

Advisory Report
issued to
the Minister of Health,
Welfare and Sport

Archief Philip Staal

by
the Advisory Board on the Allocation of
the Dutch Contribution
to the
Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund

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The Hague, 26 May 2000

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1. Background

The United States and the United Kingdom set up the Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund (NPR Fund) in December 1997. It is used to fund projects carried out by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to provide direct aid, services and other forms of support for those who were most affected by Nazi persecution, or projects that aim to prevent similar injustice in the future.

A number of donor countries contribute to the Fund. To date, contributions have been received from the founders and from Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Greece, Latvia, Poland, Spain, Sweden and the Netherlands. On 19 December 1997 the Dutch government decided to contribute NLG 20 million, around USD 10 million. This is the second largest donation, after that of the United States. The NPR Fund has now received over 40 million dollars in donations in total.

The structure of the Fund is such that each donor country can select the projects it wishes to fund. Most wish their contribution to be spent at home. The Dutch contribution to the NPR Fund is intended partly to help victims of the Nazi regime who received little or no compensation or help after the Second World War. NLG 10 million is therefore earmarked for the so-called double victims in Central and Eastern Europe. The other NLG 10 million is intended for Dutch or former Dutch persecutees elsewhere in the world, particularly in Israel. The Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport is responsible for the allocation of the Dutch contribution.

2. Framework for allocation

The NLG 20 million contribution is intended to fund projects, not organisations. Projects may be submitted for funding only by NGOs that have been recognised as such by the countries participating in the NPR Fund. Organisations that are not recognised NGOs can have a recognised NGO submit their project proposals for them. The proposals must set out plans for a specific, time-limited activity.

Projects that qualify for funding under mainstream subsidy schemes are not eligible for funding from the Dutch contribution to the NPR Fund.

The projects must involve activities in at least one of the following areas:

1. Providing assistance to victims through the mediation of NGOs. Such assistance may take the form of services (providing care for the elderly or other groups), services in kind, or financial aid. They may be projects that help to improve people's standard of living or that help them come to terms with the trauma of persecution.

2. Initiatives launched by relatives of persecutees with the aim of reviving the intellectual and cultural heritage that was largely destroyed as a result of the Second World War. These may be projects concerned with training and education in the form of courses, publications or group activities of a religious, educational or spiritual nature. Other examples are youth work and community development and the facilities required for these purposes.
3. Honouring those who lost their lives in the Second World War, remembering the war itself and warning about the ideology behind it. This includes educational projects in Central and Eastern Europe.

This framework is set out in a letter to the Lower House of the States General of 29 June 1998 (Parliamentary Papers II 1997/1998, 25 839, no. 3). The Board has decided that, in accordance with the aims of the Fund, the focus should be on projects in the field mentioned under 1 (see section 5).

3. Advisory Board

On 18 June 1999 the Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport set up an independent advisory body, the Advisory Board on the Allocation of the Dutch Contribution to the Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund. The Board was asked to assess the project proposals submitted by NGOs and test them against the NPR Fund guidelines and criteria laid down by the government, and to advise the Minister on whether they should be given full or partial funding from the Dutch contribution to the NPR Fund. This task was performed as described in the letter to the Lower House of the States General of 29 June 1998 and in article 3 of the Order establishing the Advisory Board on the Allocation of the Dutch Contribution to the Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund.

The Board has a chairman and five members acting in a private capacity, who were invited to join on the basis of their particular expertise, knowledge of the target groups and independence from the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport and interest groups.

The members of the Advisory Board are:

- chairman: Dr D. Dolman
- member of the Council of State
 - former speaker of the Lower House of the States General
- members: Professor C.L. Davidson
- professor of biomaterial sciences at the University of Amsterdam
 - former chairman of the Verbond van Liberaal-Religieuze Joden in Nederland

Mr F. Ensel

- former chairman of the board of Jewish Social Services

Mr J. Manheim

- chairman of the Centre for Information and Documentation on Israel

Mr E. van Thijn

- former mayor of Amsterdam
- former Minister of the Interior

Ms G.H. Wertheim-Cahen

- creative arts therapist specialising in the treatment of war victims

Mr B. Bijl and Mr J.V. Rodrigues, who both work for the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, act as secretary and deputy secretary to the Board.

Ms T.J. Blankert-van Veen and Ms A.C.M. Proost, who also work for the Ministry, act as advisors to the Board.

