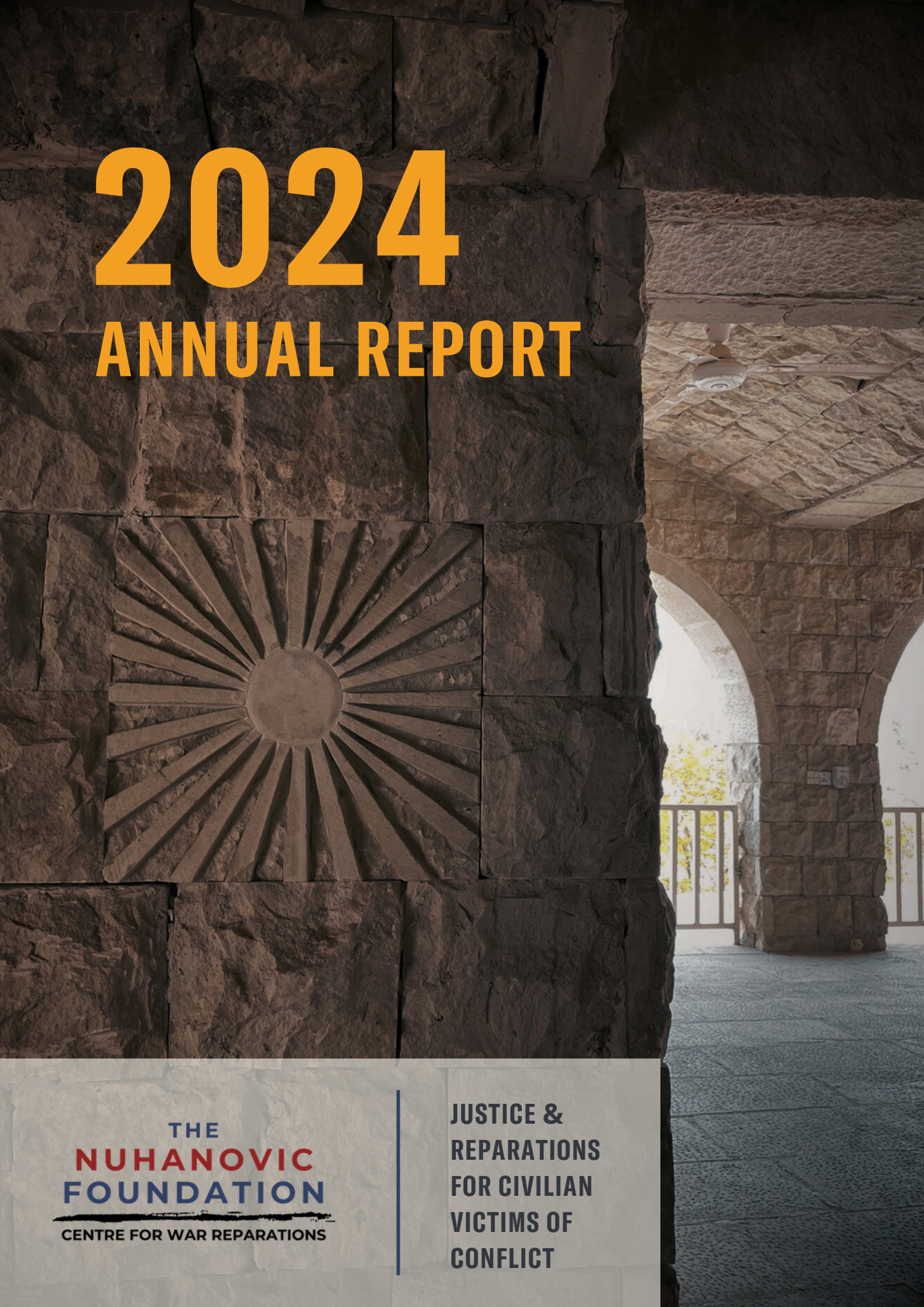

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

THE NUHANOVIC FOUNDATION

CENTRE FOR WAR REPARATIONS

JUSTICE & REPARATIONS FOR CIVILIAN VICTIMS OF CONFLICT

THE
NUHANOVIC
FOUNDATION
CENTRE FOR WAR REPARATIONS

The Nuhanovic Foundation

Supporting victims and survivors of international crimes through litigation, advocacy and knowledge.

Amsterdam Law Hub
Nieuwe Achtergracht 164
1018 WV Amsterdam

www.nuhanovicfoundation.org
mail@nuhanovicfoundation.org

IBAN: NL13 INGB 0008365357
KvK: 52769240
RSIN: 850589538
SWIFT: INGBNL2A

The Nuhanovic Foundation has ANBI status.

Cover image credit:
Seif Alkadiri

Contribute to our work



A victim of the June 2015 airstrike on Hawija, Iraq, looks at the destruction in the industrial neighbourhood.
Photo by PAX / Ayman al-Amiri.

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LIST OF TERMS

Victims & Survivors

This report uses the terms ‘survivors’ and ‘victims’ interchangeably, as we believe using the term survivors rather than victims for individuals affected by international crimes is more ethical and empowering. It emphasises their resilience and agency, and rebalances the narrative by focusing on survivors' strength rather than perpetrators’ actions.

International crimes

Includes the four core international crimes: war crimes, crimes against humanity, the crime of genocide and the crime of aggression.

Grave human rights violations

The descriptive term ‘grave’ has been used by international legal institutions interchangeably with the terms ‘serious’, ‘gross’, ‘flagrant’, ‘systematic’ and/or ‘massive’ to refer to a violation of the same gravity. Although there is no unanimous definition of the concept, for the purposes of this Report, the term ‘grave human rights violations’ will be used to capture one or more human rights violations listed in Paragraph 30 of the 1993 United Nations Vienna Declaration and Program of Action: torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, summary and arbitrary executions, disappearances, arbitrary detentions, all forms of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid, foreign occupation and alien domination, xenophobia, poverty, hunger and other denials of economic, social and cultural rights, religious intolerance, terrorism, discrimination against women and lack of the rule of law; which has affected a relatively large number of victims and has involved the failure of the respective state government to take appropriate measures to prevent and/or punish the commission of such violations.

1 FOREWORD

TOSCA URBANUS

Chair of the Board
The Nuhanovic Foundation



Dear partner,

2024 was an eventful year for the The Nuhanovic Foundation. We continued the Foundation's professionalisation and reaped the first rewards from the hard work. We also suffered a great loss. To our great sorrow, our dear colleague and friend Denise Alkadiri-Kohi passed away in August 2024. She was an important part of our team, but above all a cherished friend and companion to so many of us across our organisations. We miss her deeply and try to channel her compassion and dedication in everything we do.

At the end of last year, we were able to hire a team in addition to our director Hope Rikkelman. This allowed us to increase our activities and made it possible to provide assistance and support victims in a way that we had not done before.

Examples of this are the criminal cases against Mustafa A. and Hasna A., both landmark criminal cases in the European Union.

Mustafa A. was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment for torture and war crimes in Syria.

Hasna A. was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for membership of a terrorist organisation (ISIS) and slavery as a crime against humanity for the enslavement of a Yazidi woman.

In both cases we cooperated with the Dutch Public Prosecutor's Office and the Hague District (Criminal) Court to facilitate the participation of witnesses and direct victims of the crimes, and engaged in active outreach about the case. We are providing the same type of assistance in other ongoing Dutch criminal cases about international crimes.

We also continued to provide support in a way that was more familiar to us. Our Advice & Information Centre, in cooperation with our project Ukraine Legal Network and our partner organisation Yazidi Legal Network, facilitated easy access to legal knowledge and information for survivors of international crimes and grave human rights violations and legal professionals.

We also supported several civil cases about crimes that were committed in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. These cases and investigations focus on crimes committed before the escalation of the conflict in October 2023.

We thank our supporters and partners for their contributions and continued support. 2025 promises to be an eventful year. Current geopolitical developments show that support for this vulnerable group of victims is needed more than ever, and we hope to be able to continue our efforts in this area for a long time to come.



Photo credit: Yves Gellies.

2 INTRODUCTION

The Nuhanovic Foundation's 2024 Annual Report provides a comprehensive overview of the organization's activities, achievements, and growth throughout the year. In this report, we reflect on our continued commitment to advancing Access to justice for survivors of International cor crimes, with a special focus on the initiatives and outcomes that shaped our work in 2024.

This year's report is structured around our newly defined pillars: **Litigate**, **Inform**, and **Research**. Each section highlights the key actions, successes, and challenges within these focus areas, demonstrating how we are working to make a meaningful impact in the pursuit of justice and accountability. From legal advocacy to public awareness campaigns, and from scholarly research to strategic partnerships, our activities are designed to promote justice and support those whose voices often go unheard.

In addition, the report concludes with a forward-looking chapter outlining our future goals and objectives. This section provides insight into the direction of The Nuhanovic Foundation as we continue to adapt and expand our efforts to address emerging challenges in the field of international criminal justice and core human rights.

We invite you to explore the pages that follow, which offer a detailed reflection on the progress we've made and the path ahead.

OUR HISTORY

The Nuhanovic Foundation was established following the groundbreaking legal action initiated by survivors of the Srebrenica genocide against the Dutch State. Having lost their family members during the genocide, **Hasan Nuhanovic** and **Alma Mustafic** took the courageous decision of fighting for justice — not just for the loved ones that they lost, but for all the victims of Srebrenica. In 2013, after a relentless pursuit of truth and accountability, the Dutch Supreme Court issued a landmark ruling, finding the Netherlands partially responsible for the deaths of Hasan and Alma's family and other Bosniak men who had been expelled from the Dutchbat compound.

