



MIGREAT

YEAR PLAN 2026



Finalised in June 2026

Introduction

Welcome to MiGreat's year plan for 2026. This document is our strategic roadmap for the year. Building on our analysis of the state of migrants' rights in the Netherlands and across Europe, as well as the movement that seeks to expand these rights, we've detailed 3 strategic priorities.

This year's strategy marks a shift from those previous. In our almost 7 years of existence we have come to understand the importance of our allies and accomplices in the migration movement and beyond.

That's why this year's strategy is all about movement and capacity building. In the section 'MiGreat in the Movement' we detail the position we hope to take in this movement, and in our strategic priorities we explain exactly how we aim to grow the capacity for resistance in places ranging from communities, neighborhoods, and activist groups to political parties and civil society organizations.

This year plan also includes our organizational information, our history, and a slightly updated vision and mission. The goals and activities for each of our projects is specified under organisation, campaigns & events, communication, aid, fundraising or expenses.

In the face of an ascendant fascist Europe, we choose to build alliances and learn to fight together!

Practical information

Name: Stichting MiGreat

KVK Registration number: 76116549

Activities: SBI-code: 94997, overige belangenbehartiging

Activities according to statutes:

- Promoting the human rights of migrants, including refugees.

- Promoting safe migration; providing emergency and development assistance to migrants, including refugees.
- Providing information about migration.

Board members

Jieling: chair

Sofie: treasurer

Kate: secretary

Our history

From 2018 onwards, a group of volunteers were working under the name Aid Brigade in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. We managed a small community centre with hundreds of visitors daily, providing food, medical aid and shelter to people on the move who were trying to cross the EU borders.

Although our work was important, it was also frustrating. We were doing what we could to keep people alive, fed and warm. Meanwhile, the authorities did their utmost best to make living conditions as harsh as possible. Migrants who attempted to cross the border would get caught by EU police, get robbed of the clothes and blankets they had received, beaten up, sometimes even tortured and then pushed out of the EU borders, back into Bosnia. We were papering over the cracks – trying to reduce suffering without addressing the root causes.

When our volunteers were banned from the country, we decided to start MiGreat. We still wanted to support people on the move directly, but we also wanted to work towards systemic change. To make sure that, in the long term, no one needs to risk their lives to move, depend on charity for basic needs, experience police violence or exploitation. We fight for the freedom to move, and equal rights for all migrants.

Vision

At MiGreat, we envision a world where all human beings are free to move, and receive equal treatment and equal rights wherever they are. That's all we're asking for! Where migration is not a privilege, but a right, and where you are born does not determine the limits of your life.

Mission

We are working on changing the power structures that systematically oppress and exploit people, mainly from the global South. Our actions aim to shrink the borders into non-existence¹, to make movement free and end segregation based on ethnicity, status, or background between nationals and non-nationals.

¹ Bradley, G. M., & De Noronha, L. (2022). *Against Borders: The Case for Abolition*. Verso Books.

Freedom of movement. We take action to make it easier for people to move. This includes taking political and social action to support the removal or relaxing of visa requirements, the increase of opportunities to migrate as well as the resistance against forced migration. We fight for freedom of movement for everyone: from people in their asylum process to international students and from Polish labour workers to people without EU or Dutch documents. Freedom of movement is a human right, no matter the reason you move or the migrant group you are categorised in within the existing system.

Equal treatment. Free migration will only help to achieve true equality if all types of migrants have equal rights compared to locals. This includes social rights, such as access to housing, health care, shelter, education, equal labour rights and political rights such as voting. We fight policies, laws, and practices which create this segregation and limit access to rights for some.

We do this by breaking down the regime one policy at a time until we have flattened it into non-existence. What this means on a policy level can be found in our 2026 [Move Manifesto](#).

Our political work is currently focused on the Netherlands and migration into the EU. We also support organisations working on the EU borders.

