

**Personal information**

- Family name Van den Brink
- First name Aleid
- Nationality Netherlands
- Sex Female

**Personal motivation**

Over the past 40 years I have dedicated my professional life to governing various institutions committed to combatting domestic violence against women, children – and also men. My retirement as CEO of '[Blijf Groep](#)', January 2018, has not ended my deeply rooted connection to the causes I have been supporting. From my new position in society new possibilities arise in offering my expertise and dedication to other people and other initiatives. My recent publication on current attitudes towards partner violence in the Netherlands is an example.

I have always tried to continue staying in direct contact with the victims of domestic violence seeking shelter and support, predominantly women and children. Listening to what they had to tell has kept me alert, and open to the real problems. Whether or not explicitly presented. The women and children I met during the past decades are my true inspiration. Their problems must be solved, in the most effective way. To me creating the most effective way means creating high quality, innovative and sustainable organisational frameworks.

**Relevant qualifications summary**

- University skilled in pedagogy and psychology
- Financial, organisational and business expertise at CEO level
- Broad experience in development of multi-agency activities
- Strong innovative strength in the field of domestic violence
- Knowledge of relevant research, participation in research activities, membership of research supervisory committees
- Abilities in acquiring social support and co-operations, successful fundraiser
- Experience with national boards and State Committees, as an advisor, member or chairperson.
- Knowledge of relevant international relations; experience in international representation.
- Initiator and co-organiser of the 3rd World Conference for Women's Shelters (The Hague, 2015)
- Long term experience in maintaining open contact with local and national governments and politics as advisor, conceptual influencer and negotiator

**Current professional activity**

At the occasion of my retirement as CEO of Blijf Groep – January 2018 - I resigned from all sector related positions, memberships and advisory boards. I do not hold any local, provincial or national government related position. Financial ties or interests between my person and my former professional environment, or between my person and any local, provincial or national government related body do not exist. At present I am an independent woman, unaffiliated to any party.

## Relevant former professional activities

**2008 – January 2018** CEO of Blijf Groep (Eerste Ringdijkstraat 5, 1097 BC Amsterdam, Netherlands).

Blijf Groep, an organisation aimed at the prevention of violence against women, and against domestic violence in general, and aimed at stopping violence that already has become a reality. The organisation runs 40 crisis shelter units, 5 emergency beds, 4 high security houses and 110 supported living locations. Blijf Groep is the dominant provider of these services within the territory of the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area. Population 2,4M. Blijf Groep has a yearly budget of 20M. It employs a staff of 300 professionals.

Positive relationships with the municipal administrations, Mayors and Aldermen in the area, as well as broad political support have resulted in adequate funding of further development. Blijf Groep has successfully developed the innovative concept of the [Orange House](#). The support of the Dutch Ministry of VWS (Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport) with special funding made this development possible. The Orange House is a new style Women's Shelter, which provides care in a safe, open and familiar setting. If the security situation permits, a family plan is made up. Until now three Orange Houses have been realized, in the cities of Alkmaar, Amsterdam and Almere.

**2015 – 2018** CEO of the 'Veilig Thuis' organisation in Flevoland Province (Eerste Ringdijkstraat 5, 1097BC Amsterdam, Netherlands).

'Veilig Thuis', meaning 'Safe at Home', is the name of 26 advice and reporting centers aimed at signaling domestic violence and child abuse. Victims, perpetrators, bystanders and professionals can get in touch with expert help and advice. 'Safe at Home Flevoland' ([documentation in Dutch only](#)) is one of the 26 regional centers in the Netherlands. All centers execute tasks defined by the national government. Within the framework of these centers child welfare services and youth care services work together with women's shelter organisations in an interdisciplinary setting. Establishing co-operation with municipalities and district teams, with the police, with judiciary authorities and with youth and adult care organisations has been an important aspect of building 'Safe at Home Flevoland' and directing it to taking a central role in the Flevoland provincial social system.

**2000 - 2008** Director of Vrouwenopvang Amsterdam (former identity of Blijf Groep).

After a merge of two domestic violence organisations in Amsterdam (crisis center Het Eliashuis and Blijf-van-mijn-Lijf Amsterdam) director of the new organisation; in this period a further growth through a merge with four women's shelters in the province of Noord-Holland and the realization of a new location in the province of Flevoland.

**1991 - 2000** Director of Het Eliashuis Amsterdam (part of former identity of Blijf Groep).

Het Eliashuis combined a crisis shelter facility and regional hotline for victims of domestic violence.

**1980 - 1991** Co-ordinating staff member of Het Eliashuis Amsterdam.

## Relevant additional responsibilities

**2010 - 2018** Board member of Fonds Bijzondere Noden, Amsterdam ('Foundation Special Needs'), a local and interdisciplinary charitable organisation contributing to the reduction of poverty of people living in Amsterdam. (Herengracht 218, 1016 BT Amsterdam, Netherlands).

