the hague hacks

FESTIVAL

REPORT 2019

the hague hacks

It is a pleasure to report that The Hague Hacks Festival 2019 was a tremendous success! We were humbled to sell-out the event and welcome a total of 120 participants.

This year's edition of the Festival was truly the biggest, most international and most productive yet! We look forward to following-up with the ideas that have emerged from the Festival and continuing to connect tech companies, entrepreneurs and state actors with human rights defenders from across the world.

The human rights defenders that we work with inspire us every day. Their courage to speak out against injustice give us hope for a better world, and we are honored to be a part of that hope by empowering them to find solutions to the human rights challenges that plague their respective communities.

The Hague Hacks Team would like to extend a special thank you for the support that we have received from the United States Embassy of The Hague.

The Hague Hacks Team.

the hague hacks
Festival 2019

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THE FESTIVAL

'Set Free'

EMPOWERING HUMAN RIGHTS & FREEDOMS

the hague hacks
FESTIVAL

What is the Festival?

The Hague Hacks Festival is a multidisciplinary idea-creation event in which human rights defenders engage with a wide diversity of expertise across different sectors to share their experiences and unpack human rights violations to brainstorm ideas and possible tech solutions. At the Festival, we bring tech experts, designers, engineers, academics etc., as well as human rights defenders, diaspora members, and human rights problem-owners together to pursue innovative new ideas for human rights advocacy which we believe would not occur outside of our Festival Ideation sessions.

By positioning itself at the intersection of public, corporate, academic, and governmental sectors, The Hague Hacks strives to remove collaborative obstacles and bridge existing knowledge gaps with human rights activism. The core philosophy of this approach is not only to capitalize and expand on trans-disciplinary and cross-sector expertise, but is also to empower migrant groups in their problem-ownership and their capacity to address the human rights issues in their communities.

It is important to note that The Hague Hacks Festival is not just a one-day event. An independent assessment committee will decide which of the most promising and workable ideas that emerge from our festival will enter our 'Design for Activism' program. Here, their further design, development, and funding will be pursued with the goal of producing and sustaining them as effective long-term interventions or solutions to these global challenges.

Program

The Hague Hacks Festival at The Hague Humanity Hub on Friday December 6th, 2019

09h30	**Welcome**
	Welcome guests with tea & coffee
10h00	**Introduction**
	Introductory Statements by HH and HPP, Keynote speech by Dr. Melanie Rieback, CEO and Co-Founder of Radically Open Security
10h30	**Human Rights Challenges Pitches**
	Workshop challenges and technologies explained
11h15	**Discovery Workshops**
	Mapping the Problem and zooming in on opportunity spaces
13h00	**Lunch**
	Delicious, free, and sustainable food from Juni
14h00	**Ideation Workshops**
	Problem solving as a group and exploring possible solutions and calls for action
16h30	**Final Pitch**
	Presentations followed by a general discussion between participants
17h00	**Networking Hour**
	Drinks and snacks as guests chat and network, Artwork projections by Buro Brand and interactive music performance by Culture Unlimited

Workshops

In 2019, The Hague Hacks Festival's theme was **'Set Free': Tech to Empower Human Rights and Freedoms**. We focused on the following five global challenges to human rights and freedoms:

1 **'By the People, For The People'**
   Political Participation / Nicaragua

2 **'Breaking the Patriarchy'**
   Gender Inequality / Bangladesh

3 **'Information vs. Indoctrination'**
   Peace Education / Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Turkey/Kurdistan, North Korea