Racist Migration Policy and the Movement Against It

The Opposition

The climate for people on the move in the Netherlands and the EU is growing increasingly more hostile. With the EU Pact on Asylum and Migration going into force this past June, and the negotiations for the Deportation Regulation finalized, borders are tightening further.

The new EU Pact on Asylum and Migration

Under the guise of European “solidarity”, the new Pact intensifies border militarisation and deterrence strategies while simultaneously making it easier to forcefully deport people without properly examining their asylum claim. The law introduces two new asylum procedures: the border procedure and the accelerated procedure.

The **border procedure** is the most blatantly racist: it is automatically applied to people from a country with less than 20% asylum recognition rate (think Sierra Leone, Senegal, the Gambia, but also Iraq, Egypt, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo), or to anyone deemed a “security risk”. With this procedure, entire demographics of people are considered to not have entered Europe, despite being physically on European soil. This cruel legal trick is known as the ‘fiction of non-entry’ and is a way for European governments to justify detaining and deporting those that reach its shores.

The **accelerated procedure** is similar, but without fiction of non-entry – people who entered the EU are considered to legally be in Europe. It’s for people who come from or pass through a “safe country of origin” and anyone who repeatedly applies for asylum to avoid deportation. An accelerated procedure means people’s asylum claims will not be examined thoroughly, and leaves room for easier exposure to human rights violations such as unfair trials due to time constraints or risk of breaching the non-refoulement rule. Furthermore, many of the countries listed as safe are anything but. For example, Tunisia, despite Amnesty International and other human rights organisations consistently reporting instances of torture and

inhumane treatment of people on the move passing through it, is considered a safe country.

The Pact also generally intensifies the use of detention, including detention of children, people with disabilities, and torture survivors.

Under the new pact, the Netherlands also introduces a dual-status system. This divides people on the move into two distinct categories: Refugees (status A) and subsidiary protection holders (status B). Refugee status is granted to those fleeing personal persecution, while people fleeing war, violence, or conflict are only entitled to subsidiary protection, which carries a shorter residence permit and no right to family reunification. Residence permits for refugees are also shortened from five to three years, and will be re-examined before people can file for permanent residency, and can potentially be taken away. This follows a growing trend of deterrence and increased scrutiny of people on the move across European countries, which the new Pact codifies into law.

From our time in Ter Apel, we have already started monitoring the effects of this legislation on the ground. The asylum system has been told to prioritise new asylum requests in order to test these new rules, but this means that people in the old procedure (who applied before June 12th) now find themselves in an extended limbo of delays as new requests suddenly take priority.

The EU Return Regulation

Amid cheers and chants of “send them back”, the European Parliament recently approved the new Return Regulation, which effectively installs a deportation regime across the European Union. It introduces an obligation to detect people without EU or Dutch documents, giving national police authorisation to carry out raids in homes, schools, and workplaces, search people, and seize their belongings and electronic devices. This regulation effectively legitimizes ICE like practices in the EU. It also increases detention from a maximum of 18 to 24 months with a 6-month extension, and creates a Europe-wide deportation order that can be carried out by every and any EU state. People can now be detained in “**deportation hubs**” outside the EU and deported to countries they have no connection to.

Migration policy in the Netherlands and across Europe has long focused on border militarisation and externalisation and on the criminalisation of people on the move, instead of investing in a dignified system of support and integration. These recent laws only confirm and codify a system of violence, racism, and oppression that has been in place for decades.

So how do we fight back?

The Movement

The fight for migrants' rights in the Netherlands has largely been led by a scatter of groups that fit one of two categories: Traditional NGOs that provide essential support but do so within the limits of the State's racist migration policy, or autonomous groups that attempt to chip away at the border regime using direct action and mutual aid.

Unlike our European neighbors for whom 'No Person is Illegal' is a core message of the anti-racist and anti-fascist left, social movements in the Netherlands have seldom centred border abolition in the struggle against oppressive systems. This is beginning to change. We see activist groups articulating a message of internationalist solidarity – bringing together issues such as Palestinian liberation, climate justice and increasingly also a critique of Europe's border regime.

