

Personal motivation

Over more than 40 years I have dedicated my professional life to governing various institutions committed to combatting domestic violence against women, children – and also men.

From my new position - after the occasion of my retirement as CEO of Blijf Groep (April 2018) – new possibilities have arisen in offering my expertise and dedication to other people and other initiatives: as board member of some foundations on local, national and international level and last but not least as GREVIO member since September 2018.

The women and children I met during the past decades are my true inspiration. Their problems must be solved, in the most effective way on all levels. To me creating the most effective way meant creating high quality, innovative and sustainable organizational frameworks. It also means making positive contributions through the work as GREVIO member, monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, and by representing GREVIO on various occasions.

Relevant qualifications summary

- Member of GREVIO since September 2018
- University skilled in pedagogy and psychology
- Financial, organizational and business expertise as CEO of a NGO
- Broad expertise with innovation, online services and digital security issues
- Knowledge of relevant research, participation in research activities and supervisory committees
- Successful fundraiser
- Experience with (inter)national boards and State Committees, as an advisor, member or chairperson
- Initiator and co-organizer of the 3rd World Conference for Women's Shelters (The Hague, 2015) and of Lila.help, a global directory of women's helplines (April 2022)
- Long term experience in maintaining open contact with governments and politics as advisor, conceptual influencer and negotiator

Current professional activity

- 2018 -** Member of GREVIO, the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, monitoring body for the Istanbul Convention of the Council of Europe. Member of the delegation for the monitoring of Serbia (2019), Romania (2021) and Germany (2021); advisor in the expert delegation during the assessment of Kosovo's alignment with the Istanbul Convention (2022); member of the working group on GREVIO's first general recommendation on the digital dimension of violence against women; representing GREVIO on various occasions e.g. in Moldova, Serbia, Taiwan, the Netherlands, CSW 65, Kosovo, Greece/Cyprus.
- 2018 -** Chair of the Dutch Foundation of the Global Network of Women's Shelters. GNWS is a network organization: a global voice for survivors and the shelters that serve them, aimed at strengthening the women's shelter movement globally to end violence against women and their children. The Dutch foundation supports GNWS. In April 2022 we will launch Lila.help, a global directory of women's helplines (Stichting GNWS, Mondriaanstraat 25, 9718 MJ Groningen, The Netherlands).

- 2018 -** Chair of the Aletta Jacobs Foundation, support foundation for Atria, Dutch institute on equality and women's history (Aletta Jacobs Fonds, Vijzelgracht 20, 1017 HK Amsterdam, The Netherlands).
- 2010 -** Vice Chair in the Board of Fonds Bijzondere Noden, Amsterdam ('Foundation Special Needs'), a local and interdisciplinary charitable organization contributing to the reduction of poverty of people living in Amsterdam. (Herengracht 218, 1016 BT Amsterdam, The Netherlands).

Relevant previous professional activities

- 2008 – 2018** CEO of Blijf Groep (Tollensstraat 59a, 1053 RS Amsterdam, The Netherlands).

Blijf Groep, an organization 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 organization 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 over 20M. It employs a staff of over 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' organization in the Province of Flevoland (Tollensstraat 59a, 1053 RS Amsterdam, The 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 organizations in an interdisciplinary setting. Establishing co-operation with municipalities and district teams, with the police, with judiciary authorities and with youth and adult care organizations 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 organizations in Amsterdam (crisis center Het Eliashuis and Blijf-van-mijn-Lijf Amsterdam) director of the new organization; 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

- 2017 - 2018** Board member of Stichting SafetyNed, Den Haag (Postal address: Stichting PerspeKtief, Kalfjeslaan 2, 2623 AA Delft, The Netherlands). Starting a co-operation with the tech project of the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV, Washington, USA), resulted in 'Stichting SafetyNed' that 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.
- 2015 - 2017** Member of 'Kring van Veiligheid' ('Circle of Safety'), an advisory group reporting to the Government of The Netherlands; all members are experts from The Netherlands, contributing from expertise in different professional sectors. (Postal address: Movisie, Churchillaan 11, 3527 BG Utrecht, The 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.) (VON p/a Piet Mondriaanplein 25, 3812 GZ Amersfoort, The Netherlands). Responsible for national projects and the organization 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. After the Conference, GNWS established a permanent secretariat in The Netherlands.
- 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, Alexanderveld 5, 2585 AN Den Haag, The Netherlands).
- 2010 - 2022** President of Rotary Amsterdam (July 2020- July 2021); Board member of Rotary Amsterdam; Youth Commissioner, responsibility for Youth Committee and Youth Projects (Rotary Administratie Nederland, Stationsweg 29, 4205 AA Gorinchem, The Netherlands).
- 2005 - 2014** Board member of Valente (Federation of Shelter Organizations in the Netherlands) (Valente, Piet Mondriaanplein 25, 3812 GZ Amersfoort, The Netherlands). 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 Organizations. 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, The Netherlands.
- 1974** University Bachelor Degree Social Sciences; orientation: pedagogy, VU University Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- 1971** Gymnasium Alfa, Graduated (Diploma); Christelijk Streeklyceum, Ede, The Netherlands.

Publications

R. (Renée) Römkens, 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.

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