Hasan and Alma's journey outlined the urgent need to provide survivors of international crimes and grave human rights violations with a strong support system, as they face unimaginable odds to seek the truth, establish responsibility, and access justice. Inspired by their courage, The Nuhanovic Foundation was established in 2012 to support survivors like Hasan and Alma and provide them with a platform to exercise their agency, share their story, and seek legal redress for the harm that they have suffered.

Since then, The Nuhanovic Foundation, together with its partners and affiliate organisations, has been supporting victims and survivors of international crimes through litigation, advocacy and legal knowledge. Today, the Foundation stands in support of survivors of conflict in countries including Ukraine, Palestine, Iraq, Syria, and more, as they seek justice, accountability and redress for the harm they have suffered.

2012

The Nuhanovic Foundation (NF) is established in Amsterdam, with the goal of establishing legal responsibility and securing reparations for international crimes.

2016

NF establishes Syria Legal Network, bringing together Syrian lawyers, law students and human rights defenders to contribute to accountability processes for international crimes committed in Syria.

2019

NF establishes Yazidi Legal Network to help the Yazidi community achieve justice and acknowledgement for the genocide committed against them by ISIS.

OUR MISSION

- To support all victims of international crimes and grave human rights violations with a link to the Netherlands in **accessing justice**, **establishing accountability**, and **securing reparation** for crimes committed against them.
- To champion the right of survivors of international crimes and human rights violations to seek **justice**, **accountability**, **redress** and **reparation**.

OUR VISION

A world where all survivors of international crimes have access to justice, accountability and redress.

We envision and work towards a future where survivors are not merely recipients of justice, but active drivers in the processes that have the power to bring reparation and closure to them.

A future where accountability prevails over impunity.



2022

NF celebrates 10 successful years of providing comprehensive support to victims and survivors of international crimes and human rights violations in the Netherlands and beyond.

2023

NF establishes Ukraine Legal Network to address crucial gaps in the Ukrainian community's access to justice mechanisms in the Netherlands and facilitate victim participation in justice processes.



2024

NF undergoes a period of comprehensive growth and professionalisation, with a renewed and expanded mandate and newly redefined organisational pillars.

3 OUR STRATEGY

The Nuhanovic Foundation supports victims of international crimes who seek access to justice through legal and non-legal proceedings. Legal proceedings on behalf of war victims may have an impact on the claimants, society, and the law itself. Our support thus requires a good understanding of the law – both hard and soft - and its potential impact. Our database and research are aimed at exploring the law and understanding the different levels of impact.

Based on our extensive experience over the last several years, we have developed a redefined strategy that seeks to integrate our litigation support and activities in the context of our Knowledge Centre (including training and capacity building). This means, among other things, that our research and training activities are focused towards assisting legal proceedings – civil and criminal – and non-legal proceedings on behalf of victims of international crimes seeking redress.



Pillar 1

Litigation Support

This pillar is a continuation of our work of the last ten years, meaning that we support victims and survivors who wish to take their case to the Dutch courts or use other (international) mechanisms to obtain reparations. We provide funding to cover related costs such as lawyers' fees, we raise awareness about the cases and contribute to the public debate, we involve the expert community (including the academic world) to influence decision makers, such as judges. We provide for social support and a specialised network to get the best possible result out of the proceeding.



Pillar 2

Advice & Information Centre

Through this centre, we advise and inform the survivor community on legal rights, national and international procedures and mechanisms. We provide them with access to a national and international network of practitioners and experts, lawyers, governmental parties (police, prosecutor), NGOs and academics. We lobby for victims' rights to receive redress and reparations, and we organise (training) events on victims' rights and the right to receive redress and reparations.



Pillar 3

Research & Impact Measurement

Through the Research Centre, we conduct research into the impact of legal procedures and other mechanisms for obtaining war reparations. We engage as societal partners and stakeholders in research projects, contribute to and lead academic publications, and organise events focused on research and the rights to redress and reparations. This pillar also includes the maintenance of our Reparations Database.

Pillar 1

Litigation Support



The Nuhanovic Foundation helps victims of international crimes and grave human rights violations with a jurisdictional link to the Netherlands seek access to justice through legal proceedings in the Netherlands or through international legal mechanisms.

Through these proceedings, victims can obtain remedies in the form of acknowledgment, reparation, restitution, and/or compensation. We fund investigations and legal representations in negotiations and litigation, and support victim representation in national and international mechanisms. The Foundation supports cases selected on the basis of the criteria described on our website.

We prioritise investigations and cases

- Where victims and witnesses are not entitled to financial assistance to cover costs related to legal aid;
- That face suspension because of financial shortcomings;
- That are expected to establish important precedents and thus contribute to increasing access to justice for victims of international crimes and the development and strengthening of reparation laws and practices;
- That have an impact that goes beyond the interests of individual claimants who are directly involved in proceedings, and could benefit entire communities of survivors.

Pillar 2

Advice & Information Centre



Survivors of international crimes, conflict, and war, and their supporting allies, often face overwhelming barriers in their pursuit of justice. Legal processes are confusing, support systems are fractured, and resources are limited.

Through our Advice & Information Centre, we work directly with survivor communities to bridge this information and resource gap, and provide access to tailored expertise. We provide victims and witnesses with access to legal and non-legal services, including advice and information, access to psychosocial support, and referral pathways to legal support, representation, and non-legal social support services. The Nuhanovic Foundation receives dozens of requests from survivors each year, several of which translate into litigation and legal action.

Since 2015, the Nuhanovic Foundation has also created several legal networks that support survivors and communities across the world. These networks, comprising of active community members, survivors, lawyers, and human rights activists, serve as a bridge between the affected community and various stakeholders, including international specialists and practitioners focused on various forms of reparations, with a particular emphasis on legal action with a jurisdictional link to the Netherlands. The ‘legal network’ format is truly unique in that it prioritises the legal needs of the affected community with those impacted in the driver's seat .

Pillar 3

Research & Impact Measurement



Together with researchers, academics and international law experts, we ensure that the impact of legal action is disseminated to a broader audience.

We conduct and commission research to better understand the legal framework for establishing the responsibility of states, individuals, and/or companies in the field of reparations, to analyse the impact and effects of litigation and mobilise the academic community to define (new) legal arguments for redress. We also conduct public, fact-based advocacy to influence policy, strengthen the rule of law and champion the rights of victims, survivors and witnesses.

Additionally, we maintain a specialised and publicly accessible reparations database with legal instruments, case law, and academic writings on the right to remedy and reparations. The database contains numerous documents on universal jurisdiction and other forms of national and international litigation relating to the commission of international crimes. We summarise reports, articles, and case law to make the database as accessible as possible. This database is meant as a free service for lawyers, victim organisations , and any other interested audiences.


Photo credit: PAX.

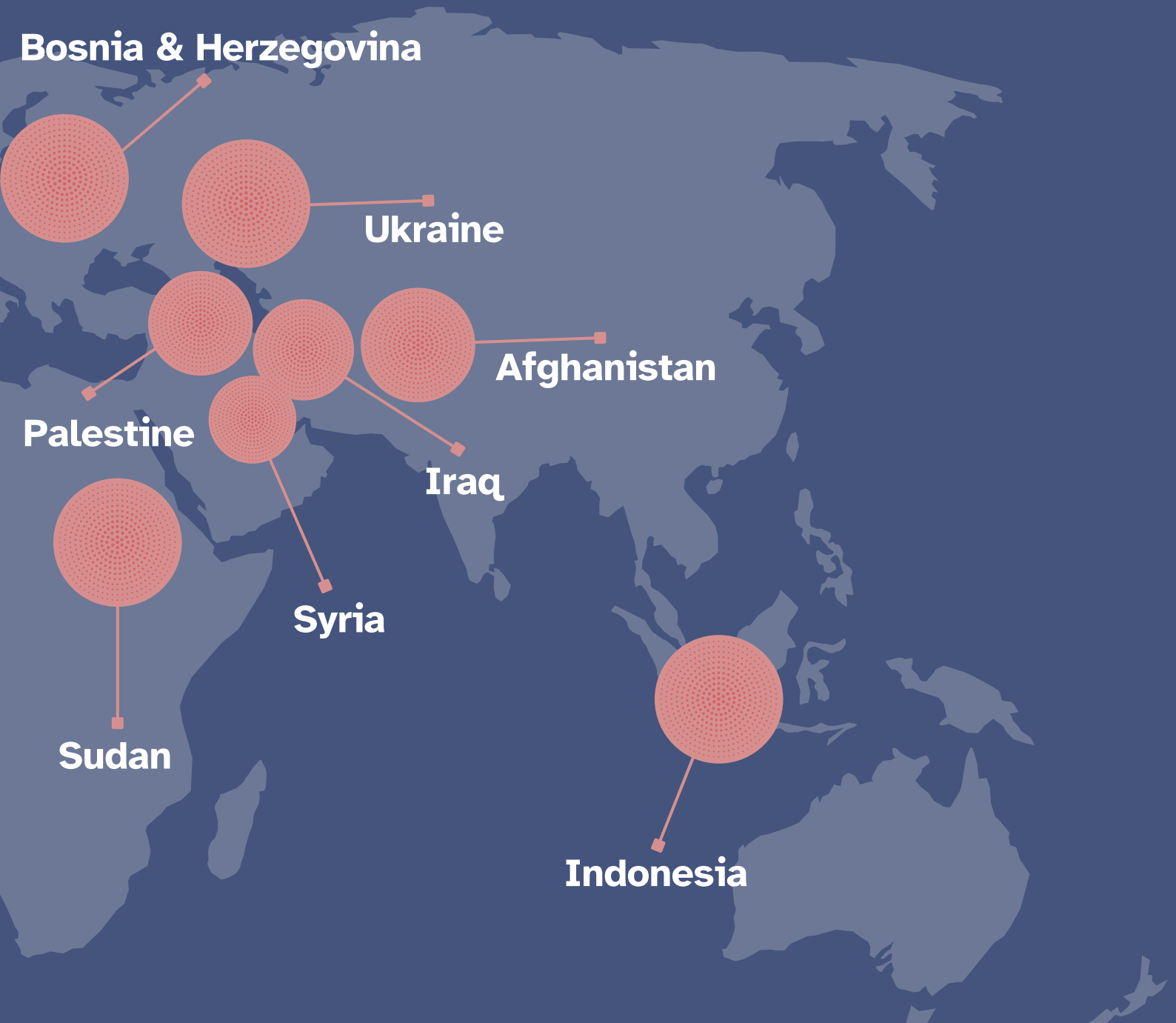
4 2024 ACTIVITY REPORT

Litigation Support

For over a decade, The Nuhanovic Foundation has supported victims of international crimes in their struggle for justice, accountability and redress.



