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Date 06-05-2020  
Re COVID-19 Response and Voice

Dear Voice grantees,

We hope this message finds you and your loved ones healthy in this difficult time during which Corona turns the world upside down.

During the past weeks, far-reaching measures have been announced in countries around the world to prevent the further spread of the Corona virus. Of course, this has a huge impact on society, people's personal lives, and the work that you, as Voice grantees, are doing. And most saddening, we all know that the most marginalized and discriminated people are hit hardest during times of crises. Uncertain times for many, during which it is important to keep our peace and find inventive solutions to solve problems and take care of each other.

At the MFA, we have used the previous weeks to gain better insight into the (currently foreseen) consequences of this time period on the work of partner organizations we support, including possible mitigating measures that you/we can take. Through the Voice coordination team, we received a useful overview of the impact of COVID-19 on your organizations and especially on the most marginalized and discriminated people around the world. It is clear that the corona crisis has consequences for the context of and progress in the current VOICE projects. We understand that this might lead to adaptations in the original planning for 2020 in order to reach envisaged results or downsize them to more realistic results. We encourage you to look for creative opportunities to adjust to the current context within ongoing activities and within your project frameworks and budget lines.

Please note that unforeseen changes in the planning of envisaged results, activities and budgets need prior approval of the Voice coordination team, need to fit within the agreed objective and (outcome) results of your projects and need to be realized within the approved budget. Given the focus on strengthening lobby and advocacy of Voice and the context of this program, this means that service delivery activities – including humanitarian assistance – unfortunately are not possible with funding from Voice.

Additionally, given the current circumstances and financial crisis foreseen, there is a temporary break when it comes to entering new commitments with potential grantees, meaning that Voice will currently not be able to process new

applications from grantees or enter into new commitments. I sincerely apologize for the inconvenience this may cause and hope for your understanding.

You can contact the Voice team in case of questions, whom we will keep updated about any changes in the future.

We wish you all the strength and courage to keep up your amazing work.  
In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marinka 'a. Wijngaard'. The signature is stylized with large, sweeping loops.

Jeroen Kelderhuis  
Head Civil Society and Education Division