This is the movement that we situate ourselves within and *will work to build* – one that not only envisions freedom of movement for all, but an end to the extractivist capitalist system that makes this regime of deadly borders possible in the first place.

Many challenges still remain. The Dutch movement is characterized by decentralization and autonomy: Many groups (including ourselves in the past) prioritize the ability to act independently and covertly above the need for coordinated mass action.

Looking specifically at the movement for migrants' rights, we have a number of blindspots: While people living through the asylum process tend to live outside the Randstad, this is precisely where activist groups are the least present, leading to

those in need of these structures struggling to access them, but also a persistent lack of people with lived experience organizing within these activist structures and spaces.

Our 2026 strategy was written against this backdrop of strengths and challenges. We see weaving networks of resistance between civil society, movements and political parties; building up neighborhood and community level solidarity in places currently underserved by civil society and activist groups, strengthening our connection to communities affected by the border regime, and continuing our work to support people at risk of deportation, as key strategic priorities for this year.

To continue to build the capacity for collective struggle, this year we have articulated our vision of MiGreat's role in the movement. We occupy a unique position – exceedingly few groups combine an NGO structure with the kind of radical voice and tactics we do. At the same time our structure also allows us certain privileges and access that more informal groups do not have, for this reason we see our role as fourfold:

1. A movement accomplice: We work together with other groups and communities towards our shared cause, growing and strengthening the movement whenever we can. This includes using our privilege as an organisation with a platform, amplifying struggles, and collaborating on projects or strategies. We take an expansive view of the movement, working together towards shared goals and activating the political agency of all – even sometimes in unexpected places.

2. A trojan horse: We sneak radical messaging into graphics that wouldn't scare your parents. By normalising the radical thinking around border abolition (that's secretly not so radical!) we are able to push it into the zeitgeist.

3. A birds-eye view: We are committed to constantly zooming out and assessing the struggle against border violence with a bird's eye view. We say what needs to be said, and act where others won't. Our previous projects are all testaments to this: Being on the ground in Ter Apel, acting against deportations, and campaigning for genuinely radical policies in our election manifestos.

4. A transnational ally: We situate ourselves amongst a transnational network of groups all fighting the European border regime from every angle. We aim to support them wherever we can: Whether through direct aid, amplifying their voices, or offering our skills and knowledge. We also fight alongside them: Coordinating strategy, joint actions and campaigns, and defending people at risk of deportation together.

Strategic Priorities 2026

All our actions and strategies are driven by our mission: the abolition of any and all borders. History shows that oppression does not just disappear – to confront power, we need to build up counterpower. Given the state of deadly border policies and the movement against them, we have devised the following strategic priorities which we will follow in 2026:

Strategy 1: Building-up the capacity for resistance

In our almost 7 years of existence we've begun to recognize a familiar pattern: We never lack creative ideas, what we lack is the capacity to make them happen. So we're changing our focus: Instead of imagining MiGreat as the "center" of resistance, this year we are shifting to a strategy of facilitating and building up the capacity for resistance wherever we find the seeds for it. We will do this by:

› **Operating according to the principle of 'each one, teach one':** Our efficacy is measured not just in what we achieve with a single act but also in how many people or groups we are able to share knowledge and skills with in the process. 'Each one, teach one' means with every action, campaign or aid operation, we are bringing in new faces and voices. The only way to be a credible counter power is to be invested in activating people's political agency, even when it's inconvenient or frustrating.

› **Decentralizing the fight against deportations:** After two years of campaigning against deportations we've gained a lot of knowledge and skills of how to fight the Dutch deportation machine and win. It's time to pass on this knowledge to new leaders, groups and communities. In 2026 we will co-coordinate the newly formed Dutch Anti-Deportation Assembly, a coalition of groups active against deportations, focused on sharing resources and knowledge as well as coordinating strategy.