In cases where violations have allegedly been committed by the Dutch State or a company registered in the Netherlands, we help survivors bring claims for recognition of wrongdoing and compensation, before national civil and criminal courts in the Netherlands. Where international crimes are alleged to have been committed by a perpetrator believed to be in the Netherlands, we help survivors gather and present evidence to the national police so that a case may be brought to the Office of the Dutch Public Prosecutor. In some instances, we also support victims or their legal teams in survivor-led justice initiatives in other jurisdictions by providing access to legal experts, advice and financial support.



The year 2024 brought new challenges and cases, further strengthening our commitment to supporting victims of international crimes and our partners.

This year, we provided assistance in five new cases, including:

Legal proceedings concerning the crimes against and violations of the rights of Palestinians:

- The **Booking.com case**, addressing potential complicity in war crimes.
- The **ECHO civil claim**, a pre-trial investigation into war crimes and crimes against humanity in the occupied Palestinian territories

Legal proceedings concerning potential unlawful conduct linked to Russia:

- A **sanctions case** investigating illegal activities related to certain online services, including crowdfunding and donation platforms, linked to Russia.
- A **sanctions case** investigating the activities of entities connected to Russia, including affiliates operating in various countries in the logistics and IT sectors.
- A **pre-investigation into war crimes** committed in Ukraine, in collaboration with our project ULN.

In addition to these new cases, we continued to support ongoing legal proceedings, including:

- The **Ziada case**, seeking accountability for war crimes committed in Gaza.
- The **criminal case initiated by ECHO**, addressing international crimes committed against Palestinians.
- The **Hawija case** concerning the Dutch state's responsibility for the bombing of Hawija, Iraq.
- The **case against former Surinamese president Desi Bouterse** for crimes committed under his regime.
- Criminal cases on **war crimes in Syria**, brought before Dutch courts.
- The case concerning **crimes against humanity** committed against the **Yazidi community**.

Country
Palestine

Name
Ismail Ziada vs. IDF Commanders



The Nuhanovic Foundation has been involved in this case since it began in 2014. After a negative decision by the Appeal Court in December 2021, preparations were made to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Netherlands.

In August 2023, the Dutch Supreme Court dismissed the case, citing that former military officials are granted complete immunity from civil suits in foreign courts under customary international law, even when the case involves individual responsibility for war crimes and lacks an alternative forum, resulting in a denial of justice. Subsequently, in January 2024 the case was brought to the European Court of Human Rights. The application submitted to the European Court of Human Rights argues that the Dutch courts' approach, given the specific facts of this case, is inconsistent with current international law and violates Article 6 (access to justice) and Article 14 (non-discrimination) of the European Convention on Human Rights. **The Dutch government has submitted its response to the European Court of Human Rights, and the claimant's response is due by 10 January 2025.**

In addition to the legal arguments, the court has invited the claimant to submit a claim for just satisfaction, which includes compensation and costs incurred both domestically and internationally. The Ziada case remains a critical example of the persistent challenges in securing justice for victims of war crimes under international law and the need for continued advocacy in addressing these barriers.

Country
Palestine



Name
Case initiated by ECHO on corporate responsibility for war crimes in the occupied Palestinian territories

This was the fifth year during which the Nuhanovic Foundation supported the investigations against a company for its complicity in violations of international humanitarian law in the West Bank.

The investigations were conducted by Israeli lawyers of the Israeli organisation **Global Echo Litigation Center** based in Tel Aviv, in cooperation with a Dutch lawyer. In 2022 the Israeli lawyers requested The Nuhanovic Foundation to provide funding for extra research by Dutch lawyers that was related to defining the legal position of whistleblowers within the company.

Similarly to the years before, we cannot share more information about the case, due to the necessity of ensuring the confidentiality and safety of the applicants. The case has received our continued support throughout 2024.

Country
Palestine



Name
Pre-trial civil investigation initiated by Global Echo as a follow-up to the 2023 case on corporate responsibility for war crimes in the occupied Palestinian territories

As a follow-up to the 2023 case, **Global Echo Litigation Center** is currently assessing the viability of a civil lawsuit.

We cannot share more information about the case, due to the necessity of ensuring the confidentiality and safety of the applicants. The Nuhanovic Foundation has provided financial support for the pre-trial investigation by covering legal costs related to the case.

Country
Palestine

Name
Case against Booking.com



The **European Legal Support Center (ELSC)**, **Al-Haq, SOMO**, and **The Rights Forum** have filed a criminal complaint with the Dutch Public Prosecution Service, seeking to hold **Booking.com** accountable for profiting from war crimes committed in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The complaint, based on years of research, highlights how Booking.com facilitates the rental of vacation homes in illegal Israeli settlements built on land unlawfully taken from the Palestinian population. This practice constitutes a violation of international humanitarian law and is illegal under Dutch law, specifically article 1(4) of the Dutch International Crimes Act (Wet Internationale Misdrijven). Furthermore, by profiting from these violations, Booking.com is allegedly involved in money laundering, as it introduces proceeds from war crimes into the Dutch financial system.

The Nuhanovic Foundation has supported this case by funding investigative, research, and legal costs. Together with its partners, the Foundation aims to end Booking.com's involvement in international crimes and to address corporate impunity for profits derived from Israel's violations of international humanitarian law.

The complaint has been filed, and the parties are now awaiting the Public Prosecutor's decision on whether to open an investigation.

Country
Iraq

Name
The Hawija Case



The Hawija case marks a significant milestone in the pursuit of justice for victims of the tragic bombing incident in 2015. Thanks to Stichting Democratie en Media (SDM), as well as the generous support of a private sponsor, we were able to provide seed money for local investigations, contribute to lawyers' fees, ensure victims from Iraq could attend the proceedings in The Hague, and further develop a comprehensive database.

The Nuhanovic Foundation's support for the Hawija case goes beyond financial assistance and database development as we have actively facilitated the participation of victims in the legal proceedings. We assisted in bringing eight victims to the Netherlands to participate in the civil case, where they provided crucial witness statements in open court and pled their case with local and international media outlets. Additionally, our media campaign and the provision of information to the media and the public via our Q&A page increased the visibility of the case.

The Iraqi survivors testified about their suffering during the hearing on 24 October 2023, during the 2015 bombing carried out by Dutch F-16 aircraft. It is because of their brave testimonies that progress has been achieved, including the interlocutory judgement demanding further explanation from the Netherlands. In this interlocutory judgement on 17 January 2024, The Hague District Court demanded further explanation and documents from the Netherlands regarding the 2015 bombing of an ISIS weapons factory in Hawija by Dutch F-16s. **The court required the Netherlands to support its claim that the military could not have known that civilians would be hit. As of late 2024, these explanations have not yet been provided.**

Country
Suriname



Name
The December Murders Case

In 2014, relatives of victims of the December killings filed a complaint with the **Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)** after a 2012 amended Amnesty Law in Suriname led to the suspension of the criminal case against former president Desi Bouterse. They sought prosecution and punishment of the perpetrators, rehabilitation for the victims, and compensation for the surviving family members.

The IACHR declared the complaint admissible on 9 February 2022, initiating substantive consideration. Relatives of Kenneth Gonçalves, Bram Behr, Leslie Rahman, Soerendra Rambocus, Eddy Hoost, Frank Wijngaarde, and Cyrill Daal requested the assistance of Prof. Liesbeth Zegveld, an expert in the procedures of the IACHR, to represent them. Unable to afford her services, they appealed to the Nuhanovic Foundation, which agreed to fund the legal assistance.

Prof. Zegveld submitted updates on the case on 31 August 2022, and 12 October 2022. On 7 March 2023, the IACHR acknowledged receipt and notified that Suriname had until 7 September 2023, to respond. Despite multiple requests, there has been no further communication from the IACHR. Meanwhile, on 20 December 2023, the Court of Justice in Paramaribo upheld the court-martial's verdict against Bouterse, sentencing him to 20 years in prison. The IACHR complaint continues to be crucial for seeking justice and compensation for the victims' families, with ongoing support from the Nuhanovic Foundation and other donors.

Desi Bouterse remained a fugitive following the verdict of the Court of Justice, but died in hiding in December 2024. Despite this development, we remain committed to supporting the victims' families in their fight for accountability and enforcement of the verdict against Bouterse, and will provide updates on the case in the future.

