation will organize a fact-finding mission, called Caravana, to the Philippines in 2024, aimed at investigating whether cases in which lawyers have been murdered and/or threatened are adequately investigated and tried by the government. The Foundation assumes that this first mission will lead to a thorough report from which various activities will result, and that a follow-up mission will take place over a period of several years to investigate whether the activities have led to results. The Foundation wants this mission to take place in collaboration with other lawyers' organizations.

The first goal is to draw up a good report. Subsequently, an international working group should be set up that can deal with the investigation of cold cases and the investigation of cases handled in the Netherlands by the ICC, the International Criminal Court in The Hague, as well as with the question of whether (families of) threatened or tortured lawyers need support from colleagues, whether or not from the Philippines. and then, if necessary, to initiate activities to provide that support.

This working group should also work on organizing a follow-up Caravana to the Philippines

10. The Foundation will renew the website and promote the use of social media and attract volunteers for this if necessary.