

## **Narrative Report Arab-West Foundation 2022 and 2023 with updates till April 22, 2024**

Board members in 2022 and 2023:

Koen Vliegenthart (chair)

Dick van der Steen (secretary)

Céleste Voogel (treasury)

Advisors to the board in 2022 and 2023

Cornelis Hulsman

Eildert Mulder

The Stichting AWF supports the work of the Center for Intercultural Dialogue and Translation (CIDT), and Center for Arab-West Understanding (CAWU) in Egypt. Board members and advisors provided advice concerning work and management of CIDT in Egypt. The work of CIDT and CAWU has been described in separate narrative reports. The Stichting is concerned about the meagre pension savings for Sawsan Gabra Ayoub Khalil and Cornelis Hulsman.

The last AWF meeting was on zoom on April 8, 2022. Attending were: Koen Vliegenthart (chair), Dick van der Steen, Céleste Voogel, Eildert Mulder and Kees Hulsman. Dr. Matthew Anderson attended between 8.30 pm and 9.00 pm Dutch time.

The narrative report and financial report over 2021 were accepted and have been placed on the AWF website as required by Dutch authorities for ANBI foundations.

### **1. Board advisors**

#### **1.1. Work board advisor Eildert Mulder**

Eildert Mulder met with Kees regularly in 2022 and 2023 in the Netherlands, frequently providing advice to content in articles and reporting.

### **2. Matthew Anderson ambitions**

Dr. Matthew Anderson committed in our board meeting of April 26, 2022, to start his work in Egypt per 1.1.2022. Matthew Anderson wrote a new mission statement for Dialogue Across Borders (DAB) which was approved on March 16, 2022, by the boards of AWF and CAWU.

In the board meeting on April 8, 2022, expectations were that Matthew would start work in Cairo in June 2022. The board discussed the function description with Matthew and he was asked about his plans for transitioning CIDT and CAWU to a larger institution and content development of Arab-West Report. Matthew showed confidence in finding an academic institution to transfer activities, develop new content and do fundraising, stating that his connections with the Anglican bishops in Cairo would help in this field.

Matthew had to delay arrival in Cairo until 15.09.2022 because of personal circumstances and other job applications (Princeton University and John Templeton Foundation).

In June 2022, Matthew saw possible opportunities for a partnership between Arab-West Report/CIDT with the International Center for Religion and Diplomacy in the US. He discovered in discussions with this center that the name Arab-West Report did not help us since 'Arab' doesn't resonate well in the US. He proposed a name change. This is discussed with all stakeholders. It was agreed to change the name of Arab-West Report to: Dialogue Across Borders: Emerging Perspectives on Intercultural and Interreligious Relations. The name change was effectuated in August 2022.

On September 26 the employment contract (including the job description) between CIDT and Matthew was signed. The contract was until 31.12.2023, the end of the 2021-2023 funding contract.

On August 18, 2022, Matthew presented his "Future Vision" (which was also demanded by Kerk in Actie) for CIDT/CAWU on August 18, 2022. Some of the content of this document:

- Media Summaries/Commentary – selections will be adjusted but work continues.
- Exclusive Interviews; the ambition is 6-8 interviews per year with senior figures (like Judge Muhammad Abdelsalam and HRH Prince Ghazi and/or HRH Prince Hassan of Jordan) and a number of lower profile interviews as well.
- University Engagement in Egypt and the broader Middle East;
  - publish writings and commentary from university and postgraduate students in the Arab world
  - cultivating relationships with faculties at institutions, especially the Middle East universities
  - have Dialogue Across Borders providing a unique vision of the rising generation of leaders, religious scholars, and intellectuals in the Arab world.
- Mainstream Islamic Scholarship/Islamic Studies.
- keep track of books and writings that are important to Muslims and Christians in the Middle East; this involves for example, identifying and following key Islamic and Coptic publishing houses.
- Publication of Conference Proceedings and Individual Presentations in Egypt or in the Middle East that are relevant to the priorities of Dialogue Across Borders.
- International Student Internships will continue to be a priority;
  - refine this program to increase the strategic value for our organization
  - promote this program more effectively
  - charge a modest fee to interns to increase our income
- European Voices; soliciting articles and materials from European universities and other connections that illuminate Christian-Muslim relations and Islam in Europe
- strengthening our growing network.
- Special Projects with Partner Organizations
- identify projects in Egypt and the region that may be a good fit for KIA's Shared Futures initiative