Country
Syria



Name
Mustafa A./ Liwa al Quds (aka Kerkrade-case)

This groundbreaking case against Mustafa A., who was arrested in Kerkrade, is the first regime-related investigation to go to trial in the Netherlands. The hearings took place in late November and early December 2023. The case concerns allegations of crimes against humanity, war crimes, and participation in Liwa al Quds' militia activities, specifically related to the violent arrest and subsequent torture of a civilian in January 2013 in the Al Nairab camp outside of Aleppo. **On 22 January 2024, Mustafa A. was sentenced to 12 years in prison. The case is currently under appeal.**

Together with its partner, the **Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression (SCM)**, The Nuhanovic Foundation monitored the case, engaged in active outreach through its social media and its network, and cooperated with the Dutch Public Prosecutor's Office and the criminal court to facilitate the participation of witnesses and a direct victim of the crimes. Concurrently, The Nuhanovic Foundation extended ongoing support to the case, offering legal and logistical aid to witnesses and victims. At SCM's request, the Nuhanovic Foundation also funded the translation of case summaries into Arabic to increase accessibility for Arabic-speaking audiences. As part of its active outreach and information provision, the Nuhanovic Foundation and SCM collaborated to answer frequently asked questions about the case, which can be found here.

Country
Syria



Name
Abu Khaled al-A./ ISIS (aka Arkel-case)

In January 2023, a Syrian man was arrested in Arkel, who allegedly played an important role in the Syrian Civil War within the terrorist organisations Jabhat al-Nusra and ISIS. It is suspected that through his position in ISIS, he contributed to the war crimes ISIS committed in Syria.

Similarly to the Mustafa A. case, the Nuhanovic Foundation monitors the case along with its partner organisation **Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression (SCM)**, communicates about it through its public channels, and cooperates with the Dutch Public Prosecutor's Office in facilitating logistical and legal aid for Syrian victims and witnesses who have testified during the pre-trial investigation.

The substantive trial in the Arkel case is expected to begin in 2025.

Country
Syria



Name
National Defence Force/ Salamiya (aka Druten-case)

In December 2023, a Syrian man, whose name has so far been withheld from the public, was arrested in Druten, the Netherlands. He is suspected of being the head of the interrogation department of the Syrian National Defence Force (NDF) in Salamiyah, Syria, in 2013 and 2014. The NDF is a paramilitary group consisting of many local pro-regime militias, fighting on the side of the Syrian regime. The suspicion is that from this position, the suspect committed acts of torture and sexual violence against civilians. This case is potentially groundbreaking as it would be the first concerning crimes against humanity in the form of sexual violence if it went to trial.

Together with two Syrian partner organisations, **Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression (SCM)** and the **Syrian Centre for Legal Studies and Research (SCLSR)**, The Nuhanovic Foundation is cooperating with the Public Prosecutor's Office and supporting victims and witnesses in the investigation with logistical and legal aid. It is also actively monitoring the ongoing investigation and pre-trial hearings, as well as communicating about the latest developments through its public channels.

The substantive trial in the Druten case is expected to begin in early 2025.

Country
Syria



Name
The Hasna A. Case

The trial of Hasna A., a 33-year-old Dutch national, is the first case in the Netherlands concerning crimes committed against the Yazidi community, and marks the first conviction in the Netherlands for slavery as a crime against humanity. The case is a significant step in the ongoing struggle for justice and accountability for the Yazidi community, and highlights the key role of national courts in addressing international crimes.

The verdict in this historic case was delivered on 11 December 2024 at the Schiphol Judicial Complex by the District Court of The Hague. The Court found Hasna A. guilty on four counts:

- Slavery as a crime against humanity for the enslavement of a Yazidi woman ("Z."),
- Membership of a terrorist organisation (ISIS),
- Participation and promotion of terrorist crimes,
- Endangering her underage son by taking him to a war zone.

The Court sentenced Hasna A. to 10 years of imprisonment, exceeding the Prosecutor's request of 8 years. In its reasoning, the Court underscored the grave nature of slavery as a crime against humanity, emphasising the systematic exploitation and abuse endured by the Yazidi community under ISIS. While the Court found sufficient evidence for the enslavement of "Z.", it acquitted Hasna A. of the second slavery charge related another Yazidi woman "S.", citing contradictions in the defendant's statements that created reasonable doubt.

The Nuhanovic Foundation, together with **Yazidi Legal Network (YLN)**, has supported this case by providing crucial support in screening the trial hearings in Kurdistan, ensuring access in Kurmanji, and coordinating legal representation and visa applications to ensure the survivors' effective participation in the proceedings. With the support of DLA Piper, which conducted trial monitoring, we were able to monitor the trial, provide real-time updates to the broader community, and ensure that survivors could effectively engage with the legal process.

The full verdict is available in Dutch and in English. **The defendant will have the opportunity to appeal the conviction, in which case the appeal trial will take place in 2025.**

Country
Afghanistan



Name
The Chora Case

On 23 November 2022, The District Court of The Hague ruled that the 2007 bombing by the Dutch Military of a residential compound in Chora, Afghanistan, was unlawful, requiring the Netherlands to compensate the victims' relatives. The court determined that the attack violated international humanitarian law by failing to avoid civilian casualties to the extent possible. Consequently, the Netherlands is liable for compensating the claimants who lost twenty family members, with details of the compensation to be determined in a subsequent procedure. The Dutch Minister of Defence decided not to appeal the ruling, acknowledging the lack of concrete intelligence to justify the bombing and committing to improving military decision-recording processes for future missions.

The Nuhanovic Foundation applauded the decision, highlighting the judiciary's role in ensuring the Ministry of Defence justifies its actions under international humanitarian law. The Foundation views this ruling as a courageous step that prioritises the rights of injured civilian claimants in the legal process.

As of 2024, no decision has been made regarding the compensation. The court's ruling on the matter is expected in 2025.

Country
Ukraine



Name
Sanctions Cases

The Nuhanovic Foundation, in collaboration with its project **Ukraine Legal Network**, is supporting two sanctions cases investigating unlawful activities related to online platforms, including crowdfunding and donation services linked to Russia.

Both cases involve companies engaged in supporting Russian military activities. One case concerns complicity in sanctions evasion and illicit fundraising for military purposes, while the other involves a network previously linked to the illegal export of controlled military goods to Russia, resulting in a U.S. conviction. These operations disguise themselves as legitimate businesses, such as e-commerce platforms, while facilitating violations of export controls and international sanctions.

Due to confidentiality and security issues, we cannot provide additional information on the case, nor can we report on other current or planned case-building initiatives.

Country
Ukraine



Name
Torture Case

Since March 2024, The Nuhanovic Foundation (NF) together with its project **Ukraine Legal Network** (ULN), has provided support for ongoing criminal pre-investigation in the Netherlands, which involves individual perpetrators of war crimes. This has been carried out thanks to the vital cooperation with our partners in the Netherlands and Ukraine, with the aim of assisting the potential criminal case concerning international crimes, such as torture, allegedly committed in Ukraine by an individual reportedly present in the Netherlands.

The team from NF and ULN has been instrumental in facilitating communication with the survivor and allocating necessary support, as well as assisting in finding legal representation in the pre- investigation stage.

Due to confidentiality and security issues, we cannot provide additional information on the case, nor can we report on other current or planned case-building initiatives.



Ukraine Legal Network's team during a session with a survivor at a shelter for Ukrainian refugees in Amsterdam.

Advice & Information Centre

One of the significant challenges faced by survivors of international crimes and grave human rights violations is the issue of lack of information. Finding a single source of high-quality curated information that encompasses legal aid resources, access to representation, best practices, remains elusive. Furthermore, limited collaboration amongst various stakeholders also hampers the access and sharing of information.

The Nuhanovic Foundation aims to address this challenge through its Advice & Information Centre, which facilitates easier access to legal knowledge and information and creates pathways to legal and non-legal services for the survivor communities in the Netherlands and beyond.

In 2024, The Nuhanovic Foundation, together with its project Ukraine Legal Network and its partner organisation Yazidi Legal Network, responded to dozens of incoming requests to support survivors and facilitate access to legal and non-legal services, including advice and information, access to psychosocial support, and referral pathways to legal support, representation, and non-legal social support services.

In addition to this, the Foundation made progress in creating the **Access to Justice (A2J) Toolkit,** a knowledge management platform that combines human expertise with Generative AI to provide victims and survivors of international crimes with exponentially easier access to relevant and practical resources, all in their own language. By leveraging Large Language Models (LLMs) and a curated, credible database of solutions, A2J accelerates the discovery of reliable resources, offering a universally accessible collaborative space that serves as both a referral pathway and an assistance mechanism.

In practice, this involves creating an expert-curated knowledge hub accessible and, capable of simulating human-like interaction in a text-based chat format. By combining the convenience of Gen AI with expert-curated knowledge, this project aspires to bridge the information gap between victims and survivors of international crimes and available resources, with the goal of providing them greater and faster access to justice

I reached out to Ukraine Legal Network to help me fill out the claim for compensation and to guide me through my steps to restore justice. I have got all the help that I've requested. Thank you for helping people like myself who are lost in understanding how to restore documents. I'm grateful for your support, as this is my "second war" and relocation—first from Donetsk to Zaporizhzhia, then from Zaporizhzhia abroad.

Sofia

Ukrainian survivor who contacted ULN for advice and support

ULN UKRAINE LEGAL NETWORK

Project Highlight
Ukraine Legal Network

2025 marks three years since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine began.

