



## **Are you in need of help as an international church, due to the corona crisis?**

### **General information**

The website of SKIN contains a factsheet with important basic information about questions like: what are currently the government rules for churches? How can we continue to function as a church in a different, creative way? Where can I go in case of problems?

A number of organisations have joined their strength to help churches get through this difficult period in the best possible way. This initiative is called Samen Kerk = Samen Sterk and is coordinated by SOFAK, SKIN and a number of other organizations (see below). In the coming weeks we hope to raise money for an emergency fund to help international and migrant churches that are in trouble because of the corona crisis. The website [www.steunkerken.nu](http://www.steunkerken.nu) is designed for this purpose.

### **Emergency fund: criteria & procedure**

We want to try to help churches as much as possible, and we also want to help as many churches as possible. However, the money is limited, so we will also have to make choices about what we can and cannot do. Therefore, please keep in mind that we will not be able to solve all problems, and please continue to look for other solutions that will benefit you.

To qualify for application with the emergency fund, we have now determined the following criteria:

- > Applications must be submitted by filling in the application form on the SOFAK website and submitting the requested documents.
- > An application can only be submitted for emergencies demonstrably caused by the corona crisis.
- > The emergency fund is aimed at the survival of the church, i.e. the prevention of bankruptcy or the loss of your building (of a church), or having to fire employees (of a church). We therefore primarily focus on bridging fixed costs that are unavoidable.
- > Alternative solutions must first be explored before an application can be made to the emergency fund. For example, you can send a letter requesting leniency or suspension of the rent from the owner of a building. On the website of SOFAK you can find a letter that can be used for this purpose (in Dutch). If you have a mortgage, we advise you to contact the bank of your mortgage. They are currently quite open to look for a reasonable solution.
- > In order to apply for a contribution from the emergency fund, we need to know which options you have already tried to find a solution, how this went, and why it didn't produce sufficient results.

SOFAK is working together with a number of organisations that support the international churches. These organisations do the intake interviews, can help with the search for alternative solutions, write requests for leniency, and fill in the application form.

Churches in The Hague can contact Andrea van Dijk of the Hub The Hague ([andrea@maraprojecten.nl](mailto:andrea@maraprojecten.nl)).  
Churches in Rotterdam can contact Karin de Schipper-Visser of SKIN-Rotterdam ([karin@skinrotterdam.nl](mailto:karin@skinrotterdam.nl)).  
Churches in Amsterdam can contact Moses Alagbe of the PCC, via [malagbe2@yahoo.com](mailto:malagbe2@yahoo.com).  
Churches outside these three cities can contact Madelon Grant of SKIN via [madelongrant@yahoo.com](mailto:madelongrant@yahoo.com).

### **Decisions**

The deadline for the first round of applications is 30 April. After that the board of SOFAK will meet, and you will receive a response within 2 weeks. SOFAK will then see how much money has been raised and how many applications have been received from churches. Based on this, the board will then make the best possible distribution among the churches that have submitted an application and that meet the criteria. For more information we would like to refer you to the website [www.sofak.nl](http://www.sofak.nl), or contact us via [info@sofak.nl](mailto:info@sofak.nl).

All the best, and we pray for those in need in these difficult times.  
The board of SOFAK