## Finance

- try to get one more three-year financial commitment cycle (2024-2027) from existing donors to diversify partners and get resources from the US
- continue to improve the database and raise its profile to emerge important financial opportunities from the US
- talk with the US and European embassies about supporting our work
- accepting the possibility of reduced financial burden on Kerk in Actie in the next cycle. I am already working to cultivate more general funding from the United States.

## Institutional Transition

- exert significant energy toward an institutional transition

## Connection to the Anglican/Episcopal Church in Egypt

- I will be working as a part-time interim priest at St. John's Maadi church
- help develop the academic dimensions of their new interfaith center
- these positions are vitally important to my political and financial standing in Egypt; this will help me in providing connections and publication materials to advance the database

### **3. CIDT-AWF cooperation agreement**

In May 2016 CIDT, CAWU and AWF signed a cooperation agreement. On December 1, in preparation for Matthew Anderson's succession of Kees Hulsman, CIDT and AWF signed a renewed cooperation agreement in which AWF is listed as the copyright holder and publisher of Dialogue Across Borders and CIDT provides the Editor-in-Chief who decides about content to be produced and placed. This agreement is aimed to ease financial support for the learning centre through CAWU and was presented to the Ministry of Social Solidarity for approval on December 15, 2022. On March 3, 2023, the Ministry requested the protocol's purpose in 4 CDs which were submitted on April 6, 2023. The Ministry further requested the audit of CAWU's books for the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023. All requested documents were submitted on March 21, 2024. The Ministry asks for a financial and activity plans for the school year 2024-2025 to receive the permission for directly funding CAWU.

### **4. Communication with Matthew Anderson after arrival in Egypt**

On February 11 and March 31, 2023, Kees wrote letters to Matthew with compliments for participation in online meetings with Alfons Brüning, director of the Institute of Eastern Christian Studies, Nijmegen, but also showing concerns about the production needed as required in the contract with Kerk in Actie. He also showed concerns about the church in Egypt demanding more involvement of Matthew in the church activities and other teaching activities which would reduce the time available for CIDT to below the agreed number of hours.

Kees also asked about the activities for finding a larger entity that is willing to incorporate the work of CIDT in their activities, which was asked by Kerk in Actie. Finding an academic institution for our database is truly important.

In March 2023 Kees completed the narrative reports of CIDT and CAWU for the year 2022 for which he received input from Matthew. Koen provided feedback to the financial report 2023 and operational budget 2024 of accountant Adel Rizkallah. These documents were sent by Matthew to Kerk in Actie.

## 5. Contracts with Kerk in Actie and Missio

In 2021, the contracts between CIDT and Kerk in Actie and Missio were renewed for 2021-2023. Some major elements in the Kerk-in-Actie contract are:

- CIDT/CAWU/AWR will provide regular progress information in narrative and financial reporting.
- CIDT/CAWU All narrative and financial reports are expected at ‘project level’.
- CIDT/CAWU will continue to seek integration as Centre for Peace and Dialogue becoming part of a larger (academic) institution.
- CIDT/CAWU is going through a period of transition, both in terms of leadership and in terms of partnerships. Budgeting needs to show that income can be secured to cover office costs. Or, how costs can be reduced without affecting the quality of the database. The due date for handing in narrative and financial reporting for 2023 is March 1, 2024.

In the July 4, 2002, meeting between Kerk in Actie director Pepijn Trapman and Kees Hulsman he stressed all these points and stated that CIDT is required to work towards self-sustainability; we have to keep Kerk-in-Actie updated about our efforts to become self-sustainable.