Throughout this ongoing war, war crimes continue to be committed relentlessly, with the number of victims rising drastically each day. As trust and hope amongst victims wanes, there is a growing risk of widespread community disappointment with international and national processes that are struggling to provide justice and restoration for victims and survivors.

Despite these challenges, Ukraine Legal Network (ULN) has stood steadfast in its commitment to support Ukrainian survivors in their journey towards justice, accountability and reparation. Since its establishment in November 2023, ULN has played a vital role in facilitating access to justice for Ukrainian survivors in the Netherlands by empowers them to engage with justice mechanisms such as the Register of Damage for Ukraine, domestic Dutch courts, and the ICC.



Photo credit: Olga Liubar.

ULN's Mission & Victim Centred Approach

International law guarantees survivors the right to justice, including the right to participate in legal processes that reflect their experiences and address their priorities. However, in practice, many survivors are unaware of these rights or lack the means to access them without the support of organisations like ULN. Without effective victim participation, the success and legitimacy of justice mechanisms can be severely compromised, and justice processes that overlook the perspectives of victims risk being perceived as hollow, addressing the crimes but not the harm experienced by survivors.

To achieve true accountability, justice must not only punish perpetrators but also offer redress and recognition for those who have suffered.



This perspective has been crucial in the definition of ULN's mission: to **empower Ukrainian survivors**, **amplify their voices**, and ensure that **survivors' experiences influence the legal pathways** to justice accountability, and reparations.

We do this in five distinct ways:

1. Survivor Support Centre: Pathways to legal and non-legal support for Ukrainian survivors.

2. Training & Legal Capacity Building: Lectures, training sessions and interactive events for Ukrainian lawyers and advocates**.**

3. Engagement & Case Building: We partner with Ukrainian survivors and initiate legal action in Dutch and international courts.

4. Advocacy & Lobbying: We ensure survivors have a voice in justice processes and advocate for active survivor participation.

5. Research: We conduct research and analyse the impact of legal proceedings for victims of human rights violations and international crimes, and for society at large.

Survivor Support Centre

One of ULN's most urgent priorities is responding to the community's need for support and assistance in engaging with the **Register of Damage for Ukraine**. Established in May 2023, the Register aims to document all eligible claims seeking compensation for damages, losses, and injuries caused by the acts of aggression committed by the Russian Federation against Ukraine. Throughout 2024, ULN provided Ukrainian survivors in the Netherlands with access to accurate information and (legal) support to actively utilise the Register and file claims for damages, loss of life, and injuries caused by Russian acts of aggression.



Ukraine Legal Network's team during a session with a survivor at a shelter for Ukrainian refugees in Amsterdam.

Throughout 2024, ULN conducted several events at shelters for Ukrainian refugees across the Netherlands inviting residents to share their questions, concerns and hurdles in effectively utilising the justice opportunities provided by the Register. ULN hosted interactive sessions at the **Botel, Riekerhof** and **Holiday Inn** - shelters housing Ukrainians who have fled Russian aggression, in addition to organising a series of events for Ukrainians living in shelters managed by the **Regenboog Groep** and other local partners. These events aimed to provide essential information and resources in clear, easily understandable legal language to support Ukrainian survivors of Russian aggression, particularly those without formal legal training.

These initiatives are directly supported by **ULN's team of pro-bono lawyers** that was established in 2024. Consisting of a diverse group of Ukrainian lawyers with years of experience, specialised expertise, and a deep personal commitment, our team of lawyers not only provides legal assistance but also relays requests from the Ukrainian community in the Netherlands to help drive systemic changes in international justice and human rights protection.

Training & Capacity Building

Since 2023, ULN has contributed to the capacity building of the Ukrainian legal community in the Netherlands and in Ukraine through the organisation of lectures, training sessions, site visits, and interactive events. By creating a platform for members of the Ukrainian legal community to engage with justice mechanisms and providing access to legal expertise, we aim to better equip Ukrainian advocates to act as a crucial link between the available justice mechanisms in the Netherlands and the larger community of Ukrainian survivors.

Throughout 2024, ULN hosted a number of lectures and community meet-ups, which aimed to raise awareness and present developments concerning justice and accountability for Ukrainian survivors. These sessions also presented an opportunity for members to share their experiences and concerns while interacting with justice mechanisms, thereby contributing to increased clarity and understanding amongst the survivor community. Through such events, ULN also created a platform for diverse stakeholders to discuss ongoing opportunities and challenges. One such session, organised with our partner **PAX for Peace**, brought together Ukrainian organisations such as **Right2Protection** and **East SOS** to address the pressing challenges faced by civilians due to the ongoing aggression in Ukraine, and to explore national tools for supporting victims of Russian aggression. Additionally, ULN organised several site visits for its delegations, such as study visits to the **International Criminal Court (ICC)** and **EUROJUST**, and a visit to the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** to witness the judgment in the case concerning Application of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Ukraine v. Russian Federation). These visits helped members of ULN gain insights into the processes and functioning of crucial justice mechanisms relevant in the Ukrainian context.

A highlight of the year was a large-scale training and capacity building event organised by ULN in November 2024 with support of **REDRESS**, in which than 20 Ukrainian lawyers and advocates participated and received training on compensation mechanisms for survivors of aggression in Ukraine.

The event brought together experts from international organisations, NGOs, and government agencies, including **REDRESS**, **UpRights**, **T.M.C. Asser Institute**, **Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam**, **Razom for Ukraine**, and the **Ministry of Justice of Ukraine**.



Participants of the training and capacity building eventduring post-event photo-op.

Featuring panel discussions and interactive sessions on topics such as **compensatory and reparation mechanisms** (including the Register of Damage, ICC and other mechanisms), **Universal Jurisdiction proceedings**, and the **repurposing of frozen assets**, the comprehensive training program equipped Ukrainian lawyers and advocates with the essential knowledge and practical tools required to effectively support victims in their pursuit of justice and compensation.

Engagement & Case Building

Through our case-building initiatives, we aim to facilitate the initiation and preparation of criminal and civil cases in Dutch and other international courts, while ensuring the active participation of victims in both national and international legal proceedings. Additionally, we assist survivors in accessing reparation and compensation mechanisms designed to provide them with the justice they deserve.

We are happy to report that ULN's collaborative efforts on case building have led to the initiation of investigations and legal proceedings in several cases, with our current case building efforts focused on two main areas:

1. Criminal investigations **targeting individuals with a link to the Netherlands** who are accused of c**ommitting international crimes in Ukraine**;
2. Legal actions against **companies registered in the Netherlands** that are engaged in activities considered to be **violations of the international sanctions regime against Russia**.

Additionally, ULN, together with our partners at **OSINT for Ukraine (OFU)** organized a **Moot court session** in October 2024 focusing on Ukrainian civil proceedings**.** This session explored the use of alternative methods, such as Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) and digital evidence, to substantiate claims, particularly in situations where victims lacked proper documentation. This session addressed the notable lack of clarity in current legal practice regarding the use of **OSINT evidence in supporting victims' claims for compensation for damages caused by Russian aggression**, and enhanced the legal recourse available to victims in conflict zones by showcasing and effectively utilising the potential of modern technology and OSINT in the pursuit of justice.



OSINT evidence being presented at the Moot Court session.

Advocacy & Lobbying

ULN leverages The Nuhanovic Foundation's network and actively engages in international advocacy efforts. This includes participating in roundtables, panels, and forums focused on criminal justice, victim support, and war reparations, organised by a variety of stakeholders including international justice mechanisms like the Register of Damage, government institutions, civic society organisations, and academic institutions. By bringing survivors' needs and priorities to the table, ULN contributes to amplifying the voice of the community.



Ukraine Legal Network's team participating in a working meeting of the Civil Society Coordination Platform of the Register of Damage for Ukraine (RD4U).

Research

ULN undertakes research and analyses the impact of legal proceedings for victims of human rights violations and international crimes, and for society at large. Our research initiatives directly influence our organisational priorities, and allow us to conduct effective advocacy that champions survivor perspectives.

In 2024, ULN launched the **Victims' Perspective Barometer**, a research project that assesses community awareness of the Register of Damage and other compensatory mechanisms and collects feedback on their expectations, needs, and challenges in accessing these mechanisms. By understanding the community's perspectives, needs, and challenges, we aim to ensure that victims are informed and their concerns are addressed within the framework of available compensation processes. The research began in September 2024 and will conclude with a report in 2025.

External Communications

One of the key developments in 2024 was the further growth and consolidation of the Ukraine Legal Network. Over the past year, the project expanded its reach and impact in advancing justice and accountability for survivors of international crimes committed during the ongoing war in Ukraine.

ULN has rapidly emerged as a distinct and reliable platform for legal and non-legal support for Ukrainian survivors in the Netherlands and beyond. On LinkedIn, ULN steadily grew its follower base and reached over 40,000 people throughout the year. On Instagram, ULN's content garnered more than 15,000 views and generated strong engagement with its accessible content on accountability and reparation mechanisms, international legal developments, and survivor narratives.

PUT IN JAIL Podcast

Another milestone in 2024 was the successful launch of "PUT IN JAIL", a new podcast by the Ukraine Legal Network which explores international justice and accountability processes for severe war crimes committed during Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The series delves into justice processes for Ukrainian survivors, combining personal stories from Ukrainians, legal guidance, and deep dives into legal complexities.