4 **'Right to Rally'**
   Expression & Association / Hong Kong

5 **'Our Home and Native Planet'**
   Environment and Human Rights / Global
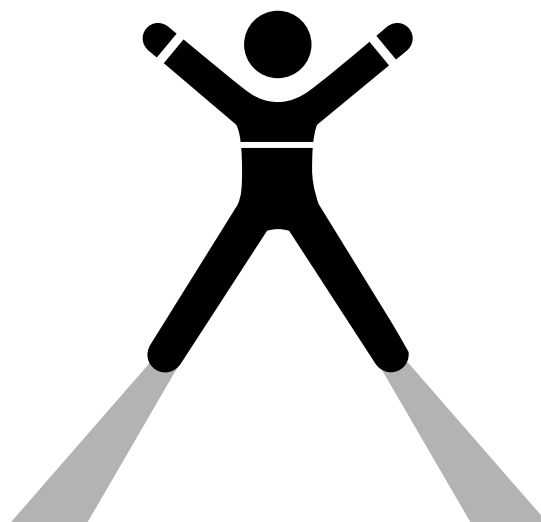
Keynote Summary

We were very grateful to welcome Dr. Melanie Rieback as the Keynote Speaker of The Hague Hacks Festival. Dr. Melanei Rieback is a revered member of the tech and cyber-security community in The Netherlands. She is the CEO/Co-Founder of Radically Open Security, the world's first non-profit computer security consultancy company. She spoke about the importance of innovation towards social good, both financially and technologically. A pioneer of the Post-Growth Entrepreneurial methodology, she emphasized the impact that business and start-ups can have if they prioritize social good over personal profit. With this inspiring talk of new ways to fuel social good and innovation, participants went on to learn and engage in one of our five workshops.

RESULTS AND ACTIONS

WORKSHOP 1
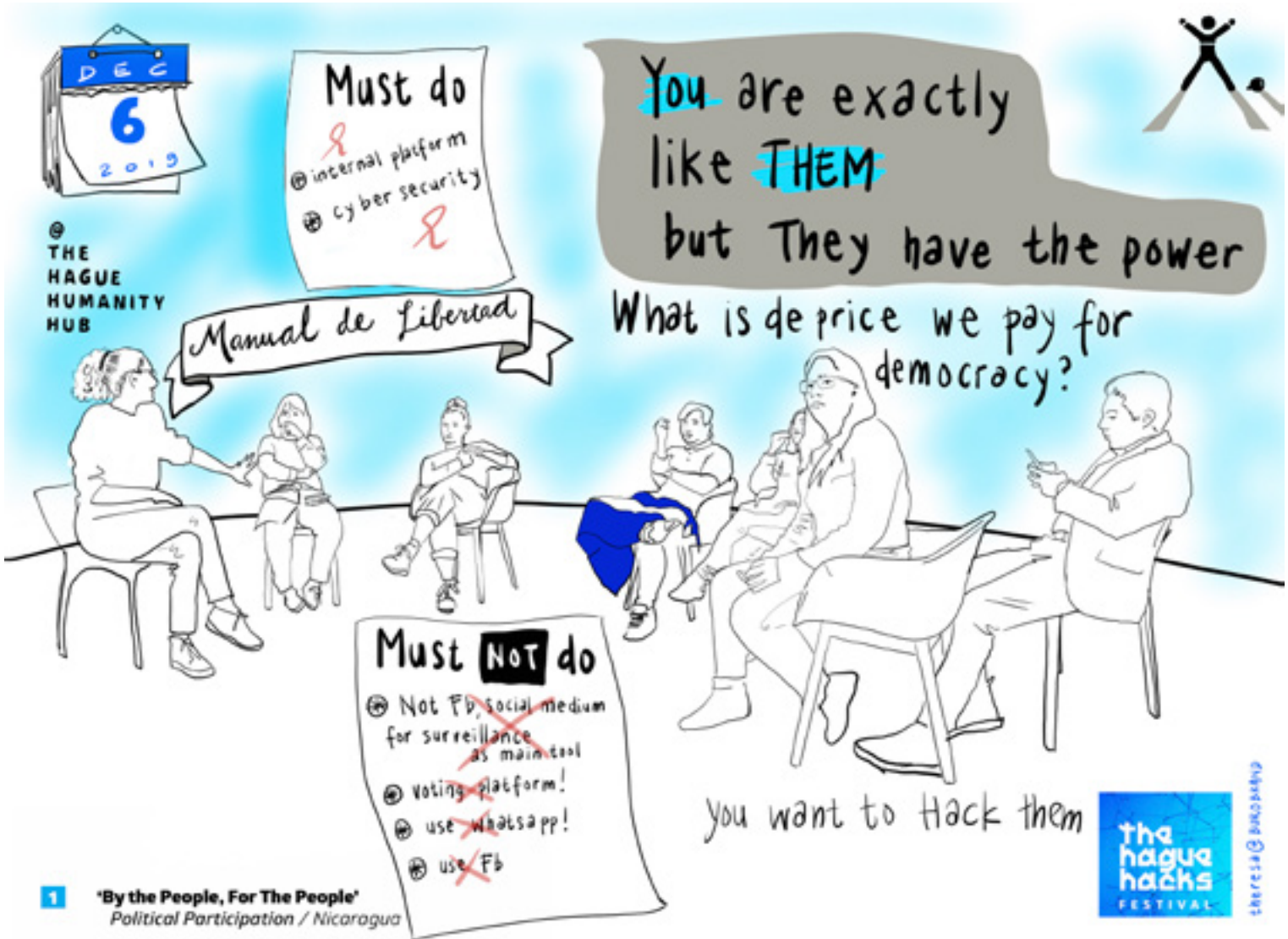
‘By the People, For The People’
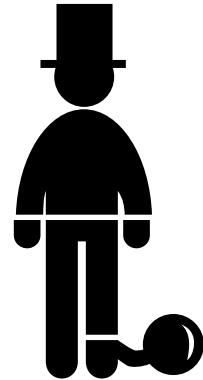Political Participation / Nicaragua