4. Method

There was an initial opportunity to submit project proposals in the Netherlands from 1 July 1998 to 1 March 1999. During that period the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport made active efforts to approach the recognised NGOs on the matter. However, due to the poor response, the deadline was extended to 1 December 1999.

The Advisory Board noted that there was a great deal of confusion about the NPR Fund in Israel and therefore felt the need to devote a few days in early October to providing information about the aim of the Fund and the application procedure. During the visit NGOs were asked to consult each other and submit project proposals that they felt deserved the highest priority. This resulted in a package of high-priority proposals totalling NLG 10 million and a package of secondary priority proposals amounting to NLG 7.5 million.

Project proposals totalling some NLG 90 million were submitted. They went through the pre-processing stage, which in some cases involved requesting additional information, and were then passed on to the Advisory Board for assessment.

After an initial discussion of the project proposals for Israel, the Advisory Board decided it needed further information on a number of projects. It therefore sent a delegation on a second visit to Israel in March 2000 to give the organisations concerned an opportunity to explain their proposals.

When discussing the project proposals for Central and Eastern Europe the Advisory Board found that several NGOs had submitted similar proposals for war victims in the same country. To clarify the situation these organisations were asked in writing to provide more information on their own proposals and the similar proposals submitted by other NGOs. This meant that any overlap could be avoided.

After carefully assessing and weighing up the proposals the Advisory Board drew up an advisory report on the project proposals it had received. The Minister of Health,

Welfare and Sport will subject the proposals to a further assessment on the basis of this report and issue the NPR Fund account holder with instructions as to how the Dutch contribution should be allocated. All countries participating in the NPR Fund will be sent a copy of these instructions to prevent a situation whereby several countries finance the same project. The sums specified in the instructions will be transferred to the NGOs in question.

5. Considerations

Central and Eastern Europe

Given the amount of money available and the number of project proposals submitted for Central and Eastern Europe the Advisory Board considered according priority to projects designed to provide basic necessities (food and medicine) for first-generation war victims. However, several projects meeting this description will not be financed as other organisations are carrying out similar projects in the same country.

Exceptions to the above-mentioned principle were made for two projects:

- Mr M. Koker's project submitted via the Organisation for Information on and Coordination of Services for Victims of War (ICODO) for a memorial at the site of the Sportschule Langenbilau concentration camp in Poland, where Dutch Jews were killed. This project was not eligible for financing from the fourth tranche of the Gold Pool. No other opportunity could be found to finance this project.
- The Dutch Auschwitz Committee's project topping up the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport grant for the refurbishment of the Dutch pavilion at the Auschwitz Museum. The previously allocated sum had proved to be inadequate.

Israel

The Advisory Board is highly appreciative of the careful work done by the NGOs HONI, Elah and Ayalah in drawing up a joint list of the project proposals which in their opinion deserve priority. It has tried as far as possible to advise the Minister on the basis of the list. However, it was not possible to adopt the entire list of priorities as it stood, since it is based on NLG 10 million being available.

Alongside the projects in Israel, one project in the United States is also eligible for a contribution. The Advisory Board feels that in Israel, too, the emphasis should be on the first generation of war victims. As a result, it would advise awarding Elah a smaller amount than it applied for.

United States

The Advisory Board believes that social services for the first generation of war victims in the United States are essential. In the application of laws pertaining to war victims in the United States, insufficient account has been taken of the emotional burden on them. There are few organisations in the US that can act as a safety net, partly because of the long distances carers have to travel. The ICODO project proposal might go some way towards resolving this situation. The Advisory Board feels that it would be appropriate to provide financial support, but regards the Dutch government as the appropriate party to provide a substantial and ongoing contribution to these efforts through the normal channels, given the amount required and the amount available.

6. Projects in Central and Eastern Europe

Projects recommended:

(See annex for the amounts in dollars)

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee

Ukraine	
- <i>food supply, medical care and home care</i>	NLG 2,400,000
Belarus	
- <i>food supply, medical care and home care</i>	NLG 1,400,000
Moldova	
- <i>food supply, medical care and home care</i>	NLG 1,000,000
Romania	
- <i>food supply, medical care and home care</i>	NLG 600,000
Hungary	
- <i>food supply, medical care and home care</i>	NLG 300,000

B'nai B'rith (District 19)

