



Council of International Fellowship
The Netherlands

06 May 2020

Dear BD and EC members,

The day before yesterday we informed all registered participants of the Symposium to celebrate the 60 years anniversary of CIF, that we have to cancel it because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Some of you have received this information as participants already.

We hoped with postponing the Symposium from early July to late October, that it could be organized in a safe way. We asked all of the people who registered if they could attend late October. Only 22 said yes. Others said no, or didn't know yet. Many uncertainties still remain how the situation will develop in the coming six months. The number of people who are willing and able to attend are too low to go on with the organization, so we had to take the decision to cancel it.

We regret it very much that we had to take this decision. Some people proposed to move it to the next year. This might be a good idea, but not for CIF Netherlands. We choose the theme " BUILDING BRIDGES TOWARDS PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING" because CIF's anniversary coincides with the remembrance of 75 years of freedom after the Second World War. We wanted to hold the Symposium in Rotterdam as this city suffered extremely by extensive bombing. The theme of the symposium was to explore the effect of wars and the upheaval it causes to many lives and what the rebuilding after the war was about.

Moving the Symposium would need us to come up with another or adjusted theme and most probably also look for another location or negotiate prices again. We have neither the capacity, nor the energy to start all over again.

In the coming weeks, we will transfer the paid fees back to those who have registered.

If another CIF Branch would like to organise an event next year to celebrate CIF's anniversary, we would welcome it.

For now, we hope you are safe and healthy!

On behalf of the Board of CIF Netherlands,

David Scheele