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‘By the People, For The People’

Nicaragua

Human Rights reference: UDHR. Art. 21

'By the People, For The People'

WORKSHOP **1**

TOPIC: *Political Participation*

STATES: *Nicaragua*

OUTLINE

Latin America is currently experiencing a wave of democratic oppression and human rights violations. In particular, Nicaragua is going through its most violent social uprising since the Sandinista Revolution of 1979, and is currently under an oppresive military dicatorship that has blocked all forms of freedom in the country. SOSNicaragua, a self-organized international solidarity group currently present in over 30 countries, has been working towards restablishing peace and democracy in the country. By incorporating a strong technological element as a cornerstone of their activism, SOSNicaragua is becoming an example of how even the strongest dictatorships can be stopped by collective, coordinated action.

GUIDING QUESTION

How can technology reach out and unite the diaspora to coordinate and reappropriate the Nicaraguan Government?

RESULTS

On April 18, 2018, anti-government protests over controversial pension reforms broke out in Nicaragua. The authorities responded with heavy handedness, including extrajudicial killings and repressions. The danger faced by the Nicaraguan people prompted social activists to seek cooperation with tech experts in order to develop technology that could help citizens to disseminate news about the protests and to mobilize the society without exposing themselves to the risk of persecution by the authorities. Tech experts assessed the media platforms and apps available and suggested concrete measures facilitating secure communication. They also concluded that digital security training was paramount.

The workshop speakers and participants created an action plan that describes the steps the Nicaraguan people and diaspora will need to take to confront government repression and violence. This will require the creation of two platforms: one for internal use by the diaspora and another one for external use by the people residing in Nicaragua. Furthermore, the Nicaragua workgroup are set to develop a communications strategy that would resonate in Nicaragua and directly impact the political and social context of the country with the help of the Dutch community.

