

The Hague, October 12, 2023.

Dear Members of Parliament,

Today I read that the Minister of Poverty Policy - or more broadly, the outgoing cabinet - does not intend to follow the advice of the Thodé Commission (ref.

<https://dossierkoninkrijksrelaties.nl/2023/10/12/verhoging-minimumloon-caribisch-nederland-kost-ruim-9-miljoen/> in Dutch).

Perhaps the House of Representatives can change this. It is about the Caribbean Netherlands, namely: three islands that have the status of "municipality" in the country of the Netherlands.

This, and previous Cabinets have been discriminating against these Caribbean Dutch nationals, in aggregate of a size comparable to a provincial municipality in the European Netherlands since 2010 by not seeing them as full Dutch citizens. *This situation has now been going on for thirteen years (and two days)!*

In order to reverse the prevailing government policy, the House of Representatives should indicate this in a motion *and provide its own coverage in it.*

Downright cowardly not to take responsibility in this. Mr. Rosenmöller (PvdA-GroenLinks, Senate) seems to have said that had the islands in question been *off the European Dutch coast*, this unequal situation would never have occurred. *From my heart...*

Cabinet policy is based on procrastination, pushing forward and, it is no different, discrimination.

I hope I don't have to call on you to stand up here with common sense for all Dutch citizens (and thus also for Caribbean Dutch citizens). The government should eliminate the disparity in the shortest possible time without asking you for cover. A decent budget is the integral responsibility of the government (which you must then agree to).

Much more than common sense and inclusive thinking is not needed for this so in my opinion I am not asking you too much.

Sincerely,

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cc: *National Ombudsman*