1. [www.nietalleen.nl](http://www.nietalleen.nl) “Not alone”: nationwide Christian initiative to match requests for help to local churches and welfare organisations

Source: [www.nietalleen.nl](http://www.nietalleen.nl).

With #Nietalleen we connect more than 1.000 local and church relief initiatives and to those who are asking for help. Requests for help are answered by a national telephone number (+31 800 1322) and forwarded to one of the local cooperating organizations (local churches or welfare organisations).

Look at the map of the initiatives.

What is #Nietalleen?
More and more people are affected by the effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19). Due to the spread of the virus, many initiatives are unleashed at local churches and (Christian) social organizations. Many people will need our help soon.

With #Nietalleen, we connect the countless local aid initiatives to clients and each other. The request for help and the offer of help is picked up by one of the cooperating organizations and forwarded to an organization in your area. That's how we help each other in this special time because you're Nietalleen (not alone)!.

Supporting organizations:
- EO christian broadcastings organization, Hour of Power
- Various churches:
  - Christelijk Gereformeerde Kerken
  - Gereformeerde Kerken Vrijgemaakt
  - Nederlands Gereformeerde Kerken
  - Protestant Church in the Netherlands
  - Roman Catholic Church
  - Salvation Army
- Political parties: ChristenUnie, SGP
- Organizations for the elderly: KBO-PCOB
- Navigators
- Volunteering organizations Stichting Present
- and many more!
2. Protestant Church in the Netherlands:

Guidelines for local congregations
Source: https://www.protestantsekerk.nl/nieuws/richtlijnen-rondom-het-coronavirus/

The Executive Committee of the Protestant Church advises congregations to provide online church services only until June 1, 2020. Only come together with the people who must necessarily be present. Keep a meter and a half away.

Open the church building - If a congregation chooses to open the church building for prayer or burning a candle, follow the guidelines of the RIVM (National Institute for Public Health and the Environment).

Celebrations on television - Coming Sundays Rev. René de Reuver (secretary general) provides meditations from the chapel of the service organization of the Protestant Church. These are broadcast by the EO on NPO2 at 9:20 am. Material is made to celebrate at home.

3. Dutch Government information on Covid-19
Source: https://www.government.nl/topics/coronavirus-covid-19

Main points of the Dutch approach: maximum control of the virus
On 16 March Prime Minister Mark Rutte gave a television address in which he explained the Netherlands’ approach to tackling coronavirus.

The Netherlands’ approach is essential to control the virus as much as possible. That should lead to a controlled spread among the groups least at risk. The aim is to stop nursing homes, home care services, hospitals and, above all, intensive care units becoming overwhelmed. And to make sure they always have enough capacity to help the people who need it most.

4. Coronavirus and reception and procedures for asylum seekers
(updated 24 March) Source: Protestant Church in the Netherlands and Dutch Refugee Council

1) Reception and asylum procedure
On 15 March, Minister Grappenhaus announced in a letter that asylum seekers arriving in the Netherlands will not be admitted to regular COA reception. In principle, this also applies to return interviews conducted by the DT&V. State Secretary Broekers-Knol has explained that there will still be the registration of persons who report for asylum. New asylum seekers are received in a barracks in Zoutkamp. Nor will care be terminated until April 6 for persons who have already been received at COA. “See the website of the National Government.

2) Appeal procedures
It has been decided to close courthouses. This means that hearings will not take place from Tuesday, March 17 through April 6, unless there is an urgent need for a hearing. The Administrative Law Division of the Council of State has announced in a press release that it does publish and publish judgments on the website and at www.rechtspraak.nl.

3) Family reunification
No agreements at embassies and closure of external borders at Schengen. Foreign Affairs has announced that March 18 until at least April 6, 2020, no more MVVs will be issued and no further investigations (DNA research, ID interviews) will be carried out. At the moment, no civic integration exams are taken abroad and no travel documents are issued to Dutch nationals. The current situation and Q & A's about the embassies and services will be updated on the website www.nederlandwereldwijd.nl (English version: www.netherlandsandyou.nl). It also contains information per country and the measures that countries themselves take, such as closing the borders. Concerning the closure of the external borders of the Schengen area, the Foreign Affairs has indicated that family members who already hold an MVV are not covered by the "travel ban" and can still enter the Netherlands.

5. Corona virus and detention of migrants and asylum seekers, Dublin Claimants
source: Nieuwsbrief Vreemdelingendetentie, Stichting LOS

From 9 March: Adapted day program
An adjusted day program will be used in detention center Rotterdam (DCR) due to a shortage of personnel. This shortage of personnel arose because Brabant employees had to stay at home because of the corona measures. The adjusted day program means that the detainees can take turns out of the cell in smaller groups between 08:00 and 12:00 and between 13:00 and 15:00. In concrete terms, this means that detainees may leave their cells for two hours in the morning and one and a half to two hours in the afternoon. Detainees are therefore imprisoned for at least twenty hours a day. In the hours that detainees can leave their cells, few activities are offered. For example, the gym is closed, the Playstation can no longer be played and the cooking options are limited. The detainees have been informed of the adjusted day program by the letter. There are also notes with information on how to properly wash your hands. The Hotline receives calls from detainees who are frustrated with the modified day program. They also say that they are bored now that the number of activities is limited and they have to spend many hours in a cell.

March 19: 64 Dublin claimants free
On Thursday 19 March, 64 people were released from DCR and transferred to the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA). These people were all Dublin claimants. A Dublin claim means that another country in Europe is responsible for a person's asylum application. Because of the coronavirus, many asylum procedures have been discontinued and these people cannot be deported.