The conclusion that digital security training is paramount to this situation was similarly shared by the Hong Kong workshop. As a result, the Hong Kong workshop participants are connecting with the Nicaraguan diaspora from the festival to explore a partnership with the goal of applying for DRL funding (Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor) for programs that support Internet Freedom. (See Hong Kong workshop).
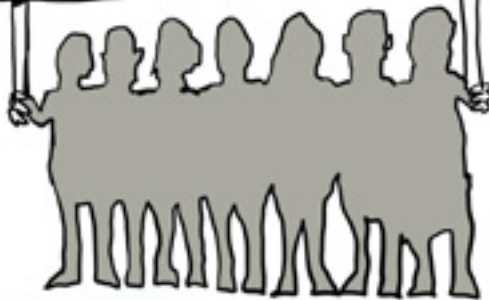
WORKSHOP 2

2 'Breaking the Patriarchy'
Gender Inequality / Bangladesh

'Breaking the Patriarchy'

Bangladesh

Human Rights reference: UDHR. Art. 1

'Breaking the Patriarchy'

WORKSHOP   **2**
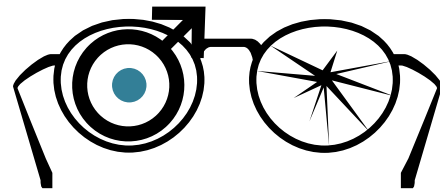
TOPIC: *Gender Inequality*

STATES: *Bangladesh*

OUTLINE

Gender inequality is a social justice issue as old as time. As gender equality increases in the West, this same acknowledgement of human rights and freedoms for women have not been equally accepted around the world. In Bangladesh, the internet has given women a new platform to share their experiences and struggles. Feminist portals and social media have become a hub for community building and advocating for gender equality, but also a source of conflict with those who do not share this progressive attitude.

GUIDING QUESTION

How can tech be used more effectively to address gender inequality in Bangladesh? How do we spread the message of gender equality effectively and safely for a more just society?

RESULTS

Following discussions on the patriarchal challenges and the political developments in Bangladesh, HRDs identified the need to create an online campaign in order to prevent cyber bullying against (Bangladeshi) women.

The suggested solution was a campaign on social media where allies and influencers would come together and take a stand, introducing an international hashtag and helping to expose perpetrators. This campaign can be organized in the Netherlands with HRDs, influencers, and volunteers, with the aim of targeting the international online community. Stakeholders include: tech companies, social media companies, research universities, a local (Bangladeshi) team and a core team in the Netherlands;

Further investigation is required on the impact and risks that participants may face in supporting such a campaign, as well as a risk assessment for the 'average' person that would share the hashtag, or participate in any other way, while living in a patriarchy. Such research could be done by universities, for example as a collaboration between Dutch and Bangladeshi universities. This could possibly be facilitated by the connections created by the festival between The Hague Peace Projects and the universities of Leiden, Amsterdam, and Delft. Our plans in the education sector for 2020 are looking to target awareness amoung the current generation of young people in The Netherlands and abroad. With ongoing discussions at ISH (International School in The Hague) and LUC (Leiden University College The Hague), such a cooperation could be a valuable addition to the field of Global Citizenship education.
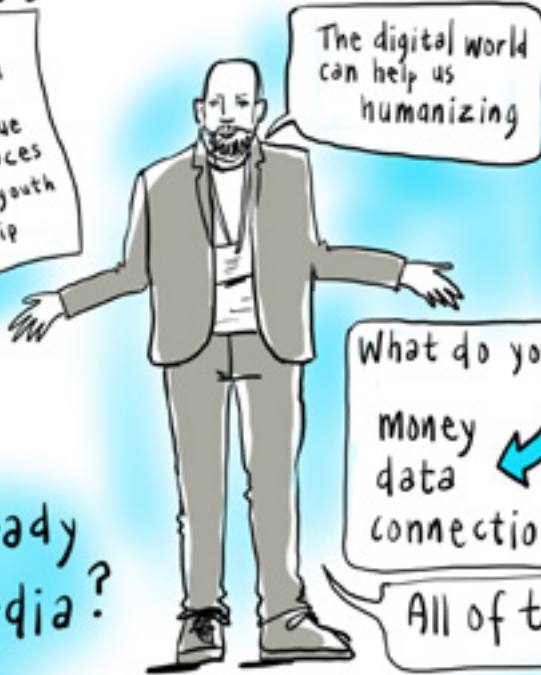
WORKSHOP 3

