

## **In Memory of Willemijn Leonie van der Meer (1968 - 2018)**

There are people that are crucial to the organization of the ESWTR: one such person was Willemijn van der Meer. Willemijn was the quiet person behind our bookkeeping. She received payments and invoices, organized the ins and outs, kept an eye on the accounts, and made every two years the bi-annual report for the ESWTR. Willemijn was always there to answer questions. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2018, I asked her for another copy of the cashbook of 2013-2015, as the cashbook which was circulated among the board missed one page. Within seconds of me requesting the copy, I received it. There were also email exchange between our treasurer Agata Jane Sainz and Willemijn, and again, the answer to a very specific question came without hesitation, without delay. That was Willemijn, that was our Willemijn.



On the 10<sup>th</sup> of November, two weeks after her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, far too early, Willemijn became sick and left us.

I am sure that heaven is a better place and that the books of heaven are now better kept, since Willemijn arrived. But we surely miss her. We want to honour her for what she did for us and we want to extend our condolences to her family.

Kristin De Troyer  
President of the ESWTR

### **In memoriam Willemijn van der Meer**

Willemijn van der Meer passed away on November 10, 2018. Barely fifty years of age, she died from the disease called blood poisoning. She had only just arrived from Nigeria and died within a day in her own home in Amsterdam, alone, unable to warn others: a tragic ending of a happy life.

Willemijn was an independent, established economist in Amsterdam. In 2005, I, as the then treasurer of the ESWTR, was allowed to employ her for the professional support of the treasurer and the board with regard to balancing the budget and preparing the annual statement of account. Later she was also involved in carrying out the payments.

I met Willemijn when we were both members of the Dutch Society of Women with an Academic Education (VVAO), and thus knew of her interest in women's issues and contacts

with people from abroad. I also knew that she would do an excellent job and that is precisely what she did for the ESWTR until her death.

Willemijn was a versatile woman, which she often put to good use in her field of economics. After her studies, she moved on to several permanent positions. However, entrepreneurship was in her blood and consequently she set up her own business in which she focused on all those who are less fortunate in life. Willemijn started up a hotel in Nigeria. She was, as its treasurer, involved in the creation of the Dutch FemArtMuseum. For a number of years she functioned as the treasurer of the Dutch magazine *Tijdschrift voor Genderstudies* and, as interim treasurer, solved the financial problems of the national "Dress for Success". Also, and again as treasurer, she took part in founding a Moroccan Women's organization. Her last project concerned a center in Amsterdam that assists Surinam people both in their efforts to fight their addiction and their reintegration into society. The project was a joint endeavour of Willemijn as the treasurer as well as the clients' administrator and a Surinam manager. Just prior to her death she had transferred all of her tasks to other persons, because she envisaged a new project: the founding of a similar center in Surinam. The plans were made and the preparations had been initiated ...

Willemijn was easygoing and always her own person. I will always remember her spontaneity, the cheerful look in her eyes, her contagious laughter and her dedication. With everyone in the ESWTR who met her, worked with her and experienced pleasant moments with her, we thank Willemijn van der Meer for all the years she invested in the ESWTR's financial affairs.

Freda Dröes

Former treasurer of the ESWTR (2001-2007).