

# The Evert Vermeer Foundation for International Solidarity

The Evert Vermeer Foundation (EVF) believes that the voice of people in developing countries should resound in Dutch and European politics. This is crucial, because politicians and other policy-makers too often make decisions whereby the interests of people in developing countries are ignored. That is why the activities of the EVF take place in the Netherlands and Brussels aiming to improve the living conditions of people in developing countries.

## The EVF and the Dutch Labour Party

The EVF is an independent foundation, affiliated with the Dutch Labour Party. The EVF arose from this political party and shares its social-democratic ideal of international solidarity and striving for a just world. Evert Vermeer was party chairman from 1955 until 1960.

## How does the EVF operate?

In order to put development cooperation at the top of the political agenda, the EVF advocates within Dutch and European politics, and organises political debates and public events.

### Public Events

Public pressure is essential to make politicians act. The EVF organises public meetings during which the public can confront Dutch and European politicians and hold them accountable for their policies. Politicians should know that there is public support for international cooperation. The EVF strives to achieve this by organising the following activities:

**Africa Day** The Africa Day is the largest national public event on Africa and development cooperation in The Netherlands, with dozens of political debates, workshops, lectures, and a cultural programme. The Africa Day attracts over 2,000 visitors each year, over 150 national and international guest speakers, and sixty cooperating organisations contribute to this event. More information: [www.afrikadag.nl](http://www.afrikadag.nl).

**EVF Student Symposium** To attain public support, also in the future, it is essential to involve students in international cooperation. This is the objective of the annual EVF Student Symposium, which offers a scientific programme with an in-depth focus on a theme relevant to current changes and pertinent topics in the world of development. The students - the policy makers of the future - follow master classes given by social scientists, politicians and businessmen, as well as representatives of civil society organisa-

tions, after which the students formulate policy recommendations for Dutch political actors.

**Evert Vermeer Lecture** For the annual Evert Vermeer Lecture the EVF invites an internationally renowned speaker to address or highlight political issues concerning international cooperation. The spirit of the Evert Vermeer Lecture lies in the pursuit of innovative and provocative thinking on international cooperation and development issues. In recent years Evert Vermeer Lectures were delivered by EVF honorary chairman, Jan Pronk, former president of Mozambique, Joaquim Chissano, and political economist, Professor Rick van der Ploeg.

**Topical Debates** The EVF monitors the political discussion on development cooperation closely and regularly organises public meetings where politicians, scientists, business and civil society scenes, all engage in debates on topical subjects with each other and with the public.

### International cooperation and the Dutch Labour Party

The EVF triggers the Dutch labour party to stay focused on the importance of international cooperation with an eye on international solidarity. This requires continuous vigilance and action by participating actively in various party institutions and at party congresses.

### Political Advocacy: Fair Politics

Political decisions of the European Union and its Member States, all too often harm the interests of developing countries. Trade, agricultural and migration policies, among others, undermine the

efforts of development politics and the pursuit of global sustainability, therefore change is extremely important. Politicians has the potential to bring about change in these policies. Fair Politics, the advocacy programme of the EVF, wants to bring a halt to detrimental policies hampering developing countries, and offer them their rightful opportunity to develop.

In order to achieve this, Fair Politics, along with many partners, focuses on different levels of governance and permanently campaigns at the European Institutions in Brussels, The Hague and at the local political level in the Netherlands. Fair Politics thus, contributes to the global efforts aimed at combating and significantly reducing poverty, disease and hunger before 2015. Without fair, equal and just policies and politics, the Millennium Development Goals will not be attainable.

### Fair Politics realises this by:

- Raising awareness among parliamentarians and government officials about the impact of unfair political practices and policies
- Suggesting concrete policy recommendations on how to change unfair policies into fair policies
- Organising political debates and expert meetings
- Proclaiming a *Fair Politician of the Year*

Moreover, Fair Politics activities are not only organised on national and European level, but also on local level. How can local policies and governance lead to an increased awareness of and support for sustainable, justifiable and effective poverty reduction? At the local level Fair Politics mainly aims its activities at municipalities and their efforts to make their policies sustainable.

## How can you contribute?

To be able to carry out all these activities, the EVF needs your support. Your contribution allows the EVF to work towards political changes crucial to the structural improvement of the position of people in developing countries. As a donor you will receive our newsletter (in Dutch), invitations to all of the above described events and you will be granted entrance reductions.

On the following bank account you can make a donation:

IBAN: NL74INGB0002585775

BIC CODE: INGBNL2A

ING Bank Amsterdam

If you make a donation and you would like to receive personal invitations and the newsletter, please provide us with your contact details, by sending an email to: [evs@evertvermeer.nl](mailto:evs@evertvermeer.nl).

You can also actively contribute to Fair Politics, by signing up for e-mail petitions via the website [www.fairpolitics.eu](http://www.fairpolitics.eu), allowing us to speak on your behalf. By doing so, you make our lobby much more powerful.

More information about the EVF or her activities can be found on the following websites:

[www.evertvermeer.nl/english](http://www.evertvermeer.nl/english)

[www.fairpolitics.eu](http://www.fairpolitics.eu)

[www.afrikadag.nl/english](http://www.afrikadag.nl/english)

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For international solidarity