Guus van Zwoll is the coordinator of the EU Temporary Relocation Platform (EUTRP) at ProtectDefenders.eu

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CABRA: Why are you engaged with ICORN?
ProtectDefenders.eu is connected with ICORN in two distinct ways:
First, ICORN is one of the starting members of the so-called EU Temporary Relocation Platform, a platform that connects more than 50 organisations that are all working on temporary relocation of at risk human rights defenders. Through the platform, they discuss cases with other NGOs and share best practices. ProtectDefenders.eu is currently coordinating this platform.
Secondly, ProtectDefenders.eu sometimes provides financial support for ICORN cases. As a funder, we fund also the temporary relocation of HRDs. And although within the ICORN system the municipality covers the costs of the relocation, it might happen that the HRD needs support before arriving in the ICORN City. This is where we step in.

CABRA: What represents the importance of ICORN for you?
ICORN is one of the best temporary relocation networks in the world. Their expertise and knowledge on the cases is something that our partners and we often make use of. Working with them is always a pleasure, although the nature of the work is often very challenging.

CABRA: What do you think about Brazil joining ICORN?
It would be great to have a South American City joining ICORN, maybe even opening up for other languages than English. This could be very useful for Portuguese speaking HRDs, and inspiring for the whole regional community and maybe even the whole continent.

Biography
Guus van Zwoll is the coordinator of the EU Temporary Relocation Platform (EUTRP) at ProtectDefenders.eu. The EUTRP connects temporary relocation location programmes with each other and with human rights defenders. The aim is to share good practices and create a network of independent organisations that is able support HRDs most in need of relocation, both in the global North and in the region. Before joining the EUTRP he worked on the Shelter City Initiative in the Netherlands with Justice and Peace, where he started and managed the programme in The Hague and coordinated the programme in other cities in the Netherlands.