



**nationale ombudsman**



**OMBUDSMAN**

SINT MAARTEN

Return address: P.O. box 93122, 2509 AC The Hague

Chairman of the Council of Ministers for the Kingdom  
Mr M Rutte  
Postbus 2000  
2500 EA THE HAGUE

Dear Mr Rutte,

Since 2015, we, the Kingdom's Ombudsman Institutes, have been meeting annually. We want to actively highlight the usefulness and necessity of the institutes with the authorities and discuss important developments and problems that are at play in the kingdom. In 2016, the meeting took place on Sint Maarten and in 2017, on Curaçao. In 2019, we spoke with His Majesty the King during his working visit to the National Ombudsman in The Hague.

This year, we would like to bring several topics to your attention as the Chairman of the Council of Ministers for the Kingdom. The reason why Ombudsmen want to bring these matters to your attention is that many problems do not stop at the borders of a country. Poverty in the Caribbean Netherlands can also be found in the other countries in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. For many, the coronavirus crisis has only made their situation more dire. The conditions for liquidity support imposed by the Netherlands, in particular the mandatory reduction of personnel costs, will inevitably bring more suffering, notably for the most vulnerable people in society. This cannot possibly have been the Kingdom Government's intent. The effects of this measure exacerbate social and economic inequality within the kingdom and do not benefit democracy in the countries in the Caribbean part of the kingdom.

We want to highlight our concern about the lack of an effective approach to the recovery on Sint Maarten, following the damage caused by Hurricane Irma. You will find a reference to this issue in the letters from the Ombudsman of Sint Maarten and the National Ombudsman. For Curaçao, the existing and increasing poverty on the island and lack of access to clean drinking water for vulnerable citizens are also important topical issues.

Refugees from Venezuela also pose a problem in all countries. The lack of adequate regulations and facilities for reception has been mentioned before in particular. Regarding the situation of immigrants in Curaçao, we also refer you to the report by the Committee Meijers, the permanent committee of experts in international immigration, refugee and criminal law, which was published on 22 June 2020.

The authorities are aware of these topics, as is evident from the attached letters from the Ombudsman of Sint Maarten, Gwendolien Mossel, the National Ombudsman, Reinier van Zutphen, and the Ombudsman of Curaçao, Keursly Concincion. In addition, as you may know, Aruba still does not have an Ombudsman institute. As a result, the citizens of Aruba are unable to submit their

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**Date**

8 July 2020

**Subject**

Ombudsmen letter  
Kingdom

**Our number**

1494586

**Attachment(s)**

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**Point of contact**

xxxx

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complaints regarding government action to an independent and impartial institute.  
This creates inequality within the kingdom.

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The Ombudsmen of the Kingdom would like to discuss these issues with you in order  
to find a solution together in the kingdom.

**Our number**

1494586

OMBUDSMAN FOR SINT MAARTEN  
Gwendolien Mossel

THE NATIONAL OMBUDSMAN  
Reinier van Zutphen

OMBUDSMAN FOR CURAÇAO  
Keursly Concincion