



# **Platform for Social Transformation Foundation**

## ***Policy plan 2022-2024***

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### **Business data**

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### **Mission**

- a. the promotion of social transformation in the broadest sense of the word, i.e., the implementation of programs and projects that contribute to the integral and healthy development and stability of society, the restoration of essential social spheres, the fight against injustice, the defense of vulnerable groups and vulnerable social institutions, and the promotion of fundamental values such as peace, justice, freedom and integrity;
  - b. supporting and developing international political parties, civil society organizations or movements, as well as politicians, political parties, civil society organizations or movements that are directly or indirectly involved in social transformation, through training and education;
  - c. creating support for social transformation through the formation of a broad network of actors directly or indirectly involved in politics;
  - d. devising and implementing policy influencing strategies to support political actors and to feed politics in general with information and arguments to promote social transformation;
  - e. being active in reported areas at home and abroad;
  - f. to perform everything that is related to the above in the broadest sense or that may be conducive thereto.
2. It seeks to achieve this goal by:
- a. conducting research;



- b. the development and facilitation of training and courses;
  - c. organizing and facilitating network conferences and exchanges;
  - d. developing and publishing publications and
  - e. the realization of supporting activities in the broadest sense of the word, including fundraising and promotional activities for the foundation, which can contribute to the aforementioned objective.
3. The foundation serves the public interest.
  4. The foundation is a non-profit organization.

### **Policy and strategy**

As stated in the objective, the Foundation Platform for Social Transformation serves the public interest and is a non-profit organization. This means that the foundation only conducts projects that serve a social purpose. The foundation does not pursue commercial goals.

All projects of the foundation are examined on the basis of two criteria. In the first place a determination is made whether the project fits within the objectives of the foundation. This means that the project must promote social transformation as expressed in the objective; the projects of the foundation must “contribute to the integral and healthy development and stability of society, the restoration of essential social spheres, the fight against injustice, the defense of vulnerable groups and vulnerable social institutions, and the promotion of fundamental values such as peace, justice, freedom and integrity.”

The added value that the foundation can deliver based on the expertise it has accumulated since its inception in 2010 is also considered when assessing projects. This expertise includes its specific knowledge of and network in the Latin America regions (director) and Africa (board members), its broad experience in conducting scientific research, developing and facilitating training and conducting and advising on policy influencing, the preference for projects with a political component and the specific knowledge of confessional political and development cooperation organizations.

The second criterion is practical in nature and concerns the availability of funding and/or partner organizations or volunteers for their implementation.

The director is responsible for the implementation of the projects and the daily management of the foundation. He is accountable to the board afterwards, through periodic board meetings and contact via email and telephone. The programs of the foundation are approved annually by the board.

The foundation is based in Voorburg, The Netherlands. The foundation also has an office in Latin America, located in the Costa Rican municipality of El Guarco (Cartago province), the



director's place of residence. In addition, the foundation collaborates with partners for the implementation of specific projects, such as FLAEM in Malawi.

### **Reason for the inception of the foundation**

The purpose of the foundation, as stated in the objective, is to promote social transformation in the broadest sense of the word. In concrete terms, this means that the foundation focuses on programs that influence the development of societies, both in the political, socio-economic and cultural fields. This means that the foundation implements programs that contribute to issues such as democracy, human rights (in particular freedom of religion), integrity (fighting corruption), conflict resolution, the protection of the rule of law, the fight against injustice, economic diplomacy, etc. The foundation seeks to reach this goal by doing research and disseminating research results, issuing publications, networking, organizing conferences, giving guest lectures, developing and distributing educational videos, developing and facilitating training and conducting policy influencing strategies.

### **Target audience**

The specific target group of the foundation are political actors. The concept of “political actors” is understood broadly, including all actors who are directly or indirectly involved in politics. The mission refers to “international political parties, civil society organizations or movements, as well as politicians, political parties, civil society organizations or movements that are directly or indirectly involved in social transformation.” Particular attention is paid to young people, the Latin American region and confessional organizations, without the foundation limiting itself to this.

### **Fundraising**

The foundation has three sources of income: institutional donors, individual donors and financial contributions of participants in activities of the foundation. Institutional donors are by far the most important source of income for the foundation. Agreements are made with these institutions about the programs they finance; these agreements are included in a Terms of Reference (a summary of which can be read under the “Activities” section).

The foundation has a number of loyal individual donors who donate small amounts to the foundation. If these amounts are earmarked, they will go to the projects for which they are intended. If these amounts are not earmarked, they are added to the general reserve of the foundation and the board will decide, on the basis of a proposal from the director, how the funds will be spent. Typically, the donations from the individual donors cover part of the foundation's fixed costs such as bank costs, maintenance of the websites and office costs.



