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# What happens when help is spurned?

The effects of rejection on intergroup relations

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### Abstract

The main question of this study was: What are the effects of rejection of a help offer on intergroup relations, as seen through the eyes of the group that offers the help? After an experimental field study ( $N = 192$ , female  $n = 94$ , age  $M = 28$ , 98% Dutch nationality), regression analyses showed participants had more trust in and liking for Belgium when help was accepted than when help was rejected, supporting Hypotheses 1a and 1b. Two motives of the help offer were also manipulated in the study and regression analysis showed a inclusionary motive had a more positive effect on intergroup relations than a motive that emphasize the distinctiveness between the groups, supporting Hypothesis 2a. Overall, the results showed rejection of the help offer had negative effects on the intergroup relations between the Netherlands and Belgium, by negatively influencing the trust and liking participants had for Belgium.

### **Introduction**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of August in 2005 Hurricane Katrina, a devastating hurricane with at least 3.576 deaths and over 153 billion dollar of damage, struck the United States of America (U.S.A.) (Katerina, 2016). Cuba was the first country that offered help but this help offer was rejected by the U.S.A. (International response to Hurricane Katrina, 2013). This rejection of Cuba's help offer might not seem logical from an instrumental perspective, given that the U.S.A. could have used all the help they could get, but might make more sense from a psychological perspective due to the message they wanted to give with the help offer and the rejection thereof. The rejection of the help offer could also have a psychological effect on the relationship between groups after rejection. Researchers have found that rejection of help on the individual level can have a negative effect on self-esteem and is linked to higher levels of burnout and depersonalization (Cheuk, & Rosen, 1993; Williams, & Nida, 2016). However, the effect of rejection of help on intergroup relations has yet to be studied. Awareness of the effects of rejection of help on how one group sees, trusts and wants to interact with the other group, the intergroup relations, could help both parties to understand each other better and maintain a positive intergroup relationship that benefits all parties involved. Therefore, the main question of this research is: what are the effects of rejection of a help offer on intergroup relations, as seen through the eyes of the group that offers the help?

The motive the help offer, as intended by the group that offers the help, might also have an influence on the rejection because the different intentions for giving the help might influence the perception of the reason for the rejection. This study is therefore designed to look at the effects that rejection of a help offer can have on intergroup relations, and whether the motive behind the given help offer influences this effect. In order to test this, a field study was conducted with four scenarios including the motive (inclusion vs. distinctiveness) and

reaction (rejection vs. acceptance) of the help offer. A news article was used with a scenario of a help offer from the Netherlands (with inclusion or distinctiveness motive) that was rejected or accepted by Belgium.

Before going into the theory on rejection and the motives of a help offer, the concept of intergroup relations and the operationalization thereof as used in this study will first be described. Intergroup helping behavior is about interactions between different groups. How rejection influences the relationship could help groups to understand each other and cooperate better. Therefore, this study looks specifically at the effect of rejected help on intergroup relations. Intergroup relations could be expressed in different indicators for the relationship between the in- and outgroup. To make the intergroup relations between the Netherlands and Belgium measurable this research will use three indicators of intergroup relations. These are outgroup liking, willingness to engage with and trust in and respect for the outgroup.

### **Rejection and Intergroup Relations**

Rejection of a help offer is a form of rejection in general, an explicit indication that an individual or group is not wanted. Here, using the concept of ostracism can be helpful to understand rejection and how this affects the individual. Ostracism is when an individual is personally ignored, excluded or rejected from a group (Williams, 2007). An example of ostracism is when people are playing a game and after a while they start to skip one person when playing the ball around (the Cyberball paradigm). So far, research on ostracism has shown that this has a negative impact on the individual that has been rejected by producing strong negative feelings because the four important psychological needs of belonging, self-esteem, control and meaningful existence are consistently threatened by rejection (Williams, 2007). Repeated research on ostracism, through the Cyberball paradigm, has consistently shown that a few minutes of ostracism can already produce strong negative feelings (Williams

& Nida, 2016). Following from the above, ostracism can have severe negative consequences for an individual. Do these negative consequences also happen after rejection of a help offer? And do these negative consequences in turn have an influence on the relations between groups?

Rejection of a help offer has yet to be exhaustively investigated. So far, a small body of research has shown that rejection of a help offer can also have different negative effects on people (Cheuk, & Rosen, 1992; Cheuk, Swearse, Wong, & Rosen, 1998; Cheuk & Wong, 1998). Research by Cheuk and Rosen (1992) showed rejection from a friend results in less negative evaluation and reduced attraction than when help was rejected by a stranger. They theorized rejection of help is stressful for the helping party because of the unfavorable implications for their self-image (Cheuk & Rosen, 1992). As mentioned earlier, rejection of a help offer has also been linked to burnout (among practicing nurses) and to depersonalization (among kindergarten teachers; Cheuk, & Rosen, 1993; Cheuk, Swearse, Wong, & Rosen, 1998; Cheuk & Wong, 1998). Spurned help can have a negative impact on self-esteem and the feeling of control (Cheuk & Wong, 1998). Overall, rejection of help can have negative consequences for the person who offers the help (Cheuk, & Rosen, 1993; Cheuk, et al, 1998). The research done so far was focused on the effects of rejection on an individual level (Cheuk, & Rosen, 1992; Cheuk, Swearse, Wong, & Rosen, 1998; Cheuk & Wong, 1998). The effect of rejected help on the relationship between groups has yet to be investigated. This study will therefore look at the consequences of rejected help on the intergroup relations, for members of the group that offered help.