› **Sparking neighborhood and community-level solidarity:** There is no shortage of talented individuals that can act as activists or organizers, what is sometimes missing in our movements however, is the social fabric that leads to mass-mobilization. Learning from the anti-ICE movement in the U.S. we see that solidarity on the level of communities and neighborhoods has been an incredible tool in getting people on the street and actually keeping people safe. Neighborhoods, once organized, can take direct actions like monitoring police and actually preventing detention and deportations.

Strategy 2: Strengthening our connection to individuals and communities affected by the border regime

In 2022 our presence on the ground in Ter Apel gave us lots of opportunity to build relationships with people living through the asylum system. Many people we met on the field became friends and volunteers; MiGreat as an organization was linked to real people and faces, not just an abstract set of principles on a fancy website. Over the years this connection has begun to fade. We also recognize that our conception of who is “affected by the border regime” has narrowed somewhat, perhaps due to a focus on deportations and people without Dutch or EU documents. These are concrete steps we’d like to take in 2026 to tackle this:

› **Putting our boots back on the ground:** In 2026 we aim to start more projects that put us in direct contact with people in the asylum system. We already are! With another crisis sadly unfolding in Ter Apel, the MiGreat team is back on the field. Even when that crisis dies down however, we have plans to start a ‘mobile freeshop’ that will give us a consistent presence at the registration center. This will allow us to monitor and gather experiences about the way the new Migration & Asylum Pact are being implemented in real time.

› **Centering the perspectives and needs of more kinds of migrants:** MiGreat’s perspective has always been that ‘migrant’ is not a dirty word. This word encompasses a huge range of lived experiences: From people on the move, second or third generation migrants, to students, ‘gelukszoekers’, labor migrants and many more. All reasons for migrating are valid and we aim to advocate for all of them. In 2026 we would like to expand our projects, campaigns, and social media posts to

include the experiences of more kinds of migrants, making clear that none of us are free until we are all free from the b*llshit of borders.

› **Earmarking positions (staff and internship roles) for people who have been underrepresented in these roles**, in particular those with lived experience of the asylum system or resistance against the border regime in the Netherlands.

Strategy 3: Organizational transformation and resilience

Having run a bunch of campaigns, started innumerable working groups, and welcomed dozens of team members in our 6 years of existence, we have learnt a lot about what it takes to organize together effectively. Some lessons have unfortunately been hardwon – internal conflicts and ruptures have taught us that political impact cannot be disentangled from the care we practice for each other. In the next year we will put these lessons to practice in the following ways:

› **A reorganization with care and resilience at the center:** *We matter* just like the fight matters, and actually being an organization where people are empowered to take independent action is infinitely more impactful than being an organization where people simply tick off tasks. So we're putting a particular focus on these values this year. We are reassessing everything from our governance structure, strategy and mission, and decision making procedures, searching for ways to ensure MiGreat is both politically impactful and empowering for all those who organize in its name.

› **Growing and empowering our team:** As a group of people that respond to urgent situations, our team is often under stress. There will always be too many tasks and too little time. As such, the risk of overwhelm and burn-out are omnipresent. When people are burnt-out, little energy is left to welcome new people. As a result, no new energy and capacity is brought into the team and the same people are left structurally over-burdened. That's why we want to critically evaluate the way we've managed onboarding and integration in the past, and come-up with new ways to bring people in, and empower them to take independent action.

› **Financial stability & autonomy:** While we have grown more financially stable over the years, there is still work to do. In 2026 we will introduce new ways of controlling our budgets, with an evaluation moment scheduled each quarter. In this evaluation

we will go over any red flags and adjust our budgets for the next quarter accordingly. With more control of our finances also comes the opportunity for more financial autonomy in the working groups. Having clear budgets for working groups and team members will hopefully create a space where people feel ownership over and collective responsibility over our finances.