'Information vs. Indoctrination'
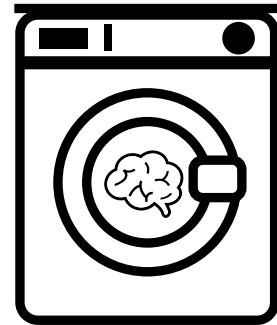
Multiple countries

Human Rights reference: UDHR. Art. 2

'Information vs. Indoctrination'

WORKSHOP 3

TOPIC: *Peace Education*

STATES: *Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Turkey/Kurdistan, North Korea*

OUTLINE

Identities are not only founded on who a person or group is, but moreover, who they are not. This very healthy and natural differentiation can quickly escalate into negative 'Othering' and dehumanization. As the world becomes more interconnected, the urge to differentiate ourselves becomes stronger, but so does the resistance towards "them". "Us vs. Them" thinking has dominated international political, ethnic, and nationalist narratives over the last decade, leading to devastating consequences.

GUIDING QUESTION

How can tech humanize "The Other" and bring people together?

RESULTS

The speakers and human rights defenders in this workshop came from very diverse backgrounds and human rights challenges. Although, in the end, everyone agreed to the importance of nuanced narratives, safe spaces for exchange and positive encounters, there was a lot of disagreement along the way. In this context one person said: "we might never agree on one solution on how to counter disinformation and humanize the Other, however, thanks to this workshop we had an opportunity to encounter different perspectives and broaden our own perspective". The participants concluded that "the simple fact that we engaged in a dialogue today was a way to foster humanization of the Other."

The workshop participants made the following list of recommendations: multiple/layered stories, organize dialogue, audience based approaches, safe spaces, ownership, and focus on youth. And the following list of 'do nots': avoid single narratives, political correctness (not meant as a green light to political incorrectness), 'white saviourism', and propaganda.

Planning for succes it was further noted that there is not simply one solution, and that exposure to new environments is valuable. A need for 'clean information' was identified, as well as the need to reaffirm that most people interactions are positive.

In this arena of free speech and peace education, disagreement is part of the game. Getting to know each other or what works for dialogue (creative destruction) is a process of trial and error . Further recommendations included stepping out your bubble and having daily interactions with diverse cultures.

WORKSHOP 4

DEC 6 2019

@ THE HAGUE HUMANITY HUB

What is the most important thing you have learned?

Before talk we can fight

protect personal information

Security for people

We can open a selfdestructive chatroom

We need an ANTI-SPAM system

4 **'Right to Rally'**
Expression & Association / Hong Kong

the hague hacks FESTIVAL

'The Right to Rally'

Hong Kong

Human Rights reference: UDHR. Art. 19, 20

'The Right to Rally'

WORKSHOP   4

TOPIC: *Expression & Association*

STATES: *Hong Kong*

OUTLINE

Change happens when individuals question the status quo; when they are free to think, to speak, to gather, and to discuss. The act of protest is a time-honored tradition in democracy as a form of expression, democratic participation, and resistance against injustices. However, peaceful association can be met with violent force. In a technological age when state actors deploy increasingly compromising tactics to subdue protestors, the right to freedom of expression and association is equally under attack. We are witnessing this clash between the protestors of Hong Kong and the Chinese government.

GUIDING QUESTION

How can new technologies enable safer, stronger and more effective protests?

RESULTS

This workshop identified the week points of the protest movement in Hong Kong and start planning different methods to strengthen their competences. They concluded that an app/platform would improve the communication and security methods needed to make protesters feel safer when exchanging information. 'As a participant of a pro-democratic movement, I need a safe and secure exchange platform in order to have more effective impact /cooperation'.