Finally, participants in activities of the foundation, such as conferences and (online) courses, are sometimes asked to pay small contributions towards the costs, which are far from cost-covering. These therefore are symbolic payments that aim to guarantee the commitment of the target group; these payments are expressly not commercial. Such financial contributions always benefit the same project for which the costs were incurred.

The director and the board are jointly responsible for fundraising for the foundation. Institutional donors are approached by the director or by individual board members. Individual donors are informed through the website and a mailing list. No money is spent on fundraising activities, apart from occasional travel or communication costs. However, advertisements are made for the courses, conferences and publications of the foundation.

### **Management and spending of assets**

In the financial field, efforts are made to limit administrative and other costs as much as possible, among other things by making use of virtual means such as video conferencing and online courses, and of volunteers and by purchasing services cheaply via online HR platforms. Travel and other expenses are only incurred if they are strictly necessary for the implementation of the projects of the foundation. The staff of the foundation is kept as small as possible; preference is given to the use of freelancers for specific tasks. Administrative costs are never higher than 10% of the total turnover of the foundation, and usually much less than that. The majority of the funds must go directly to the projects. Any budget surpluses are carried over to the following year.

The director claims his expenses from the treasurer on a regular basis and asks her to make payments to service providers of the foundation. The director and any staff members receive a competitive salary; this is paid from the programs for which they work and not from general administration costs.

In principle, unless the board decides otherwise, the foundation does not take out loans and does not grant loans to third parties.

The foundation does not provide subsidies to organizations or individuals but enters into collaborations based on project agreements.

In order to comply with the requirements of the Management and Supervision of Legal Entities Act (Wet bestuur en toezicht rechtspersonen, WBTR), the foundation has, in addition to its articles of association, internal regulations which set out, among other things, rules for holding board members liable, as well as agreements to guarantee the 4-eyes principle in order to prevent fraud.



## **Activities**

All activities of the foundation fall within the description given in the objective, namely "a. conducting research; b. the development and facilitation of training and courses; c. organizing and facilitating network conferences and exchanges; d. developing and publishing publications and e. the realization of supporting activities in the broadest sense of the word, including fundraising and promotional activities for the foundation, which can contribute to the aforementioned objective."

As of 2022, the foundation aims to implement the following four programs. The first three are a continuation of the programs that the foundation has been implementing since its inception in 2010; the last one started in 2019 (initial preparations in 2018). All four programs help achieve the objective of the foundation as formulated in the articles of association.

### ***I. Plataforma C – Aprendamos a incidir***

La incidencia política es una herramienta que busca promover la justicia social, económica, política y cultural, así como la equidad en las oportunidades y en el acceso a los asuntos fundamentales.

Cualquier actor que intenta promover su visión de desarrollo e influenciar en la toma de decisiones —los medios de comunicación, las organizaciones de la sociedad civil, las universidades, las instituciones religiosas, los grupos de interés, los sindicatos, las organizaciones multilaterales o ciudadanos individuales— puede considerarse como actor político.

Aprendamos a incidir es un programa para organizaciones que promueven que grupos ciudadanos asuman una actitud activa en el escenario público para colocar temas en la agenda y lograr cambios legales, apropiado para quienes incursionan por primera vez en un área que puede asemejarse a un laberinto con muchas pistas falsas si los ciudadanos no están familiarizados con ese terreno, tanto como para quienes ya cuentan con experiencia en esas lides y desean proceder de manera metódica para ahorrar tiempo, recursos y energía.

### ***II. Family Life and Aids Education Ministry – Why Wait?***

Why Wait? is a life skills curriculum tailor-made to specifically address, in age- and culture-appropriate ways, the needs of primary and secondary school pupils. It is a life skills, character development curriculum. It addresses the importance of the biblical worldview, which shapes both the individual's beliefs, values and behavior, as well as those of the society at large. The goal is to encourage the development of character, which results in behavior that will be



beneficial not only to the individual in his/her own life, but also to the lives of his/her fellow human beings. The objectives are to transfer to students' knowledge, skills, and desire.

The program gives young people sensible reasons to abstain from premarital sex and to make informed decisions regarding their future by:

- 1) Educating them in principles of character and moral development.
- 2) Helping them to develop healthy self-concepts.
- 3) Empowering them to withstand social and sexual pressures.