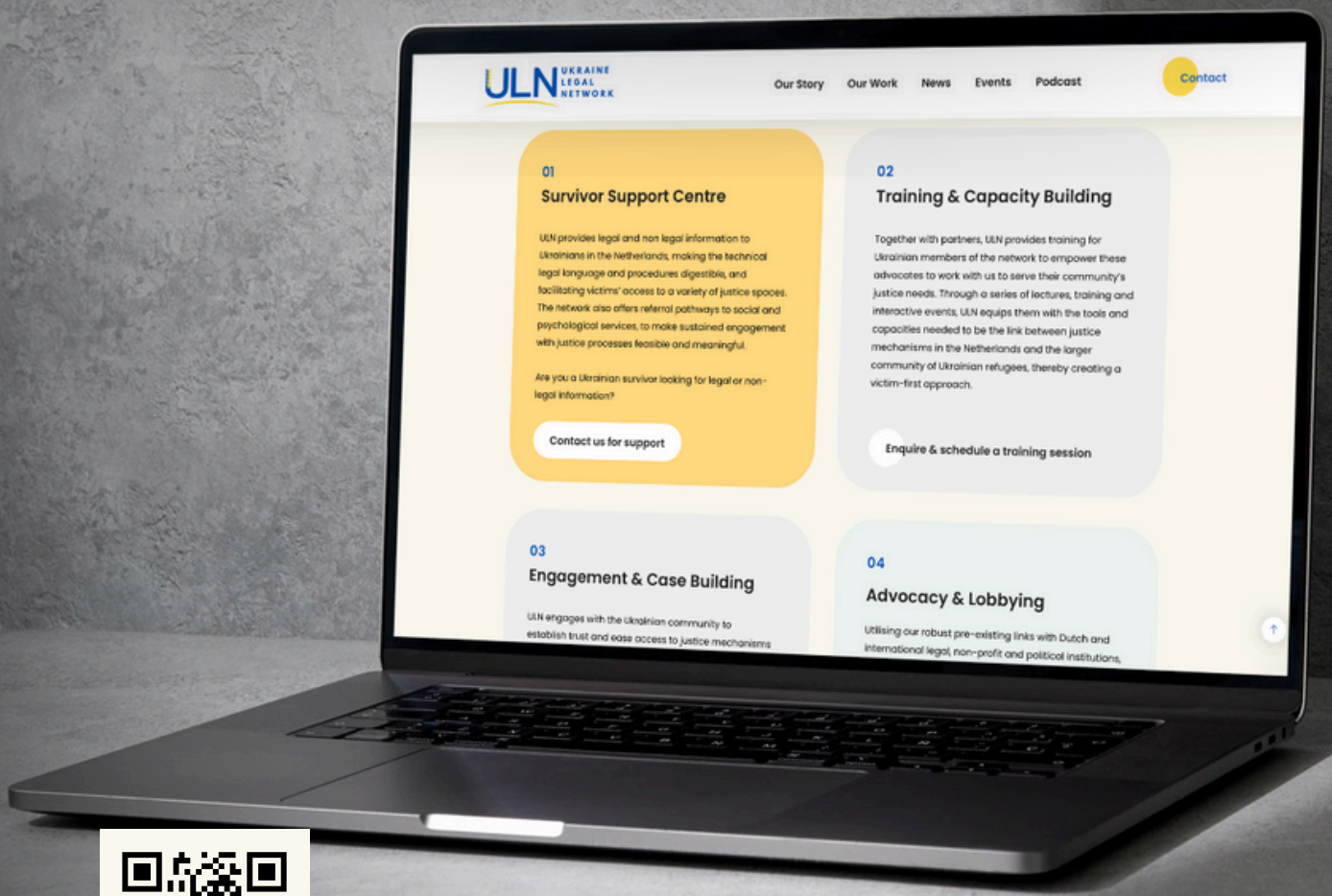


The ULN team actively promoted the podcast on YouTube, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and other podcast platforms in Ukraine and elsewhere. This was supported by targeted social media campaigns, including Stories, posts, and updates, which expanded the reach of the podcast, engaged new listeners and allowed the series to reach nearly 1,000 listeners in a short span of time.

Ukraine Legal Network's New Website

To strengthen its outreach and accessibility, the Ukraine Legal Network launched its official website in 2024, providing a dedicated space for legal resources, case updates, publications, and survivor support information. The website provides a comprehensive and transparent overview of ULN's work across its five key pillars: Survivor Support Center, Training & Legal Capacity Building, Engagement and Case Building, Advocacy & Lobbying, and Research.

The website has quickly become a central hub for those seeking to understand or contribute to justice efforts in Ukraine, drawing in a growing audience of lawyers, practitioners, and civil society actors. Most importantly, ULN's website allows survivors to directly contact our team for legal support, assistance in filing reparations claims, and other legal and non-legal support services.



Visit the ULN website to know more

Highlights & Achievements

More than a year following its establishment, Ukraine Legal Network has significant achievements to show:

- **Building an International Network of Legal Experts:** Since its establishment, ULN has successfully developed an international network of Ukrainian lawyers and legal experts dedicated to supporting survivors in achieving accountability, redress, and reparations.
- **Focused Training & Capacity Building:** ULN has provided training and facilitated engagement with national and international justice and reparations mechanisms, thereby empowering the Ukrainian legal community with the necessary tools and knowledge to address victims' needs effectively.
- **ULN Survivor Support Center:** ULN has taken significant steps towards establishing a Survivor Support Centre that has continued to assist individuals with filing claims for damages to the Register of Damage for Ukraine, ensuring survivors have access to the compensation they deserve.
- **Case Building & Legal Action:** ULN has supported ongoing criminal investigations and proceedings against individual perpetrators of war crimes, as well as legal actions against corporations that breach the international sanctions regime against Russia.

Contact

For more information about Ukraine Legal Network's ongoing work to support Ukrainian survivors in their search for justice, accountability and redress, visit our website at **www.ukrainelegalnetwork.org** or reach out to us at **contact@ukrainelegalnetwork.org.**

YAZIDI LEGAL NETWORK

Legal Network
Yazidi Legal Network

History

The Yazidi community, an ethno-religious minority, faced immense challenges post the 2014 ISIS genocide.

In reaction to these atrocities, Yazidi Legal Network (YLN) was established to provide legal assistance, advocacy, and aid to the Yazidi community, enabling access to justice and accountability systems both in the Netherlands and worldwide, with a focus on prosecuting foreign fighters.

Founded in 2019 by the Nuhanovic Foundation, YLN comprises Yazidis, lawyers, students, and activists devoted to justice and human rights. Evolving and growing extensively since its inception, YLN became an independent entity (a Dutch 'Stichting') headquartered in Amsterdam in early 2021.

Mission

YLN's mission is to pursue justice in the widest sense possible for the Yazidi community affected by the 2014 genocide committed by ISIS. While centred on Dutch jurisdiction, YLN collaborates closely with Yazidi groups in Germany, France, Iraq, and other countries. Aligned with the Yazidi community's perspectives on justice, YLN focuses on pursuing accountability, recognition, and reparations to achieve justice, for and with the Yazidi people.

Vision

YLN's vision is to function as a bridge between the Yazidi community on the one hand, and justice mechanisms that facilitate victims' access to accountability, recognition and reparation on the other.

Yazidi Legal Network's Work

The current lack of accountability stems, in part, from the gap between national and international justice mechanisms and documentation efforts in Iraq, which is why YLN has been building a collaborative information-sharing network linking judicial authorities and organisations collecting evidence, as well as providing them with information from YLN's own databases and research. By serving as an intermediary between these groups, YLN facilitates access to reparations for the Yazidis. Finally and very importantly, recognition of the community's suffering is carried out by closely communicating with the Yazidis, empowering their direct access to a range of actors and providing a safe platform for the whole network to share experiences, ideas and progress.

YLN works to ensure accountability for international crimes committed against the Yazidi with a link to the Netherlands and to increase awareness about these atrocities. Our thriving network unites people toward our shared aim of justice for the Yazidis. We forge connections between the Yazidi community and justice systems, victims and media, students and practitioners, law enforcement, and NGOs.



A conference to commemorate 10 years since the Yazidi Genocide, organised by Yazidi Legal Network, Stichting Vluchteling and Yazda at the Peace Palace in The Hague.

Contact

Get in touch with Yazidi Legal Network by visiting www.yazidilegalnetwork.org or reaching out to **info@yazidilegalnetwork.org**.

Advocacy & Media Appearances

Throughout 2024, The Nuhanovic Foundation and its representatives actively engaged with media outlets and participated in events to spread awareness about our work and conduct advocacy on behalf of victims and survivors of international crimes and grave human rights violations.



Ukraine Legal Network's Olesia Zaiets (second from left) speaking at an event organised by the T.M.C. Asser Institute.

February 2024

Our Director **Hope Rikkelman** was featured in an article published in **JusticeInfo.net** reporting on the landmark Mustafa A. case, the first Dutch trial concerning regime-related crimes. The article focused on the trial's first-of-its-kind simultaneous translation into Arabic, which was facilitated and organised by The Nuhanovic Foundation.

April 2024

The Foundation's board member **Lauren Gould** co-authored an article in **The Conversation** on the use of artificial intelligence in Israel's bombing of Gaza.

April 2024

The Foundation's work surrounding the case against **Mustafa A.**, the first Dutch case concerning regime-related crimes in Syria, was featured in **TRIAL International's Universal Jurisdiction Annual Review (UJAR) 2024**.