Plans 2026

Organisation

Team

We are starting the year with 4 paid staff members divided by 1.5 fte. These positions are considered as part of the Coordination Team or so called Back-office to keep the organization afloat when it comes to: Finance & Administration, Communications, Fundraising, Team Coordination, and Organisational & Strategic oversight. Besides this we have two rotating intern positions and around 10-15 volunteers, either in fixed roles or flexible ones. Lastly, we're also co-coordinating projects with independent working groups when it comes to our actions and campaigns. Many of these roles may change shape as an outcome of the reorganization process.

Working groups

Our current working groups cover: Coordination, Reorganization, Communications, Fundraising, Actions, Hotline, Workshops, Ter Apel Emergency Aid, and the Sleeping Bag Project.

Organisational structure

This year we are rethinking our organizational structure. During the reorganization process we will collectively decide how to move forward when it comes to: Governance structure, decision making processes, roles & compensation, as well as our strategy & mission. The implementation of the changes will start in the autumn of 2026 and continue through 2027.

Projects

Stop Deportations

After two years of effort on our Stop Deportations campaign, it's time for the work to change shape. We will continue to support and co-coordinate the Anti-Deportation Hotline and Actions working groups, while also moving away from some of the operational work of these groups. Our intention is to transition into a facilitative/partner role for the groups that are taking up operational tasks. Furthermore, we hope to harvest the learnings from this campaign and turn them into resources and toolkits that can be used by other groups in the Netherlands and beyond.

Anti Deportation Assembly

To make sure the fight against deportations not only continues but is taken up by more people and groups, MiGreat is supporting the Anti-Deportation Assembly. The Anti-Deportation Assembly is a coalition of groups that are monitoring and taking action against deportations in the Netherlands. Together we will share resources and coordinate strategy to be a more effective front against the Dutch detention and deportation regime.

Sleeping Bags

For the third year in a row we will roll out our big sleeping bags project where we work together with MOJO at Down the Rabbit Hole festival and Lowlands festival to collect sleeping bags and other lifesaving items to send to our partners at the European borders. We expect similar amounts as last year which would result in over 4000 sleeping bags and hundreds of tents, tarp and other essential items.

Ter Apel

The situation in Ter Apel became dire again in the middle of May. People started being turned away at the registration centre because of overcrowding on May 20th. Our response was quick, and we went to the field on May 22nd with gazebos, food and drinks, games and general support. We launched several calls for donations and applied for emergency grants, which allowed us to be present every day and night

for one month. We also hired two research interns to join us on the field and monitor the effects of the new EU Pact on Asylum and Migration, which will allow us to understand the impact of the new regulation on people in Ter Apel and will result in advocacy reports. We are currently evaluating the feasibility and sustainability of the project moving forward.

Communication

Social media

Our communication strategy has been finalised and centres our website as the core of the communication about our movement. Social media platforms like Instagram will act as a funnel towards our website, which will have an overview of our content and our past and upcoming actions and events. This is already being worked on in the Ter Apel support project: our demands can be signed on the website, and our advocacy efforts and reporting will be published there too. This means that our content will be pushed from the website to Instagram, instead of the other way around.

Newsletter and Community Chats

Our social media presence on platforms like Instagram is important for keeping our supporters and followers updated and informed, but also to direct them towards our website, newsletter and community chats on Whatsapp and Signal. This is where our network gets stronger and where we can mobilise for actions and demos, raise funds, publicise our campaigns and share our vacancies.

Mainstream media

Our organisation is already present in mainstream media, but we would like to strengthen this further. For the Ter Apel project, we have already expanded our list of press contacts and sent out several press releases, which have resulted in MiGreat being mentioned in newspapers like Doorbraak and RTVNoord.