To accomodate the many different needs, an application that offers a safe and effective communication platform for HRDs to 'post' their needs, ask for help, or coordinate with other protesters, would be a valuable instrument for protecting themselves.

Attending particpants Sun Park (Techsoup), Glacier Kwong (Keyboard Freedom), Kenman Tsang (software solution consultant), and Max Chung (Hong Kong protest organiser) are exploring a collaboration to apply for the DRL (Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor) Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) for organizations interested in programs that support Internet Freedom. In support of the U.S. International Strategy for Cyberspace, DRL's goal is to protect the open, interoperable, secure, and reliable Internet by promoting fundamental freedoms, human rights, and the free flow of information online through integrated support to civil society for technology, digital safety, policy and advocacy, and applied research programs.

The DRL call looks perfectly suited to address the internet freedom and digital security issues raised in this, and several other of our festival workshops. This was also a re-occurring theme last year, which serves to confirm its relevance.
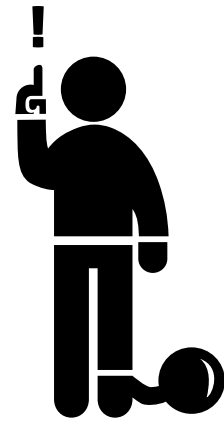
WORKSHOP 5

'Our Home and Native Planet'
Environment and Human Rights / Global

'Our Home and Native Planet'

Multiple countries

Human Rights reference: UDHR. Art. 3, 4, 7, 19, 20

'Our Home and Native Planet'

WORKSHOP **5**

TOPIC: *Environment and Human Rights*

STATES: *Multi country*

OUTLINE

The right to a clean and sustainable environment is often overlooked as a human right because it is not enshrined in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, it is undeniable that environmental rights and human rights are intertwined. UN resolution A/HRC/22/43 states that "[…] climate change has a wide range of implications for the effective enjoyment of human rights, including the rights to life, health, food, water, housing, and self-determination […]". From deforestation to land grabbing to water pollution, environmental activists are protecting human rights by protecting the environment. Technology is a powerful tool for these environmental activists, not only to spread their message of respect and humanity, but also to collect evidence and document environmental abuses.

GUIDING QUESTION

How can technology predict and prove the link between environmental destruction and human rights challenges, and help to empower environmental activists advocating the rights of people and the planet?

RESULTS

The workshop speakers and participants discussed the importance of social media to inform, raise awareness, and engage individuals in the fight against environmental destruction. Yet, these platforms have their own agendas which conflict with the actions needed to implement effective and sustainable climate protection policies. Human Rights Defenders also emphasized that "tech cannot solve everything, and that we need the human system too." Therefore, a "Call for Action" was proposed to address such challenges.

It was also observed that dealing with the cost of the environment often leads to inequality. Without sufficient understanding of the system and acquiring reliable information, people will do whatever they need to obtain wealth, and as such under current market mechanisms the environment will not be solved if it is not profitable.

Online awareness and education can help to improve this understanding and increase the involvement and influence of individuals on market directions.

ATTENDANCE & NETWORKS

Festival Stats

- Total number of guests was 120

- Issues were tackled from 8 different countries/communities

- 10 HRDs travelled from abroad

- 24 HRDS and activists in Total (14 from NL)

- 4 organizations have approached The Hague Hacks for future collaborations

- 1 organization has confirmed that they are writing a proposal together with HRDs to develop a tech solution.

Since ImpactCity is all about "Doing Good, Doing Business" in The Hague, we also wanted to bring this same ideology to organizing The Hague Hacks Festival. As a small, local non-profit organization in The Hague, we made a conscious decision to spend on similar local non-profit organizations, businesses and start-ups in The Hague. Every decision we made, we asked ourselves "Is there a company or organization in The Hague that can also produce this product or deliver this service?" As a result, we discovered and did business with local caterers, local flyer/poster printers, local t-shirt printers and a local restaurant to welcome our guests from abroad.