In the process of teaching the curriculum, the teachers themselves learn the life skills that they are teaching the pupils. Most teachers never had the opportunity to learn these life skills when they themselves were in school. In addition, the teachers acquire in-depth knowledge about HIV/AIDS, alcohol and drug abuse, and other risky behaviors, which will enable them to counsel their pupils competently.

More information on project website: [www.flaem.org](http://www.flaem.org).

### ***III. The Vulnerability Initiative***

Since its inception, the foundation has conducted several small projects including "Family Monitor", "Child Protection Thermometer", "Religious Freedom Outlook", "Biblical Worldview", "Festival of Politics" and "Lobby". The publications developed within the framework of these projects are available on [www.platformforsocialtransformation.org](http://www.platformforsocialtransformation.org).

The common denominator of these projects is that they focus on making vulnerable groups or vulnerable social institutions resilient, such as families, children, women, the arts sector, religious minorities and confessional organizations. By means of activities such as the translation of relevant publications, the development of publications based on our own research, the provision and development of training courses and the devising and implementing of policy influencing strategies, an attempt was made to contribute to the resilience of these groups and institutions.

The importance of supporting vulnerable groups and institutions is explicitly mentioned in the objective of the foundation: "the defense of vulnerable groups and vulnerable social institutions". The references in the objective to "the integral and healthy development and stability of society", "the restoration of essential social circles" and "the fight against injustice" should be understood in this context.

The above-mentioned projects have had a large diversity of donors. If there is a possibility and the funds allow it, these projects will be continued as of 2019 under the umbrella program "The Vulnerability Initiative".



#### ***IV. Observatory of Religious Freedom in Latin America***

We want to contribute to religious freedom in Latin American by bringing awareness about this issue. We do this by gathering comprehensive data about incidents of violation of religious freedom in Latin America; by informing the public, policy makers, and international institutions about the ranges of hostilities and marginalization religious minorities and religious institutions face in Latin America; by building resilience so that religious minorities can freely live their faith in the public square; and by advocating for remedies. To accomplish our mission we research, analyze, document, and report cases of violations of the religious freedom in Latin America. We emphasize the vital role religion plays in economic development and conflict resolution.

Specifically, the Observatory has the following goals:

1. Monitor and document the position of vulnerable religious minorities whose right to religious freedom is being infringed;
2. Generate policy recommendations to improve the position of these vulnerable groups;
3. Provide tools to groups/institutions that work with vulnerable religious minorities to increase their resilience against hostilities through training and other efforts;
4. Communicate to inform the broader public about the state of religious freedom in Latin America.

The Observatory has a strong Think Tank component in as much as it champions/advances a cause through means of scientifically researching and reporting, advocating and thus contributing with the resilience of vulnerable religious minorities. The core mission of the Observatory is to strengthen research about persecution of religious minorities in Latin America in order to comprehensively understand what is happening now and to prepare for the future.

More information on project website: [www.olire.org](http://www.olire.org).

#### **Board**

##### ***Composition of the board and names of the board members***

Chair: Frans Visscher

Treasurer/Secretary: Marijke Krijnen

General board member: Gerrit Brink



### ***Remuneration policy***

The board of the foundation functions unpaid on a voluntary basis. Volunteer and expense allowances of board members are possible if their commitment to the foundation justifies this (see also article 5, paragraph 3 of the articles of association). The director and any staff members receive a competitive salary.

### ***Legal capacity to act of the board members***

In accordance with article 5 paragraph 2 of the articles of association, the board is authorized to decide to enter into agreements for the acquisition, disposal and encumbrance of registered property, provided that the decision is taken by unanimous vote of all board members in office. Furthermore, the board is authorized to enter into agreements whereby the foundation commits itself as a guarantor or joint and several debtors, asserts itself in favor of a third party or undertakes to provide security for a debt of another person, provided that the decision is taken by unanimous vote of all sitting board members. Furthermore, article 7 stipulates that the board represents the foundation. Moreover, the authority to represent the foundation belongs to every board member individually. The board may decide to grant incidental or standing power of attorney to one or more board members and/or others, both jointly and separately, to represent the foundation within the limits of that power of attorney.

The treasurer manages the finances of the foundation and is accountable for this annually, after which discharge is granted. The director has a credit card with a spending limit of EUR 5,000 for expenses necessary in connection with the work of the foundation.

### ***Supervisory Board***

The foundation does not have a Supervisory Board. However, within the framework of the Observatory of Religious Freedom program in Latin America (see IV above), an Advisory Board has been set up that closely follows the activities within this project and, where necessary, provides advice.

### **Financial details**

The foundation does not have registered property or assets that should be depreciated. The foundation also has no debts or claims. The assets consist solely of the amounts in the various bank accounts.