



## CONCEPT NOTE

# Strengthening Peace Initiatives of Migrants in The Hague

### Aims & objectives

The main goal of the project is to strengthen migrant organisations in The Hague in building peace in the countries of origin. This will be achieved by promoting 'partnerships for peace' between migrants and larger peace organisations in The Hague. These kinds of partnerships increase the network of migrant organisations and thereby improve their peacebuilding capacities. The project is carried out by the African Diaspora Policy Centre in collaboration with the municipality of The Hague.

### Context & relevance

Research has shown that migrants are uniquely able to build peace in their countries of origin. Migrant peace activists possess much soft power, such as powers of persuasion, innovative new ideas, and a broader transnational worldview compared to locals involved in the conflict. Migrants can use their personal and institutional contacts in the country of origin to promote local peace negotiations, contacts which international organisations often lack.

However, the value of migrant and diaspora organisations in promoting peace still does not receive much attention from peace organisations. As a consequence, the various assets that migrants can bring to a peace process are not utilised to the extent that they could be. This is most likely caused by the informal nature of migrants' activities and the relative weakness of their social, economic and political position in Western society.

### Approach & activities

This project will make it easier for potential partners from government or civil society to reach out to the migrant organisations. The networks of these organisations will be improved, since they will have the opportunity to meet each other, large non-governmental organisations (NGOs), diplomats and academics at a seminar during which the results of the project will be presented. The publicity that will potentially be generated by the publication and the seminar will increase the visibility of the migrants in The Hague and surroundings and can thereby help create a larger support base for their peacebuilding work.

The project activities are:

- Mapping and publication of peace initiatives of migrants in The Hague
- Organising a seminar to present the finding of this project and to showcase migrant and diaspora organisations working in the field of peacebuilding
- Production of media output including a news article and short video

### Target groups

The main target group for this project are migrants in The Hague engaged in peacebuilding in their respective countries of origin. In addition, peace NGOs located in The Hague will be involved to learn about their experiences and ideas in cooperating with migrants in order to understand how to strengthen ties with migrant and diaspora organisations working in similar topical fields and regions.

### Expected results

- Promotion of peace networks and collaborations between migrant organisations and peace NGOs active in The Hague, contributing to more effective peace interventions in the countries of origin
- Concretisation of the importance of cooperating with migrant organisations for national and international peace organisations and diplomats
- Increased visibility of various migrant communities and their peace promoting efforts among the general public in The Hague

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