Ukraine	
- <i>food supply and medical care</i>	NLG 1,000,000
Russia	
- <i>food supply</i>	NLG 450,000
Latvia	
- <i>social and medical care</i>	NLG 400,000
Romania	
- <i>food supply and medical care</i>	NLG 400,000
Lithuania	
- <i>social and medical care</i>	NLG 250,000
Hungary	
- <i>centre for adults with Down's syndrome</i>	NLG 70,000

Conference of European Rabbis

Ukraine	
- <i>food supply and medical care</i>	NLG 100,000
Belarus	
- <i>geriatric services and distribution of vitamins and non-food packages</i>	NLG 100,000

European Council of Jewish Communities

Hungary (Jewish community in Budapest)	
- <i>food supply and medical care</i>	NLG 500,000
Czech Republic (Jewish community in Prague)	
- <i>social and medical care</i>	NLG 250,000

Dutch Auschwitz Committee

- <i>refurbishment of Dutch pavilion</i>	NLG 250,000
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SPOLU International Roma in Czech Republic and Slovakia - <i>community development</i>	NLG	500,000
ICODO Foundation - <i>Langenbilau memorial</i>	NLG	30,000
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	NLG	10,000,000

Projects not recommended:

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
Slovakia
- *contribution to Holocaust Documentation Centre in Bratislava*
The project is not concerned with basic necessities.

Anne Frank Foundation
Poland, Ukraine, Hungary and Romania
- *better education on persecution of Jews and Roma*
The projects are not concerned with basic necessities.

Association for Former Political Prisoners of German Concentration Camps
United Kingdom
- *financial aid for war victims*
This would provide aid to people currently resident in the United Kingdom. It is more important to provide aid to war victims living in Central and Eastern Europe.

B'nai B'rith (District 19)
Ukraine
- *summer camps for children from poor families*
The project is not concerned with basic necessities.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews
United Kingdom
- *financial aid for war victims*
This would provide aid to people currently resident in the United Kingdom. It is more important to provide aid to war victims living in Central and Eastern Europe.

Caritas Slovenia
Slovenia
- *care, home care and holidays for war victims*
Insufficient information was supplied about the project.

Centre Européen Juif d'Information

Latvia and Hungary

- *seminars in Riga and Budapest*

The projects do not concern basic necessities.

Conference of European Rabbis

Ukraine

- *contribution to Odessa orphanage*

- *contribution to Jewish school in Crimea*

- *appointment of rabbis*

- *housing for war victims*

- *acquisition and refurbishment of a building for the Jewish community*

- *contribution to girls' orphanage*

The projects are less related to basic necessities than those recommended for a contribution.

Russia

- *contribution to a hostel for homeless children in Moscow*

The project does not fall within the framework for allocation.

- *acquisition and refurbishment of a building for the Jewish community*

The project does not concern basic necessities.

Belarus

- *help with restitution of war victims' rights*

The project does not concern basic necessities.

Croatia

- *restoration of mikvah*

- *publication of a book on Jewish traditions*

The projects do not concern basic necessities.

European Council of Jewish Communities (ECJC)

Bosnia Herzegovina (Jewish community in Mostar)

- *establishing a Jewish cultural centre*

The project does not concern basic necessities.

Tatarstan (Jewish community in Tatarstan)

- *construction of a centre for food supply and medical care*

The project is only indirectly concerned with basic necessities.

- *restoration of Jewish cemetery*

The project does not concern basic necessities.

Latvia (Latvian Council of Jewish Communities)

- *contribution towards all the organisation's activities, including food supply, home care and medical care*

The project was inadequately specified.

Lithuania (Jewish community in Lithuania)

- *various social assistance projects*

The project was inadequately explained.

- *setting up a Jewish cultural centre*
The project does not concern basic necessities.
- *various restoration projects*
The project does not concern basic necessities.

Czech Republic (Jewish community in Brno)
- *preservation and dissemination of Jewish culture*
The project does not concern basic necessities.

Hungary, Czech Republic and Poland (ECJC project)
- *research into material used for history lessons*
The project does not concern basic necessities.

Hungary (ECJC projects)
- *provision of legal advice*
- *ten educational documentaries with eye-witness accounts of Second World War*
- *dissemination of Jewish culture through theatre*
The projects do not concern basic necessities.

France (ECJC project)
- *setting up a European Council for Jewish Heritage*
The project does not concern basic necessities.

Italy (Jewish community in Milan)
- *participation by a number of schoolchildren in the 'March of the Living'*
The project does not concern basic necessities.

Belarus (Union of Belarus Jewish Associations and Communities)
- *help for needy war victims and stimulation of Jewish life*
The project was not adequately specified.