May 2024

ULN Project Coordinator **Bogdana Cherniavska** participated as a speaker at the conference **"Interdisciplinary Dialogues: Can We Navigate Conflict Resolution in the Context of International Law?"** organized by the Amsterdam Law Forum at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.



May 2024

Frederiek de Vlaming, on behalf of The Nuhanovic Foundation, was interviewed for a magazine published by **Utrecht University** on the Srebrenica Genocide, titled **"De Rol Van Juristen Bij Misdaden Tegen De Menselijkheid - De Genocide In Srebrenica: Een Casusbeeld."**

May 2024

ULN Project Officer **Olesia Zaiets** was invited to speak at a lecture titled "The Register of Damage for Ukraine: Towards Reparation for Victims?" hosted by the **T.M.C. Asser Institute**.

July 2024

The Foundation's board member **Lauren Gould** co-authored an article in **De Groene Amsterdammer** on algorithmic warfare and civilian harm.

September 2024

ULN Project Coordinator **Bogdana Cherniavska** was invited to give a presentation at a screening of the documentary **20 Days in Mariupol** hosted at the **Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam**. The presentation highlighted ongoing war crimes being committed in Ukraine and efforts to seek justice for victims.

October 2024

ULN's Moot Court session, which explored the use of Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) and digital evidence, received significant media coverage in **UkrInform** and **1+1 TV-channel**, Ukraine's domestic online and TV news agencies with all-nation coverage and biggest audiences.

October 2024

The Foundation's Director Hope **Rikkelman** was featured an article published in **JusticeInfo.net** covering the landmark trial of Hasna A., the first case in the Netherlands concerning crimes committed against the Yazidi community. The Nuhanovic Foundation is an active supporter of the case and facilitated access to the case for the victims and witnesses.

December 2024

ULN's team took part in the **"People of Steel"** screening at Cinecenter Amsterdam, organised by **ABBA Amsterdam** and **TDP** as part of the "Culture vs War: 1000 Days of Resilience" marathon. Project Coordinator Bogdana Cherniavska led a post-screening discussion on violations of international humanitarian law depicted in the film, underscoring the urgent need for accountability and highlighting how personal narratives become vital evidence of resilience and wrongdoing.

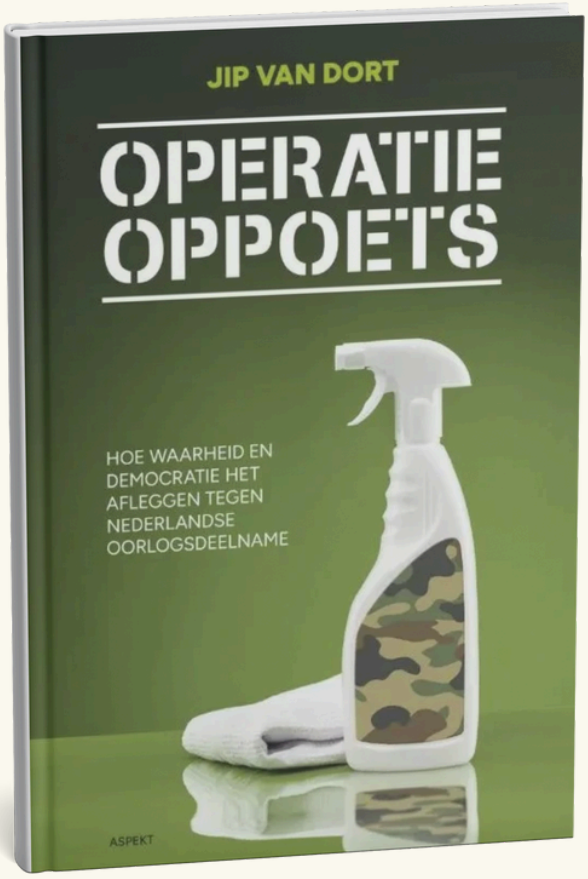
December 2024

The Nuhanovic Foundation's Director **Hope Rikkelman** was quoted in an article in **Een Vandaag** about the death of Syrian activist Mazen al Hamada in Syria. Hope highlighted the glaring lack of social support provided to Mazen by the Netherlands, and concluded that the Dutch State could have done more to safeguard the well-being of al Hamada, one of the most notable critics of the Assad regime.

Research & Impact Measurement

When victims of international crimes and grave human rights violations decide to seek justice through litigation, it is important to analyse the impact and effects of legal action, both procedurally and in terms of the law as an agent of societal change.

Through our research and impact measurement activities, we aim to measure and report on this impact.



Publication support for Jip Van Dort's book Operatie Oppoets

In the 2024 book **Operatie Oppoets**, Jip Van Dort, Affiliate Researcher at the Intimacies of Remote Warfare programme of Utrecht University and Political Advisor at PAX, critically examines the Dutch government's use of propaganda to justify its involvement in the U.S.-led War on Terror. The book delves into recent instances where misinformation and manipulation were employed to garner public and parliamentary support for military actions, particularly in the context of Dutch military action in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan.

The book highlights how, in the context of warfare, truth is often the first casualty. Through detailed analysis, "Operatie Oppoets" reveals the persistent use of propaganda by the Dutch government to justify military engagements, raising critical questions about the balance between state narratives and democratic accountability.

The Nuhanovic Foundation provided financial support for the publishing of this book.

Radboud Universiteit

THE NUHANOVIC FOUNDATION
CENTRE FOR WAR REPARATIONS

Partnership with the Radboud Law Clinic for Human Rights to conduct research on the "forgotten wars"

In 2024, The Nuhanovic Foundation entered into a new partnership with the **Radboud Law Clinic for Human Rights** at **Radboud University**, Nijmegen. This collaborative initiative will focus on conducting in-depth research to **examine potential connections between the Netherlands** and ongoing conflicts in **Sudan**, the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, **Yemen**, and **Somalia**. Our joint mission is to uncover potential avenues for accountability — whether involving state actors, corporate entities, or individuals — in relation to these conflicts, with the ultimate goal of promoting justice and upholding human rights. With a mandate to initiate and support litigation the Netherlands, this initiative will practically analyse the feasibility of delivering justice under the auspices of the Dutch legal system to the victims of these 'forgotten wars'; and identify other ways to speak out for these survivors who, we believe, have thus far not been given an opportunity to be heard.

This partnership underscores our shared commitment to advancing human rights through proactive research, investigation and legal analysis. By bringing together The Nuhanovic Foundation's expertise in accountability for international crimes and the academic strength of the Radboud Law Clinic for Human Rights, we aim to contribute to the global effort of ensuring that international crimes and grave human rights violations do not go unchallenged.

Research Project: The Politics of Legal Responsibility for International Crime

This research project, conducted by students of the Political Science program at **Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam** under the guidance of **Phoebe Hargrave**, Junior Lecturer in Political Science at VU, in collaboration with The Nuhanovic Foundation, explores the political and legal ramifications of the landmark case **Nuhanović & Mustafić v. the State of the Netherlands**. Stemming from the Srebrenica massacre, this case has played a crucial role in shaping discussions on legal accountability, justice for victims, and political activism.

The project examines how the case has influenced victims' experiences, Dutch and UN accountability, and activism in both legal and political spheres. To achieve this, the research adopts a qualitative methodology, combining semi-structured interviews with stakeholders — such as members of the Bosnian diaspora in the Netherlands — and content analysis of legal documents, past interviews, and scholarly literature.

Structured into four subgroups, the project delves into:

- Victims' perspectives and their access to justice;
- United Nations accountability and its legal immunity debates;
- The Netherlands' role and responsibility in the Srebrenica events;
- Activism and legal mobilisation, analysing how the case has driven broader movements for accountability.

The findings of the research highlight the fact that while the Nuhanović case set an important legal precedent, many victims still feel that justice remains incomplete, particularly in terms of adequate reparations and recognition.

The case brought renewed attention to the accountability of the Netherlands, revealing how states navigate responsibility in international law. Regarding the UN, the research underlines the persistent legal and political barriers that prevent full accountability, largely due to judicial immunity.

Furthermore, the case has inspired legal and political activism, with NGOs and advocacy groups leveraging its legal arguments to push for broader accountability in international crimes. While symbolic changes have been made, the findings suggest that true reconciliation and justice require continued political and legal efforts, including public awareness campaigns, policy reforms, and international cooperation.

Legal Avenues for Reparations Based on the Stanišić and Simatović Ruling

This project, conducted in collaboration with **TRIAL International BiH**, aims to explore and advance legal avenues for reparations based on the **Stanišić and Simatović ruling**.

As part of the project, The Nuhanovic Foundation and TRIAL International organised a two-day roundtable in Amsterdam bringing together leading experts, including academics, former prosecutors from international tribunals, and regional lawyers.

The discussions focused on the legal and practical challenges of pursuing reparations, and assessing the impact of the Stanišić and Simatović case on accountability efforts. Key topics included the use of ICTY judgments in national courts, the legal and political obstacles in seeking reparations, and strategies to strengthen victim-centred justice. Additionally, participants examined the role of EU accession processes and alternative mechanisms, such as strategic litigation and policy advocacy, in ensuring meaningful redress for survivors.

Research by Kate Clark, Board Member at The Nuhanovic Foundation

Kate Clark - formerly Head of Research and now board member at The Nuhanovic Foundation - is currently in the final stages of finalising her PhD research on the legal position of civilians injured by the unlawful conduct of war, who bring claims before European courts.

As part of her research, Kate explores the interaction of international humanitarian and human rights law with national law in the adjudication process that leads to the success or failure of these claims.