Fundraising

For the first time we have worked hard on a detailed budget for the year which includes our fundraising goals. When we talk about fundraising we aim to not put all our eggs in the same basket and divide our streams of income for better financial stability which helps us plan for long-term strategies and campaigns. For us it's clear: fundraising will be necessary in this capitalist world we live in to ensure we can continue the fight. However, the fight itself will always be central in all of our decisions, including our decisions that impact our finances and fundraising.

These fundraising categories are: one-off donations, monthly donations, fundraising events & activities and grants. For our fundraising goals for these categories we are working with three different budgets: safe, realistic and optimistic. Every month, and more so every quarter, we will closely monitor how our finances are looking when it comes to these different budgets so we can pivot quicker than previous years and know what goals to focus on in the upcoming months. The safe budget for our fundraising goals looks as follows:

Monthly / Recurring donations	€32K
One-off donations	€25K
Sebbiebikes fundraising campaign	€18.5K
Fundraising parties	€6.2K
Dam tot Damloop sponsor run	€7.8K
Merchandise project	€2K
Speaker fees	€800
Sleeping bags grants	€4K
Stop Deportations campaign grants	€10K
Total fundraising goal	€106K

For our monthly and recurring donations we are aiming for €32K, which would be 20% higher than 2025. For our one-off donations the goal this year is €25K, which is also 20% higher than last year.

Our fundraising events & activities are: [Sebbiebikes](#)’ fundraising campaign, fundraising parties, the Dam tot Damloop sponsor run, merchandise and speaker fees. For Sebbiebikes we are aiming for 20% more than last year and a total of €18.5K. When it comes to fundraising parties we are aiming for the same as last year which is €6.2K. Our Dam tot Damloop sponsor run is expected to raise €7.8K which is 20% more than last year. For merchandise we’re aiming for €2K which is double of what we have budgeted as expenses so we would at least have a merchandise profit of €1K this year. For speaker fees we’re only aiming for €800 this year since we’re mostly offering our workshops for free as part of our Stop Deportations campaign.

Our grants strategy is partly flexible because it depends on our projects but we are aiming for €4K for our sleeping bags project and €10K for our Stop Deportations campaign.

This comes to a total fundraising budget of €106K.

Budget

The world is unpredictable and we see this having an impact on people donating and how grants operate this year, that’s why this year we want to be prepared. So for the first time, for our expenses we are also working with three different budgets: safe, realistic and optimistic. The safe budget for expenses is seen as the lowest budget we have for specific destinations and looks as follows:

Organizational	€58K
Campaigns	€43K
Communications	€16K

Aid	€5K
Fundraising	€20K
Total expense budget	€142K

Table: expense budget

Organizational expenses cover compensation for team members working on coordinating tasks, office & space rent, financial administration and accountants costs, a care budget for team members and a reserve for organizational crisis expenses. The total organizational budget is €58K.

Our campaigns budget covers compensation for team members working on campaigns, any expenses related to our Stop Deportations campaign, our hotline, our workshops, solidarity action support and a small budget for unforeseen campaigns. The total campaign budget is €43K.

Communications expenses cover compensation for team members working on communications tasks, website and general promotional materials. The total communications budget is €16K.

Our aid budget includes a budget for our sleeping bag project which is in total €5K. Unfortunately we initially didn't budget for any emergency aid project, like we did in previous years. In retrospect this could have been reserved for the Ter Apel project but now this project is funding itself.

Fundraising expenses cover compensation for team members working on fundraising tasks, events and merchandise costs and is in total almost €20K.

This comes to a total expense budget of €142K. With our fundraising goals, mentioned above, this would mean we expect a burn of €36K when we follow our safe budgets. If we do well we can lower this burn but if we don't this would come from our continuity reserve. For that reason, it's important to learn as much as we can this year when it comes to financial control and budgeting so we can work

towards a more financially stable organization and limit our expected burn next year or even aim for zero.

THANK YOU

For all of you that join us in this fight, stand next to us and each other and believe in a world where we are all free. We can only win if we fight together.

Follow us on Instagram if you want to be updated more regularly about the work, or register for our newsletter!