Estonia (Jewish community in Estonia)
- *renovation and refurbishment of synagogues in Tallinn and Pärnu and construction of synagogue in Tartu*
- *setting up of small home for the elderly*
The projects do not concern basic necessities.

European Jewish Congress

Ukraine (Vaad of Ukraine)

- *teacher training for holocaust education*
- *setting up various memorials*
- *restoration of Jewish cemeteries*
- *setting up of database on the holocaust in Ukraine*

The projects do not concern basic necessities.

- *food supply and medical care*

This request has been granted via other organisations.

Ukraine (Ukraine Society of Jewish Culture)

- *various projects for the Babi Yar Museum and the development of a Babi Yar website*

The projects do not concern basic necessities.

Ukraine (Friends of the Jewish Community of Dnepropetrovsk)

- *restoration of Jewish cultural centre with synagogue*
- *Jewish education for women*
- *contribution to orphanage*
- *construction of home for the elderly*
- *contribution to Jewish daytime education*

The projects do not concern basic necessities.

Ukraine (Tver Jewish community)

- *setting up of a monument in Ilyino ghetto*

The project does not concern basic necessities.

ICODO Foundation

Lithuania (Vilnius Holocaust Museum)

- *setting up an education service and expansion of museum*

The project does not concern basic necessities.

Lithuania (Stichting het R.C. Maagdenhuis)

- *setting up of Jewish home for the elderly*

The project does not concern basic necessities.

International Alliances

Croatia

- *rehabilitation programmes*

It is unclear whether the projects will benefit the NPR Fund's target group. They seem to focus more on reconstruction in the Balkans and do not therefore fall within the framework for allocation.

International Council of Christians and Jews (ICCJ)

Russia

- *setting up an ICCJ centre*
- *conference on Judaism and racism*
- *translation of manuals into Polish, Russian, Hungarian and Czech*

The projects do not concern basic necessities.

Hungary (The Christian-Jewish Society)

- *setting up a publishing house and publishing a periodical*

The project does not concern basic necessities.

Ukraine (Step to Unity)

- *regional interreligious conference*

The project does not concern basic necessities.

Russia (Mr Y.M. Tabak)

- *translation of manuals and writing a book on Jewish-Catholic relations*

The projects do not concern basic necessities.

Belarus (Belarussian Interconfessional Association, BIA)

- *international interreligious conference*
- *presentation of a book on Jewish-Christian relations*
- *office for the BIA in Latvia*

The projects do not concern basic necessities.

The Jewish Agency for Israel

Former Soviet Union

- *restoration of Jewish identity*
- *teacher training for holocaust education*
- *travelling exhibition*

The projects do not concern basic necessities.

Pink Cross

Germany

- *documentaries, exhibitions, catalogues, biographies and a conference about the Nazi persecution of homosexuals*

The projects do not concern basic necessities.

Various countries

- *financial assistance for homosexual victims of persecution*

The project was inadequately explained.

Slovenian Red Cross

Slovenia

- *therapeutic holidays for socially isolated war victims*

The project was inadequately explained.

SPOLU

Bulgaria

- *community development for Roma in Bulgaria*

The Dutch government has already provided a grant for this project.

Czech Republic (Rožmberk Society)

- *restoration and management of Jewish cemeteries and a synagogue*

The projects do not concern basic necessities.

7. Projects in Israel and the United States

Projects recommended:

(See annex for the amounts in dollars)

Israel:

HONI (Aid to Dutch War Victims in Israel Foundation)

Irgoen Olei Holland		
- <i>home care</i>	NLG	3,405,000
- <i>contact groups</i>	NLG	250,000
Beth Juliana and Beth Joles		
- <i>alterations to homes for the elderly</i>	NLG	2,550,000
Yad Davids Fund		
- <i>release of investment in homes for the elderly</i>	NLG	500,000
Foundation for Research on Dutch Jewry		
- <i>demographic study</i>	NLG	132,000
- <i>digital museum</i>	NLG	115,000
- <i>library</i>	NLG	3,000
Beth Lochamei Hagetaot		
- <i>archive staff for Dutch department</i>	NLG	38,000
Westerweel Group		
- <i>memorials</i>	NLG	18,000
- <i>educational video</i>	NLG	15,000
Amutat Leeuwarden		
- <i>restoration of objects</i>	NLG	24,000
Elah Foundation		
- <i>intergenerational trauma counselling</i>	NLG	1,340,000
- <i>community development</i>	NLG	360,000
- <i>academic research</i>	NLG	150,000
Ayalah Foundation		
- <i>legal counsel for legal proceedings</i>	NLG	500,000
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	NLG	9,400,000

United States:

ICODO Foundation
- *social services*

NLG 600,000

NLG 10,000,000

Projects not recommended:

Amcha Israel

Israel

- *aid to immigrants from the former Soviet Union*

The project does not fall within the framework for allocation, as it is not primarily aimed at Dutch or formerly Dutch war victims.