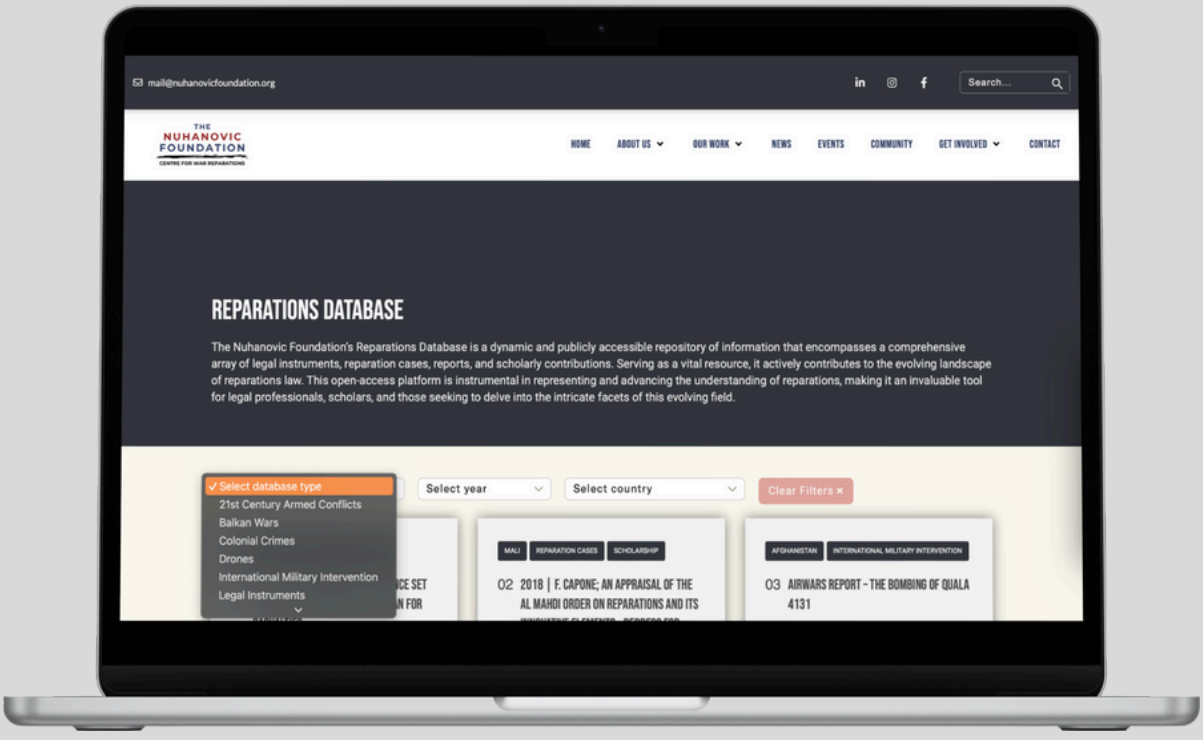
Reparations Database

In 2024, The Nuhanovic Foundation's Reparations Database continued to grow as a vital resource for legal practitioners, researchers, and survivors seeking justice for gross human rights violations and international crimes. As a publicly accessible, dynamic repository, the database provides a comprehensive collection of legal instruments, case law, policy reports, and scholarly works on reparations worldwide.

Expanding and Strengthening the Database

Over the past year, our team has significantly expanded the database, incorporating new cases, verdicts, and legal scholarship, related not just to cases supported by the Foundation but also other significant legal developments across jurisdictions.

Our team has also worked to enhance the usability and accessibility of the platform, ensuring that practitioners and survivors alike can navigate its content efficiently. A refined search system that allows users to filter results, clearer categorisation of cases and reports for more efficient browsing, and a redesigned interface contribute to making the database as accessible as possible.



External Communications

In 2024, The Nuhanovic Foundation continued to strengthen its voice and visibility through a robust external communications strategy, ensuring that our work in the field of justice and accountability for international crimes reached broader audiences, inspired public engagement, and supported our advocacy goals. Utilising digital platforms and new content formats, we aimed to connect with diverse communities — survivors, legal professionals, academics, media, and the public — sharing insights into legal developments, survivor experiences, and justice mechanisms.

Expanding Our Digital Footprint

Our social media presence grew significantly in 2024, with both reach and engagement increasing steadily throughout the year. On LinkedIn, we steadily expanded our audience and achieved nearly 60,000 impressions across 2024. On Instagram, we reached more than 70,000 accounts, with strong engagement around advocacy campaigns, case updates, and events.

Through a steady stream of curated content — ranging from legal analysis and case updates to trial monitoring and advocacy events — we deepened our connection with our stakeholders, partners and the broader public.

5 THE ORGANISATION IN 2024



2024 was an interesting but challenging year for The Nuhanovic Foundation.

It was a year marked by comprehensive professionalisation and expansion of the Foundation and it's mandate, enabled by the tireless efforts of our passionate team.

The Team

The Nuhanovic Foundation's team consists of contracted employees, volunteers, students, and interns, all working under the oversight of the Board and management of the Director. In 2024 the board consisted of **Tosca Urbanus** (Chair of the Board), **Kate Clark** (Board Member) and **Lauren Gould** (Board Member). For more information on our Board members, please visit our website.

Decisions related to litigation support in 2024 were made by the Board of the Nuhanovic Foundation, while the Director was responsible for the day-to-day operations and fundraising efforts. The Director provided oversight and managed all the Foundation's activities, including its sub-projects and Networks, and provided regular reports to the Board during scheduled meetings.

At the end of 2023, **Frederiek de Vlaming** stepped down from her role and **Hope Rikkelman** was appointed as the new Director of the Foundation. However, due to the premature birth of her child, she was unexpectedly required to take early maternity leave. In her absence, Frederiek de Vlaming, in collaboration with the Board, assumed responsibility for managing the Foundation's operations. Throughout the year, the Board and the Interim Director maintained close and consistent communication to ensure the effective functioning and continuation of the Foundation's work.

Under the supervision of the Director, daily operations were carried out by the Legal Officer (Consultant) **Federica Genovesi**, who managed the Foundation's litigation activities and oversaw incoming requests for legal and litigation support. **Raghav Sarma**, Communications Consultant, continued to manage all internal and external communications activities related to the Foundation's work and the work of its legal networks.

Ukraine Legal Network was established in November 2023 and has been spearheaded by a dynamic team of Ukrainian professionals. In 2024, ULN was led by the Project Officer **Olesia Zaiets**, with support from the Coordinator **Bogdana Cherniavska** and Communications Officer **Julia Marko**. The team benefits from the valuable expertise of and support from The Nuhanovic Foundation and its Board. For more information about the ULN team, please visit the network's website.

In Memoriam

Denise Alkadiri-Kohi

To our great sorrow, our beloved colleague, dear friend, and champion of justice, **Denise Alkadiri-Kohi**, passed away in August 2024.

Denise's passing, which came just a few weeks after her 27th birthday, has been an unimaginable loss to all of us who had the honour of working alongside her, learning from her, and being inspired by her unwavering dedication. Denise served as the Legal Office Manager at The Nuhanovic Foundation and Project Manager at the Yazidi Legal Network (YLN). Her life was defined by her commitment to international justice and advocacy for survivors of mass human rights violations, particularly those from marginalised communities and victims of sexual violence.



Denise was not just a part of our organisation; she was the heart and soul of it. Her passion, resilience, and tireless pursuit of justice touched every aspect of our work, and her contributions played a crucial role in making us who we are today.

Denise's journey with us began as a student volunteer during the first months of YLN's existence. From the start, she radiated a rare combination of intellect, compassion, and determination. Denise grew into a key leader and architect of our mission, helping shape our programs and the structure that holds us together today at Yazidi Legal Network and The Nuhanovic Foundation. Her innate ability to create positive and safe communal spaces that fostered collaboration and innovation had a transformative impact on every project that she was a part of. Denise's impact is woven into the very fabric of our organisation, and we owe much of our progress to her vision and perseverance.

Beyond her professional contributions, Denise's spirit was one of boundless curiosity and generosity. She had a profound love for learning, travelling, and immersing herself in different cultures. She embraced life with an open heart and a deep sense of empathy, always reaching out to those in need. Her warmth, intelligence, and kindness touched the lives of everyone she encountered. The loss of Denise leaves an immense void in our community, one that will be deeply felt by all who knew her.

Denise leaves behind a lot of people who loved her dearly. To her family and loved ones, we extend our deepest and most heartfelt condolences. We stand with you in grief and will honour her legacy by continuing the work she was so deeply passionate about.

Denise, your presence in our lives is a gift we will always treasure. Your spirit, dedication, and passion for justice will continue to guide us in our pursuit of a better world. Thank you for everything you gave us, and your impact will forever be reflected in everything that we do. You will be dearly missed, but never forgotten.

Rest in peace, dear friend. Your light will forever shine in our hearts.



Donors & Partners

In 2024, we fostered new partnerships, secured new sources of funding to strengthen our impact, and realised the transformative potential that collaborative efforts and strategic alliances hold in advancing our mission.

Through new partnerships and diversification of our donor base, we aim to ensure the sustainability and resilience of our existing work and pave the way for new initiatives in the near future.

Our Donors

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, we extend our deepest appreciation to our donors and sponsors for standing beside us in our pursuit of justice. We are profoundly grateful for the unwavering support of our dedicated donors, whose generosity and commitment have been crucial in our achievements throughout the year.

We would like to express our gratitude for the generous support of

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The Nuhanovic Foundation

Supporting victims and survivors of international crimes through litigation, advocacy and knowledge.

mail@nuhanovicfoundation.org

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