

## 2020 Reflection Edition

### January 2021

#### Director's Message

Happy new year to all our supporters and colleagues!  
Thank you to everyone who has shown us continuous support in our efforts to make the world a better place. 2020 was a year of change. We have been challenged to adapt and persevere. We hope that 2021 will be characterized by resilience and strength. Despite these adverse circumstances, Gender Concerns International continues to strive for gender parity and gender equality across the world and contributes to the upholding of democratic values in new and creative ways. We were only able to accomplish this with the support, dedication, and commitment of our partners and colleagues and we are delighted to celebrate 17 years of dedicated work on the 27th of January, 2021.

#### Gender and Democracy: Intertwined Concepts



#### Dutch Parliamentary Elections: Female Leadership on the Horizon

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Dutch citizens will be going to the polls to vote in their parliamentary elections. Gender Concerns International observed the 2021 Dutch elections from a gender perspective through the implementation of the GEOM, *Netherlands*. It is once again observing the 2021 election period for the Dutch elections. With seven women running as top candidates of some of the most prominent political parties' candidates lists (Sigrid Kaag for D66, Lilian Marijnissen for the SP, Esther Ouwehand for PvdD, Liane den Haan for 50PLUS, Sylvana Simmonds for Artikel 1, Femke Merel van Kooten-Arissen for Splinter, and Lilianne Ploumen for the PvdA), a historic number compared to the 2017 elections, female leadership will be a key topic of debate going into the election season. Our Een op Een Campaign aims to bring attention to the gender disparity on political party lists and to support the election of more female politicians.

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#### International Gender Champions

On 22nd April 2020, Director Sabra Bano was honoured to speak during the first session of the Webinar Series "COVID-19 and Gender Equality: Living up to the Challenge" alongside High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet (OHCHR), SG Mr. M. Chungong (IPU), and Ms. Katja Iversen (Women Deliver), moderated by H.E. Mr. Jürg Lauber, (Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the U.N. in New York). The panel discussed how world leaders can navigate the choices faced by decision-makers towards a gender-inclusive COVID-19 response.

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#### Launch of the Fourth UNSCR 1325 NAP



The fourth Dutch [National Action Plan for UNSC Resolution 1325](#) was officially [launched](#) on December 16th, 2020. As a four-time signatory, Gender Concerns International provided feedback and insights throughout the drafting process, to ensure that the voices of women and women's organisations were considered and represented.

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#### Toxic Masculinity and the Perceived Role of Political Leaders

Toxic masculinity and political leadership are inherently intertwined. Too often, stereotypically masculine traits are associated with good governance. This cultural attitude adversely affects what laws and policies are given attention to. Gender Concerns International seeks to highlight this issue by encouraging fruitful discussions. Stay tuned for an intriguing upcoming anniversary event to celebrate female leadership and 17 years of Gender Concerns International!

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#### Alert! Ending Electoral Violence Against Women

In 2020, Gender Concerns International launched Alert! End Electoral GBV, to raise public awareness of electoral gender-based violence the world over. The campaign centers around taking action through voter education, educational events, and community-based programs.

#### Gender Election Observation Missions (GEOM)

2020 was a challenging year, but Gender Concerns International's GEOMs were still in action, observing elections in Belarus and Myanmar from afar. We continue to pursue our goals of achieving equal participation and gender electoral parity.



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#### Resilience and Cooperation in Adverse Times: Covid-19 Gendered Responses



#### Potential Leaders for Sustainable Future

In May 2020, Gender Concerns International was featured at the Panel Discussion "Potential Leaders for Sustainable Future", hosted by Janet Rieks. A team of change-makers and medical professionals discussed mechanism, methodology, techniques, and in-depth analyses and approaches in fighting COVID-19 from different angles.

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#### Report: Covid-19 Recovery & Vitality of International Women Organisations

This report highlights the vital roles that Women Organisations world over are playing in the mitigation and recovery response to Covid-19 despite not being involved in the early crisis assessment or resource allocation efforts conducted so far. It suggests immediately engage women's organisations, which are currently overlooked and sidelined.

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#### #SheCaresCovid19 Campaign: Female Power and Leadership



The [#SheCaresCovid19](#) campaign, launched on March 13th, 2020, was an emergency gender response to the spread of COVID-19. It highlighted the virus's impact through a gender lens both in terms of challenges it poses, and opportunities it offers to female leadership and to the global international development community. The campaign successfully ended in December 2020.



Gender Concerns International, in collaboration with Vrouwen Van Nu, Young Feminist Ambassadors, and Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad has expanded the campaign [#SheCaresCovid19](#) to reach a wider audience. To the Dutch audience, the campaign is structured around the hashtag [#Zijmaakthetverschil](#) ([#Shemakesthedifference](#)). It sheds light on the leadership of Dutch women in combating the coronavirus pandemic and strengthening their voices. The campaign tackles questions such as, how to increase female perspectives in decision-making?



[#SheCaresCovid19 Women's Testimonies](#)  
In Ecuador, many young girls stopped going to school since the outbreak of [#covid19](#) in the country in mid-March. In rural areas like the Ecuadorian Amazon, the lack of internet access further restrains their access to education. Yet, with great effort, education practices are continuing in spite of these challenges.

In Chad, only 2.2% of inhabitants have electricity during the [#covid19](#) pandemic. There are medical facilities that cannot operate during the night, posing serious threats to the health and wellbeing of inhabitants, especially women who were forced to give birth in appalling sanitary conditions in the dark.