Connections/Business brought to The Hague:

- Ibis (Hotel City Centre)
- Bleyenberg Restaurant and Bar
- BakkerVlinder
- Juni Catering
- The Humanity Hub
- Flyerman
- Magic Print

Networks

The following companies and organisations were represented at The Hague Hacks
Festival 2019:

Organizations:

- Justice and Peace
- Amnesty International
- Stanford Institute for Peace Innovations
- Humanity of Things
- Faith to the Faithless
- Cambodian Youth Network
- SOS Nicaragua
- Keyboard Freedom
- Human Rights Foundation
- Women Chapter
- UvA GreenHackathon
- NonProfit Venture
- HiiL
- Humanity House
- University of Leiden
- Leiden University College
- University of Delft
- University of Amsterdam
- International School of The Hague
- Movies That Matter
- Ushahidi
- ImpactCity
- Border Sessions
- The Hague Peace Projects

Companies:

- Radically Open Security
- The Hague Security Delta
- TechSoup
- AI Lab One
- Be Data Driven
- Nextview
- The Hague Tech

Embassies:

- American Embassy
- Norwegian Embassy
- Representative Office of Taiwan
- Finnish Embassy

MEDIA & PROMOTION

Promotion material

The Hague Hacks Festival 2019 made use of the following forms of promotional media:

A5 Flyers,
A2 Posters,
Website
Email
Facebook
Twitter
Instagram
WhatsApp

Social media hashtags used:
#HagueHacks2019 #TheHagueHacksFestival #PartOfTheSolution#ImpactCity
#doinggood #doingbusiness

Here are examples of the promotional meterial used:

A5 Flyers front and back: (recycled paper)

Diverse Social Media Headers: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and MailChimp posts

The Hague Hacks Festival stickers

Poster The Hague Hacks Festival 2019 (recycled paper)

Branded Dopper bottles (gifts)

Festival name-tags

Festival T-shirts (volunteers, gifts, and sales)

Program posters The Hague Hacks Festival 2019

09h30	**Welcome**
10h00	**Introduction**
10h30	**Human Rights Challenges**
11h15	**Discovery Workshops**
13h00	**Lunch**
14h00	**Ideation Workshops**
16h30	**Final Pitches**
17h00	**Networking Hour**

Workshop posters HHF 2019

WORKSHOP

Environment and Human Rights

'Our Home & Native Planet'

Workshop posters HHF 2019

the hague hacks

WORKSHOP

Political Participation

'By The People, For The People'

the hague hacks

WORKSHOP

Gender Inequality

'Breaking the Patriarchy'

the hague hacks

WORKSHOP

Peace Education

'Information vs. Indoctrination'

the hague hacks

WORKSHOP

Expression & Association

'The Right to Rally'
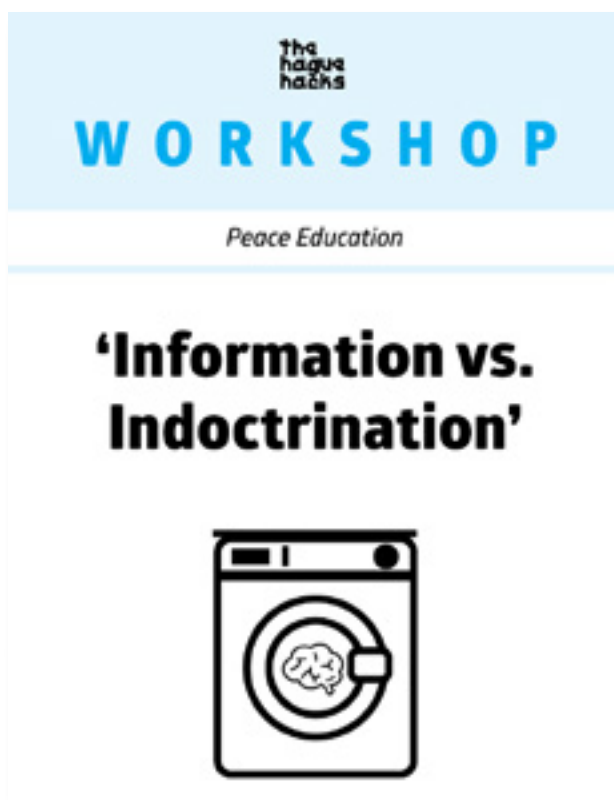
Background animations HHF 2019