Trapman was informed that moving the database to AUC and CEDEJ was not possible. Prior to the meeting on July 4 Kees wrote a report titled: "Transitioning dialogue activities of CIDT, CAWU and AWF," June 26, 2022. This report responded to questions of Kerk in Actie what efforts had been made to find an academic home for the activities of CIDT, electronic database and all books and files. Further efforts would be made with Dr. Matthew Anderson following the pending transition of the position of director of CIDT to him.

CIDT would provide Matthew Anderson a contract including listing the requirements from the CIDT-Kerk in Actie contract.

[Indicators for project objectives 2021-2023 with Kerk-in-Actie and Missio support as attached to the Kerk-in-Actie contract 2021-2023.](#)

. Description	Target 2021	Realized 2021	Target 2022	Realized until 15/9, 2022	Realized after 15/9 2022	Target 2023	Realized 2023

Summary translations of selected Arabic media with classification	540	406	540	146	87	540	623
Background analysis and media critique (in text type still called AWR reports. incl. reporting from the CAWU summer webinars)	30	36	30	51	6	30	3 (one written by an intern and two by Kees)
In-depth interviews	8	11	8	3	0	8	0
In-depth investigative reporting (Arab-West Papers)	4	4	4	1	1	4	2 (both produced by Kees)
Arab-West Report newsletter, number of issues per year uploaded	50	49	50	19	14	50	29*
Subscribers to Arab-West Report newsletters	2000	1987	2200	1875	1875	2400	Not provided by Matthew
Forum discussions	10	0 (due to covid-19)	10	0	0	10	Not provided by Matthew
Interns	35	45	35	19	0	35	Not provided by Matthew
Lectures to promote mutual understanding in institutions	5	4	5	16	0	5	Not provided by Matthew

Details are provided in the narrative reports of CIDT and CAWU over 2021 and 2022. These also include statistics about the usage of social media. The data in the narrative reports for 2022 were split in production results until 15 September and after 15 September, the moment

Matthew Anderson took over as director CIDT. The narrative reports of 2023 were not ready at the time of writing this AWF narrative report. CIDT, therefore, does not know if the production criteria in the 2021-2023 contract with Kerk in Actie were met. The data produced in this overview were taken from the database. Obvious is that Matthew produced not a single report and interns produced only one report. It appears that Matthew's focus has only been on summary translations while the contract with Kerk in Actie specified substantially more production and reporting on numbers of interns, lectures, forum discussion, increasing the number of newsletter subscriptions and more. Responses to production results are, however, up to Kerk in Actie.

\*) The last newsletter that was uploaded dates to November 23, 2023. Newsletters were sent, but not uploaded.

About uploaded texts in 2023:

623 summary translations from Arabic media reporting is a very nice result. Yet, there are questions about referring to the author. Until 1.1.2023 authors were always actual persons and never an editorial team, Department of Culture or taken from MENA or WAM or DBA who no one even knows what this is which creates search problems.

<https://www.dialogueacrossborders.com/en/churches-jordan-cancel-all-christmas-activities-and-celebrations>

Author: editorial team Abouna

Text mentions that translation was taken from Abouna.org but it also mentions that copyright is with AWF. IF this text was not translated by CIDT then copyright is not with AWF. Copyright is an important issue to Brill.

Several authors were listed as: unknown. Prior to 1.1.2023 this was "Author not mentioned." It is for search not recommendable to create different names for the same category of unknown authors.

<https://www.dialogueacrossborders.com/en/israel-bombs-third-oldest-church-world>

Author: Department of Culture

<https://www.dialogueacrossborders.com/en/pope-taw%20C4%81%E1%B8%8D%20r%C5%ABs-ii-says-voting-presidential-election-act-patriotism-all-egyptians>

Author: Taken from MENA

Person needed, the source MENA should be mentioned in the article summary  
More like this

<https://www.dialogueacrossborders.com/en/abrahamic-family-houses-announces-future-programs>

Author: WAM

<https://www.dialogueacrossborders.com/en/iraq-emphasizes-need-un-resolution-dialogue-and-religious-tolerance>

Author: DBA

Other reports have hardly been produced:

AWR reports: 3 (1 Xante and 2 Cornelis Hulsman)

All other categories: zero.

