

Second working visit to the Caribbean Islands by the Dutch Fund for In-Dept Journalism

## Caribbean grant round produces impactful journalistic publications

**The second working visit to the six Caribbean islands of the Kingdom by the Dutch Fund of In-Dept Journalism (Fonds BJP) demonstrated what targeted support can achieve for local journalism. On every island, journalists explained how, with funding from the first round of project-grants, they produced Caribbean journalism that not only sparked public debate, but also led to tangible outcomes.**

For example, in Bonaire, Nathaly Evertsz spoke about the first part of her documentary on cold cases on the island, in which she shed new light on how unsolved cases are handled. In Curaçao, Tittel Del Mar spoke about her long-read article on the culture of motorsports, which provided an informed basis for a broader social debate. In Sint Maarten, Rajesh Chintaman's investigation into policies concerning tree cutting led to stricter supervision and a commitment from sports clubs to plant more trees around their fields. And in Aruba, the documentary by Ephrayim Odor about young people who leave for the Netherlands to study, is now being used in schools to spark discussions with students. All publications released to date with the Caribbean project grants can be found [here](#).

### Serving a need

According to the Fund, these examples confirm the significant need for independent journalism rooted in the local context. During discussions with journalists, content creators, editors, and media owners on the islands, the central question was: how can Caribbean journalism be structurally strengthened? During the trip, the need for exchange and strengthening proved to be significant, while the opportunities for this still remain limited.

"We noted that the Caribbean voice in journalism often takes the form of a journalist, who travels to the islands from an editorial office in the Netherlands, with editorial support, financial security and a safety net, but often without a local network, relevant contextual knowledge, or command of the language," said Wensly Francisco, an expert on Caribbean programmes at the Fund. "Meanwhile, journalists working on the islands have their own voices, topics, expertise, methods, and networks. What they need are financial resources, job security to be able to work with confidence, and independent platforms to make their voices heard."

Joëlle Terburg, managing director of the Fund, and Francisco also held discussions with government representatives and government officials on the islands. Always focusing on the question: what kind of journalism does the island need? "Strengthening the democratic role of journalism throughout the Kingdom is central to our work. Strong and independent journalism is essential for holding power accountable, making social developments visible, and informing citizens. In order to fulfil that role effectively, journalists must be able to do their work safely, independently, and with sufficient resources," said Terburg.

Discussions also focused on how networking, professional development and collaboration can be further encouraged. "There is a great need for this among journalists, but the opportunities are still limited. These are therefore issues on which the Dutch Fund of In-Dept Journalism is focussing, in addition to continuing to support projects and publications — in collaboration with local journalists, content creators, and other relevant parties. In doing so, we are committed to consistency in our efforts and to building sustainable relationships and grant opportunities."

To begin with, the fund will do so during an in-depth session on climate journalism from the Caribbean frontline — after all, climate change is already affecting the Caribbean islands in very significant ways — as part of the Dutch Journalism Festival in Deventer in September 2027. More information on this topic will follow at a later date.

**Applications for project grants for Caribbean journalism now open**

From May 11 through June 15, 2026 journalists and media professionals living in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom can apply for a project grant. More information can be found [here](#).

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