Multiple after-movies and videos

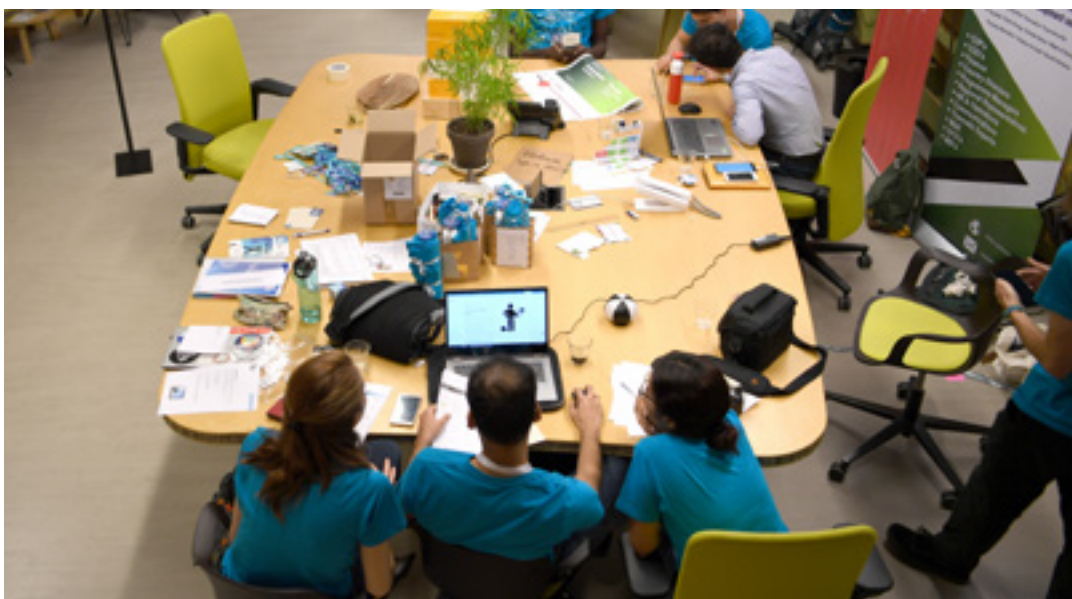*The following logos were added to all promotional media*

Workshop Artwork

Photographs

We have a large assortment of photographs of The Hague Hacks Festival 2019. The complete collection of image material capturing the festival is available to ImpactCity for promotional purposes.

Here is a brief selection of the festival photographs from 2019:

Videos

We have produced 7 short promotional videos of The Hague Hacks Festival 2019. These will be followed shortly by our offical after-movie which will be posted on The Hague Hacks website and Youtube channel later this month. Each of our videos contains the logos of our sponsors. Please feel free to view our festival videos posted thus far by visiting the links below:

Link1:   *Projects*

Link2:   *Environment*

Link3:   *Social Entrepreneurship*

Link4:   *Reading tips*

Link5:   *Workgroups*

Link6:   *Volunteers*

Link7:   *Youth Peace Initiative*

THANK YOU

Thank you The United States Embassy of The Hague!

On behalf of all the Hague Hacks team and The Hague Peace Projects we would like to extend our appreciation to the United States Embassy of The Hague for your support this year. We consider The Hague Hacks Festival 2019 to have been a great success, and that despite the difficult global challenges ahead we have observed and stimulated a growing energy that promises to instigate real changes in cultural, humanitarian, and environmental awareness.

Looking ahead we are excited about the new opportunities and collaborations that are on our path. Thank you for helping us walk it!