Kees also met with Romina Elbracht and Michael Drummen of Missio/Mikado library. Agreed is that paper files will be donated to the Mikado library. Agreed was that Mikado would provide a list of all publications received with AWF/CIDT taking care that the lists will be placed in the database of Dialogue Across Borders so that researchers know where the physical files can be found.

## **6. Database development**

Budgetary constraints limited development:

1. Matthew remarked that the classification of new texts was time-consuming and would like to see this reduced. This will affect the search.
2. Since due to limited funding in the 2021-2023 project period, the budget line for database development could not be maintained.

Kees Hulsman had established a contact with Prof. Klappholz of Stevens Institute of Technology in New York to pitch our project to his senior IT students. Prof. Klappholz, however, required professional IT supervision which we found Dutch IT company Impressie ready to do. The student project included the question to ease uploading new texts. Costs of Impressie could, however, not be covered by CIDT and Kees found support of the Stichting Steun Projecten en Partners ad 9257 Euro of which 2855 Euro remained at the end of the supervision period of Impressie. The remaining sum is reserved for the splitting of names in the database for better search. The student project with the support of Impressie covered the September 2022 – May 2023 period. Splitting of names is ongoing and need to be ready before work starts on upgrading the database from Drupal 7 to Drupal 10. This must be completed before January 5, 2025, since that is the end-of-life date of Drupal 7 after which data become very vulnerable and could be lost. A draft report about the student project was completed in February 2024 and was sent to Impressie for review. No response has been received thus far.

On March 26, 2024, Kees compiled a list of all errors found in the database during the student project and sent these to Michael Drummen, librarian of the Mikado library for librarian advises on easing classification (see also section 7.6).

## **7. Finding an institutional home for the database**

### **7.1. Ain Shams University**

Kees Hulsman organized the program for a Missio/Aachen University student visit to Egypt between June 6 and June 13, 2022. Kees Hulsman both organized the program and led the group in Egypt. Costs were directly paid by Missio, not CIDT.

With the support of Prof. Dr. Tareq Mansour of Ain Shams University the first International Seminar between Ain Shams University and Aachen University on the subject of Dialogue between East and West and Opportunities for Encounter was organized with all students, Missio and Aachen University representatives joining on 11th June 2022. The hope was that this seminar would lead to the creation of a Department for Intercultural Dialogue which would take over all activities with funding from CIDT. Prof. Mansour was enthusiastic, but the university management did not go along, fearing religious/political sensitivities.

#### 7.2. IvOC (Institute of Eastern Christianity, Radboud University)

On November 30, 2022, Kees Hulsman met with Prof. Dr. Alfons Brüning, director of the Institute of Eastern Christianity and asked about the possibility to transfer the Dialogue Across Borders database to IvOC, entirely in line with the wishes of Kerk in Actie to find an institutional home for the database. Prof. Brüning is greatly interested in the database but maintenance requires a [project researcher Coptic Christianity](#). The first step was writing a function description which was made in cooperation with Matthew and Kees and once ready was placed online. IvOC is now seeking funding for this position.

#### 7.3. Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA)

The building CIDT was located in was sold to a new owner in December 2023. On January 2 Kees Hulsman was suddenly faced with the message that all files (newspaper clippings since the start of summary translations from Arabic in 1996, an essential part of the database, books and other files had to be removed. Kees asked Rafik Baracat to help sort the files for different possible destinations: Bibliotheca Alexandrina (all clippings), Dr. Candace Lukasik (Alexandria), Heliopolis University and files for the Mikado library. Sadly, no time was given to sort out all the books and files before the cupboards were removed from the office. Later some files were sorted out with the help of Matthew. Files are now stored at different locations in carton boxes which is not sustainable for the long run. Kees wrote on January 20, 2024, a letter to the director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina requesting the Bibliotheca to accept the newspaper clipping collection. Upon the advice of Ambassador Dr. Ihab Gamal el-Din Kees Hulsman made an appointment with Egyptian Ambassador Hatem Abdelkader to the Netherlands. The meeting took place on February 2. Kees asked him to write a recommendation for the Bibliotheca Alexandria to accept the newspaper clipping collection which was provided. Kees explained Ambassador Hatem Abdelkader the wish of the AWF for an Egyptian University to set up a center for intercultural dialogue and cooperate with European universities and through this cooperation also provide opportunities for student internships in Egypt. With the Radboud University and Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic, a proposal is developed for European funding for intercultural dialogue. The aim of these initiatives



