



"For a future inspired by the past and its stories"

Every year, **March serves as a key moment for reflection, advocacy, and action** toward gender equality worldwide, with **March 8 — International Women's Day — as a milestone**. However, the ongoing global backlash against gender and women's rights reminds us that **this work extends far beyond the month of March**.

In this spirit, we invite you to explore our updated gender glossary, a valuable resource in advancing gender equity. We encourage ongoing engagement with the glossary and our gender timeline as part of our year-round commitment to gender rights.

Additionally, we'd like to (re)introduce the members of our gender group at NICC. At the same time, we are looking for a new lead for the gender group. As Kitty Bentvelsen gradually steps back from her role in the gender group, we seek someone to take over as the **"trekker force"** and continue driving this work forward. Is this something you'd be interested in? Or do you know someone who might be? **Please reach out!**

Meet the members of our Gender Timeline Group at NICC

My name is Thera van Osch. For over 50 years, I have been involved in international cooperation. This began during my studies. In 1971, I did an internship at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate of International Technical Assistance. I graduated from Tilburg University with a focus on the Economics of Developing Countries and also took the course on Imperialism and Underdevelopment. After that, I worked abroad for many years, mostly as a gender expert. Altogether, I have worked in approximately 70 countries, carrying out both short-term and long-term missions (over a year). Internationally, the Netherlands has played a pioneering role in the field of Gender and Development, particularly since the 1990s. This has effectively contributed to global poverty reduction. Currently, there is a risk that this policy will be abandoned. I am glad that NICC has taken the initiative to preserve the legacy in the field of Gender and Development, so that future generations may be able to build upon it.



Anke van der Kwaak is a senior advisor, researcher, and strategic leader in mixed methods research, SRHR, and health systems strengthening. At KIT, she was SRHR team coordinator (2016–2023) and is known for her strategic thinking, communication, and training skills in health systems, governance, and leadership. She coordinated KIT's Health Systems Research Module for over 20 years and now leads the SRHR policy, governance, and finance module while serving as academic advisor, thesis supervisor, and examiner. Anke has led numerous research and advisory projects focused on gender, maternal and neonatal health, FGM, sexuality, youth, family planning, CSE, and patient-centered approaches. Previously, she lectured at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam's Medical Faculty for 12 years. With experience in Asia, Africa, and MENA regions, she specializes in capacity building, multi-country evaluations, and translating research into actionable knowledge products. She also facilitates synthesis and writing workshops and is widely published.





"For a future inspired by the past and its stories"

Meet the members of our Gender Timeline Group at NICC!

My name is Iris Dijkstra, and since November of last year, I've been part of the gender group at Stichting NICC as a research volunteer. My perspective is grounded in intersectional and decolonial feminisms. I believe that as we write and reflect on the past, we can simultaneously imagine and envision *worlds otherwise* — through how we approach the material, and how we frame, depict, and present it in the now. Beyond my work at NICC, I'm engaged in various (feminist) networks in the Netherlands and Europe, as well as in Abya Yala (Latin America).



My name is Ella de Voogd. After more than 40 years of work in International Affairs and the Education sector now retired and enjoying my new life with garden work, reading and contributing to the society among others. For NICC I am conducting interviews and editing these into small clips for different timelines. At the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs I worked for Gender, SRHR, Human Rights and Governance and worked at the embassies in Guatemala and Bangladesh. That is why I am currently contributing to the NICC Timelines Bangladesh and Gender.



I am Kitty Bentvelsen, contributing to NICC as a resource person, mostly to gender timelines. After my Masters in Wageningen (rural planning and water management) I always worked within international cooperation: as an independent consultant and as Femconsult staff member. My working area shifted from merely water management towards also socio-economic, gender and environmental aspects of development, with gender equality and women's rights always as a special focus.



Feminist March 2025

On Saturday, March 8, International Women's Day, around 20,000 people marched through the streets of Amsterdam. A wide range of messages reflecting gender inequality, rights, lived experiences, and demands for justice were written on protest signs and displayed on flags. The incredible turnout serves as a powerful reminder to show up for gender equity and equality — in all forms, and in all corners of the world.

Presenting NICC at Thuas

On Monday, March 3rd, Loukie Levert, the vice chair of NICC, and Sofiia Berdiugina, one of our NICC interns, gave a presentation about NICC at The Hague University of Applied Science. The collaboration between the organizations was created to provide the students with a practical research assignment as a part of their curriculum, while expanding the outreach of NICC to the young adult demographic.

But First: Webinar "Seeing Development Through Generations: Gender, Photography & Dialogue"

"On Friday, February 21, the NICC Foundation organized the webinar 'Seeing Development Through Generations: Gender, Photography & Dialogue'. Joosje Seeling, Sofiia Berdiugina, and Iris Dijkstra organized this digital event. Iris started the webinar with a brief overview of the NICC's activities. She then presented changes that had been made to the Gender Glossary, which is part of the Gender Timeline, and the rationale behind these changes. In the second part, Joosje led a discussion on different perceptions of photographs in 'development cooperation'. The participants actively engaged, leading to surprising insights into how people can perceive and experience the same photographs in different ways. A very inspiring webinar that left us wanting more. We will keep you posted about future webinars!

Feminist March 2025

Pictures taken by @lucianoenchanted



Marches like the Feminist March are crucial for highlighting inequality and demanding change. Networks are strengthened and formed in many ways, and marching together is one of them. From Stichting NICC, we thank every individual who organized and made this march possible! Together we keep on advocating for intersectional and inclusive gender equality and justice.

Presenting NICC at Thuas

Sofiia and Loukie discussed the aims and history of NICC, ongoing projects, and the current goal of attracting the attention of the young adults to the timelines created by the archive. Afterwards, an interactive discussion of the stakeholders took place, followed up by the short Q&A during which the students received further details of their assignments. It was a great success!



Engage with our social media!

We are excited to continue sharing our work, documents, archives, and footage with the wider community! If you support our mission and the important work we do, we encourage you to engage with us on social media and help spread the word about Stichting NICC. Share our resources with students, organizations, schools, universities, and anyone who could benefit from our content. Your support helps us reach more people and further our impact!



Keep building community and networks with us as we prepare for and anticipate changing political climates that support thriving, healthy transnational communities, where international cooperation and mutual learning processes inspire all of us.

Become a Friend of NICC

**WE NEED
YOUR SUPPORT!**

OUR MISSION

Help to create a sustainable future and write history!

The NICC Foundation helps create a sustainable future in which the past counts! Recording and sharing the history of international cooperation for sustainable development ensures that experiences, knowledge and stories are not lost and can therefore remain an important source of inspiration for the future.

As a young foundation, we do everything on a voluntary basis. We are therefore dependent on funds and donations in terms of income. That's why we ask you to become a friend of NICC! By supporting us financially, we can realize what we stand for and you help write history!

Knowledge	NICC provides free access to information about the Dutch history of international cooperation since 1946
Collection	More than 14,000 documents, brochures, reports, books, objects, photos and videos from circa 1946 to the present
Network	More than 100 experienced experts (resource persons) share their knowledge in timelines, via online table talks and on request
Timelines	Timelines provide descriptions and insights into different themes or countries over time
Interviews	In our image bank of interviews 'through time' we record personal experiences on video



Do you want to become a Friend of NICC? Scan the QR code.



If you want to stop receiving updates from the NICC, you can state this in an email to info@stichtingnicc.nl