B'nai B'rith Israel

Vera Salomon Centre

- *refurbishment of common room in home for the elderly*

The project does not fall within the framework for allocation, as it is not primarily aimed at Dutch or formerly Dutch people resident in Israel.

The projects with secondary priority on the list drawn up by the NGOs HONI, Elah and Ayalah were of course not recommended as the Advisory Board did not depart from the list of top priorities.

Annex: The recommendations in dollars

The Advisory Board has based its advice on the allocation of 20 million Dutch guilders. The amount that is actually to be allocated is 9,451,152.83 US dollars. For your benefit this annex contains the list of recommendations in US dollars.

Projects in Central and Eastern Europe

Projects recommended:

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee

Ukraine	
- <i>food supply, medical care and home care</i>	USD 1,134,138.34
Belarus	
- <i>food supply, medical care and home care</i>	USD 661,580.70
Moldova	
- <i>food supply, medical care and home care</i>	USD 472,557.64
Romania	
- <i>food supply, medical care and home care</i>	USD 283,534.58
Hungary	
- <i>food supply, medical care and home care</i>	USD 141,767.29

B'nai B'rith (District 19)

Ukraine	
- <i>food supply and medical care</i>	USD 472,557.64
Russia	
- <i>food supply</i>	USD 212,650.94
Latvia	
- <i>social and medical care</i>	USD 189,023.06
Romania	
- <i>food supply and medical care</i>	USD 189,023.06
Lithuania	
- <i>social and medical care</i>	USD 118,139.41
Hungary	
- <i>centre for adults with Down's syndrome</i>	USD 33,079.03

Conference of European Rabbis

Ukraine	
- <i>food supply and medical care</i>	USD 47,255.76
Belarus	
- <i>geriatric services and distribution of vitamins and non-food packages</i>	USD 47,255.76

European Council of Jewish Communities		
Hungary (Jewish community in Budapest)		
- <i>food supply and medical care</i>	USD	236,278.82
Czech Republic (Jewish community in Prague)		
- <i>social and medical care</i>	USD	118,139.41
Dutch Auschwitz Committee		
- <i>refurbishment of Dutch pavilion</i>	USD	118,139.41
SPOLU International		
Roma in Czech Republic and Slovakia		
- <i>community development</i>	USD	236,278.82
ICODO Foundation		
- <i>Langenbilau memorial</i>	USD	14,176.73
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	USD	4,725,576.40

Projects in Israel and the United States

Projects recommended:

Israel:

HONI (Aid to Dutch War Victims in Israel Foundation)

Irgoen Olei Holland	
- <i>home care</i>	USD 1,609,058.77
- <i>contact groups</i>	USD 118,139.41
Beth Juliana and Beth Joles	
- <i>alterations to homes for the elderly</i>	USD 1,205,021.99
Yad Davids Fund	
- <i>release of investment in homes for the elderly</i>	USD 236,278.82
Foundation for Research on Dutch Jewry	
- <i>demographic study</i>	USD 62,377.61
- <i>digital museum</i>	USD 54,344.13
- <i>library</i>	USD 1,417.67
Beth Lochamei Hagetaot	
- <i>archive staff for Dutch department</i>	USD 17,957.19
Westerweel Group	
- <i>memorials</i>	USD 8,506.04
- <i>educational video</i>	USD 7,088.36
Amutat Leeuwarden	
- <i>restoration of objects</i>	USD 11,341.38
Elah Foundation	
- <i>intergenerational trauma counselling</i>	USD 633,227.24
- <i>community development</i>	USD 170,120.75
- <i>academic research</i>	USD 70,883.65
Ayalah Foundation	
- <i>legal counsel for legal proceedings</i>	USD 236,278.82
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	USD 4,442,041.83

United States:

ICODO Foundation
- *social services*

USD 283,534.58

USD 4,725,576.41