is to create understanding for Egyptian culture and contemporary history which should balance the increasing populist views Europe is facing.

#### 7.4. Heliopolis University

Contacts with HU date to the HU/CAWU/CIDT summer school of 2018. They agreed to accept the books and files from the CIDT office that will be selected for them. As far as we know there was no contact with HU since Matthew took over.

#### 7.5. Dr. Candace Lukasik

In the summer of 2023 Kees Hulsman came to know Dr. Lukasik through her publications when he was working on his two papers for Religions. Dr. Lukasik, is assistant professor of Religion at the Mississippi State University, supports the mission of CAWU/AWF and agreed to accept part of the files of CIDT/AWF for her work, agreeing to scan data for putting them on the Dialogue Across Borders database.

#### 7.6. Syrian Orthodox Monastery of St. Ephrem, Glanerbrug

Michael Drummen of the Mikado library was of the opinion that the files of Kees Hulsman about his work with the Syrian Orthodox Church in 1984-1986 could be better stored at the Syrian Orthodox Monastery of St. Ephrem. Archbishop Polycarpus has ambitions to establish an academic library in his monastery. Kees visited the bishop on February 4, 2024, and discovered the Monastery has the needed space but lacks the needed infrastructure (no professional librarian, no classification, nothing that is needed for an academic library). Archbishop Polycarpus, Prof. Dr. Jan van Ginkel (Free University Berlin, invited by the bishop) and Kees visited the Mikado Library for library building advice on April 9. Main results: b) Mikado will help the monastery with important links to other libraries and library associations, advice in setting up a library. The monastery needs to use these data to create a project proposal. b) concerning the DABO database: preference for hosting with technical support through Brill Publishers, c) the current metadata structure (classification of articles) was made by Kees with the help of Sawsan but advisable is to ask Brill metadata structure they prefer. d) Mikado librarians will look at the database and will let us know about "Swachstellen" (weaknesses), e) questions were raised about what will happen to the database after 1.1.2026. What are the prospects of financing the content update of the database after 1.1.2026? IvOC's description of Project Researcher Coptic Christianity. Could this be changed into Project Researcher Arab Christianity? What are their prospects of funding such a researcher?

## 8. Content

The production of quality content for better mutual understanding has always been of great importance to AWF.

#### 8.1. Religions

On April 5, 2022, Prof. Dr. Elisabetti Ruspini, Prof. of Sociology at the University of Milan, Italy, asked Kees Hulsman to write an academic paper about the unique nature of the Arab-West Report/Dialogue Across Borders database. Material turned out to be so much that she agreed in December to accept two papers; one about the personal transformation of Kees Hulsman due to dialogue of people with other faiths and one about his work in Egypt.

#### 8.2. International Association of Mission Studies (IAMS), Sydney, Australia

Kees is a member of the IAMS and applied for and obtained a 1000 US\$ grant in travel costs and no costs at the conference in Sydney. He produced a paper about Coptic demographics in relation to Coptic persecution stories. This subject is part of his papers for Religions.