- 2017 - 2018** Board member of Stichting SafetyNed, Den Haag (Postal address: Stichting PerspeKtief, Buitenhofdreef 270, 2625 RE Delft, Netherlands). Starting a co-operation with the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), a United States colleague organisation experienced in the field of digital security, resulted in the foundation of the 'Stichting SafetyNed'. SafetyNed will eventually bring digital security to all clients of the Dutch women's shelters, and to all professionals working in the field of domestic violence ([documentation in Dutch only](#)).
- 2015 - 2017** member of 'Kring van Veiligheid' ('Circle of Safety'), an advisory group reporting to the national government; all members are experts from the Netherlands, contributing from expertise in different professional sectors. (Postal address: Movisie, Catherijnesingel 47, 3511GC Utrecht, Netherlands). In 2016 this group of experts published the manifest 'Huiselijk geweld te lijf' (Fight Domestic Violence); the manifest stresses the importance of improving the national approach to fighting domestic violence and child abuse by publishing a series of advisory proposals.
- 2006 - 2017** Chairperson and Board member of Stichting Vrouwenopvang Nederland (Foundation of Dutch Women's Shelters.) (Federatie Opvang, Piet Mondriaanplein 25, 3812 GZ Amersfoort, Netherlands). Responsible for national projects and the organisation of the 3rd World Conference for Women's Shelters in The Hague in 2015, 1000 participants from 115 countries. As well as high-profile speakers, among other Queen Máxima of the Netherlands and Princess Mary of Denmark, the Conference was addressed by many survivors of domestic violence who told their stories in a powerful and impactful way. The theme of the Conference was "connect and act", and the outcome was a "Call for Action" with input from all the regions. After the Conference, GNWS established a permanent secretariat in the Hague. The Conference also helped wake up governments and corporations to the importance of shelters.
- 2011 – 2016** Representative on behalf of the Dutch Women's Council/ The Netherlands in the Observatory on VAW at the European Women's Lobby, Brussels. (Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad, Laan van Meerdervoort 70, 2517 AN Den Haag, Netherlands).
- 2010 - 2016** Board member of Rotary Amsterdam; Youth Commissioner, responsibility for Youth Committee and Youth Projects (Rotary Administratie Nederland, Amstel 266, 1017 AM Amsterdam).
- 2005 - 2014** Board member of Federatie Opvang (Federation of Shelter Organisations in the Netherlands) (Federatie Opvang, Piet Mondriaanplein 25, 3812 GZ Amersfoort). Board membership included the portfolio of being chairperson of the Verenigingscommissie Vrouwenopvang en Stuurgroep Verbeterplan Vrouwenopvang (committee of directors of the women's shelters in the Netherlands, and the 'committee national improvement plan' dedicated at improving the service levels of the women's shelters in the Netherlands).
- 2009 - 2010** Member of Commissie Stelselonderzoek Vrouwenopvang, Ministerie van VWS (State Committee for the evaluation and improvement of the system of Women's Shelters in the Netherlands), representative of the Federation of Shelter Organisations. An important result has been a set of conditions favorable for the future of the sector.

## Education/training

- 1980 - 2017 Post-academic courses including leadership programs, management courses, a two-year course 'coaching of change', training as a quality auditor.
- 1980 University Master Degree Social Sciences (drs.); academic professional orientation: pedagogy and psychology; VU University Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- 1974 University Bachelor Degree Social Sciences; orientation: pedagogy, VU University Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- 1971 Gymnasium Alfa, Graduated (Diploma); Christelijk Streeklyceum, Ede, Netherlands.

## Publications

R. (Renée) Römken, A. (Aleid) van den Brink, T. (Tim) de Jong, 'Welk geweld telt? Opvattingen van Nederlanders over partnergeweld', Amsterdam, januari 2018.

Blijf Groep, Jaarverantwoording. De jaren 2008 – 2016. [www.blijfgroep.nl](http://www.blijfgroep.nl) .

Aleid van den Brink, Jan Jüngen. 'Thuisgeweld tegen vrouwen; het Meldpunt vrouwenopvang Amsterdam, 1991-1994' *Tijdschrift voor Criminologie*, 4, 41. 1995.

## Computer skills

Microsoft Office: MS Word, MS Power Point, MS Outlook, MS Excel.

Various Client Follow Systems, as used by women's shelters organisations in the Netherlands.

## Language skills

Mother tongue	Netherlands				
	Understanding		Speaking		Writing
Language	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	Writing skills
English	C2	C2	C1	C1	C1
French	A2	B1	A1	A1	A1
German	C1	C1	B1	B1	A1

*Common European Framework of Reference for Languages*