#### 8.3. 8th Conference of the European Alliance in Defence of Palestinian Detainees

Years ago, Dick van der Steen and Kees Hulsman attended a lecture at Orientalis, Nijmegen, of former Dutch Prime Minister Andreas van Agt about justice in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Here they met with Jozef Attawil, a former Palestinian officer/psychologist in the UK army. They became friends and after Kees' retirement in September 2022 Jozef Eltawil introduced Kees to the European Alliance in Defence of Palestinian Detainees who invited Kees and Sawsan to attend their conference in Madrid, September 30-October 1. His presentation was edited by Matthew Anderson but not placed in Dialogue Across Borders. The alliance asked him to speak again on April 17, this time online. Kees' message: With the war in Gaza, we see that violence breeds violence. Negotiations leading to a two-state solution are needed.

#### 8.4. IvOC publication

IvOC asked Kees Hulsman to write an article about the Coptic Orthodox Church with personal experiences in the tensions between orthodoxy and ecumenism. IvOC edited his text and [published it on October 17, 2023](#).

#### 8.5. Palacký University Olomouc

Kees participated online in a conference on Digital Religion, November 2-4, 2023, and presented a paper here for which he had received feedback from Eildert Mulder and editing of Matthew Anderson. This paper has not yet been published.

## 8.6. Christianity Today

Kees Hulsman was the Egypt correspondent of Christianity Today (USA) between 2000 and 2012. In this period, he reported about Muslim-Christian relations. He was succeeded by former CIDT editor Jayson Casper. Since the November 2023 Dutch Parliamentary elections resulted in a surprising victory of the right-wing Party for Freedom of the controversial Geert Wilders and a further decline of the once dominant Christian parties Christianity Today asked for an article about the ongoing decline of Christian political parties in the Netherlands. His article was placed on December 14:

[https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2023/december-web-only/geert-wilders-election-netherlands-christian-democrat-pvv.html?share=NwzEBP0Em5ZuZkeHeV4fqsqQvR57gCKg&utm\\_medium=widget\\_social](https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2023/december-web-only/geert-wilders-election-netherlands-christian-democrat-pvv.html?share=NwzEBP0Em5ZuZkeHeV4fqsqQvR57gCKg&utm_medium=widget_social) Christianity Today agreed the text would also be placed in Dialogue Across Borders as Kees did with previous articles he wrote for Christianity Today. This, however, was not carried out.

## 8.7. Two papers for Arab-West Papers

Kees presented Matthew in December 2023 with two papers for the Dialogue Across Borders database: one paper on Coptic demographics and one extended text with Kees' experiences in dialogue.

## 8.8. Conference Rewriting Global Orthodoxy: Oriental and Eastern Orthodox communities in a transnational world

This conference took place on January 25-27 at the Radboud University in Nijmegen. Kees presented a paper about the clash between Rev. Dr. Andrea Zaki, head of the Protestant Churches in Egypt and Coptic Solidarity.

This conference was also an occasion for a meeting between Prof. Jaroslav Franc, Palacký University, Prof. Alfons Brüning, Dr. Candace Lukasik and Kees Hulsman about the twinning proposal which Prof. Franc titled "Digitalization and Analysis of Arab West Report Database." The aim is that all newspaper clippings in the CIDT archive will be digitalized and added to the database. The Analysis part is related to the proposed Project Researcher at IvOC (see 8.2). EU funding requires that at least three European universities cooperate: Palacký University and Radboud University are on board. A third university is needed. Since this also can be a British university Kees wrote on February 28 Prof. Dr. Fiona McCallum of St. Andrew's University. If the EU approves twinning funding we would be able to make a giant step towards the function of Project Researcher and transferring the database to IvOC.

## 8.9. SGP-Shiraka funding

Kees established in 2016 contact with the SGP-Party in the Netherlands for projects to be carried out with Shiraka funding of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This resulted in 2018 in a successful summer school in cooperation with Heliopolis University, in 2019 in a summer school with the Anglican Diocese and in 2020 a summer webinar (due to Covid-19). All texts of lectures were placed under projects online. In 2021 and 2022 CIDT did not carry out projects with SGP-Shiraka funding but this resumed with a project proposal of Matthew Anderson in July 2023. The SGP-representative Mark Janssen was very enthusiastic about the summer school but his paper was remarkably not placed online. Probably none of the papers of the other speakers were placed online. Kees used the summer schools in the past always to create production for the database. He also asked Matthew to do so but this apparently did not happen.

## **9. Funding opportunities**

- 9.1. On March 13 Kees Hulsman participated in the Anna Lindh Foundation network meeting in Amsterdam. Kees made inquiries for funding opportunities and reported these to Matthew Anderson.
- 9.2. Go Fund Me crowdfunding can perhaps be used if it turns out that additional funding for database development is needed. No decision can be made without first seeing the itemized quotation from IT company Impressie.

## **10. Open Doors**

Cornelis Hulsman was asked in December 2015 to audit the work of Open Doors about their Egypt reporting. That resulted in critique on the Open Doors method of work. Cornelis Hulsman corresponded in 2016 and 2017 with Open Doors asking for a response but no responses except that they were busy and have had no time have come. This was followed up in 2023 in relation with a paper for Religions and is ongoing.

## **11. CAWU-Learning Centre for Refugees**

Sternsinger wrote on May 16, 2022 “They [the Sternsinger board] were concerned about the very unsecure situation of the learning center, the registration and funding. They see that building up a self-sustained school would need more extensive funding on a longer term which we are not able to provide. Our contribution would have covered only a relatively small part of the total funds needed, and the remaining and also the future funding is not secured yet.” Kees visited Sternsinger in June 2022 and obtained limited funding for the very last time. The Learning Centre used this, together with other donations, to cover the school year 2022-2023. Dr. Brooke Comer contacted Dunn School in California which resulted in inviting Kalyan Balaven, director of Dunn School, to visit the Learning Centre. Kal Balaven was enthusiastic and contacted potential sponsors in the US. Requirements were having a 501(c)3 organization in the USA and channeling funding to a not-for-profit organization in

Egypt. Meanwhile the learning centre contacted people at the Ministry of Education in Egypt. They advised establishing a limited liability company in Egypt (LLC) since an NGO needs a permission of the Ministry of Social Solidarity to receive foreign funding while an LLC does not need this. When this proposal was presented to mr. Balaven this was rejected. In the summer of 2023 Comfort Dickson replaced Peter Mathias as director of the Learning Centre, worked with Dunn School on a new curriculum but was unable to write a comprehensive plan with budget that would meet with donor criteria. Comfort left the learning centre per 1 November 2023. Kees Hulsman obtained in August 2023, 9490 Euro in support for the learning centre from Pour les Autres. This was not transferred to Egypt through the required CAWU NGO account, but future payments will only be done by an CAWU NGO bank account, this must be made possible.

No financial and narrative reporting was received by the end of 2023 as was customary in previous years. The boards of Pour les Autres and AWF asked former CAWU-intern Yusha Sheikh to visit the learning centre and meet with all relevant people and report about his findings to both boards.

CIDT funded the running costs of CAWU (mainly rent) between its establishment in 2007 and the start of the learning centre in 2019. From that moment on CAWU funded the rent of its office. Without CAWU no legal basis exists to carry out not-for-profit activities such as the internship program and the learning centre.

## **12. Fundraising in Christian Reformed Church**

The Christian Reformed Church in The Hague collected 391 EUR in December 2023 and 447 EUR in January 2024 for refugee education in Egypt. This has not yet been transferred to AWF. No payment is possible without good narrative and financial reporting.

## **13. Long-term financial planning**

Brill informed AWF that expected income from subscriptions are not likely to exceed “a few thousand Euro” per year. Maintaining the content updates of the database will always need external funding. Matthew did not bring in external funding in the first 1.5 years since he took over as director CIDT. What are the prospects for the remaining 1.5 years with Kerk in Actie and Missio support?

## **14. Pension Sawsan Gabra Ayoub Khalil and Cornelis Hulsman**

The 2017 annual report of AWF described the reasons of the AOW and pension gap of Sawsan and Cornelis Hulsman which brings the income of both below the Dutch subsistence minimum once they both retire. The AWF board remains deeply concerned about the status of their pension and is dedicated to help them to find solutions.

**April 22, 2022**