Now the possible consequences of rejected help are established on the individual level, the next step is to have a look at what rejection can do to the relationship between two groups of people, in the case of this study, citizens of two countries. More specifically, what can

rejection of a help offer do to the way Dutch people view Belgium? In order to measure the quality of intergroup relations, we measured the effects of rejection using the indicators for intergroup relations identified by researchers Brown, Tajfel and Turner (1979) called outgroup liking and willingness to engage, and the feelings of trust and respect for Belgium (the outgroup). The more willingness to engage, trust, respect and liking for the outgroup, the more positive the relation to the other group is perceived to be. The expectation in this research is then, that the feeling of trust, respect and liking towards the outgroup and the willingness to engage with the outgroup will decrease when help is rejected because the psychological needs of belonging, self-esteem, control and meaningful existence of the ingroup are threatened by the rejection of the help offer. The intergroup relations will therefore be negatively influenced when a help offer has been rejected. On the other hand, acceptance of a help offer will lead to more outgroup liking, trust and more willingness to engage with the outgroup (a more positive intergroup relation) than rejection of a help offer resulting in the following hypothesis:

Hypothesis 1: Intergroup relations (a. trust and respect, b. outgroup liking, c. willingness to engage) will be more positive when the help offer is accepted by Belgium than when the help offer is rejected.

### **Motives of Helping Behavior and Intergroup Relations**

Intergroup helping, like the help Cuba offered to the United States of America, can be based in different motives. Helping behavior can be nonstrategic, when the goal of the help offer is to help the outgroup, or it can have a strategic motive. Strategic helping of an outgroup is guided by the interests and concerns of the ingroup instead of the outgroup (Van Leeuwen, 2017). This research will focus on strategic outgroup helping. Strategic help is not always a bad thing, however, as one might expect from the fact that it is guided by the interest

of the ingroup. Apart from helping the ingroup, strategic helping can also benefit the outgroup, depending on the motive behind offering their help and on the alignment of the goals of both groups (Van Leeuwen, 2017).

Help can, for instance, be offered to show power, superiority and distinctiveness. With a motive of asserting power a group wants to emphasize the positive distinctiveness of the ingroup to show that they are better than the outgroup. Another reason or motive for offering help can be to show inclusion. Groups could offer help to other groups because they want to include another group into their group (Van Leeuwen, 2017). The motive to include another outgroup makes it more likely that the goal of the ingroup and outgroup are aligned and therefore the motive of inclusion is a more positive motive for helping others than the motive to show distinctiveness. To see whether the motive of the help offer has an influence on how rejection affects the relation between the two groups, the relational motives of inclusion and distinctiveness are included in this study.

**Motive of inclusion.** The motive of inclusion involves the desire to show solidarity toward an outgroup to tighten the bond with this group (Van Leeuwen, 2017). This act of helping can be strategically used to include a subgroup (outgroup) more firmly in the ingroup, like the Netherlands helping another European country. This other country is an outgroup in the sense that they are a different country but they are also part of a larger ingroup, the European Union. When helping the subgroup is part of a social norm, the act of helping may be associated with the perception of inclusion (Tarrant et al. 2009). Van Leeuwen and Mashuri (2013) found that the desire to include a subgroup more in the ingroup predicted the amount of support for helping this subgroup. When help was accepted they had a more positive attitude toward this outgroup and fewer tendencies to favor the ingroup (Van Leeuwen, & Mashuri, 2013). Seeing the two groups more as one common ingroup elicits

more positive intergroup attitudes and behavior because the inclusionary status that the motive aspires to accomplish has been reinforced by the outgroup accepting the help offer (Van Leeuwen & Täuber, 2010). It is therefore expected that groups that help with a motivation of inclusion will show more outgroup liking, more willingness to engage with the outgroup, and more trust and respect (a more positive intergroup relation) when help is accepted than when help is rejected

**Motive of distinctiveness.** The motive of distinctiveness in outgroup helping is used to make a clear distinction between the ingroup and the outgroup (Van Leeuwen, 2017). This way, the ingroup can show that they are more competent and more powerful than the outgroup. In the example with Cuba we could speculate that Cuba wanted to show power and competence by offering help to the U.S.A.. By helping U.S.A (outgroup), the positive difference of Cuba (ingroup) is highlighted and the U.S.A (outgroup) would be seen as less powerful and less competent than Cuba (the ingroup) as perceived by Cubans. If the help offer was accepted by the U.S.A., Cubans could have felt good about themselves, which would help to create or maintain a positive social identity.

With this distinctiveness motive, group members are motivated to emphasize the positive difference between their group and the outgroup so they can have a positive social identity (Brown, Tajfel, & Turner, 1979). When the positive differences are emphasized, more ingroup favoritism and less outgroup liking could arise. Following from the above, if a help offer carries out the need for positive distinctiveness, acceptance of this help offer strengthens the feeling of superiority of the ingroup and emphasizes the intergroup differences (Van Leeuwen & Täuber, 2010). This positive distinctiveness with the outgroup occurs when help is accepted because by accepting the help the outgroup indicates that they agree with the motive and see the ingroup as distinctive and powerful. After acceptance of a help offer with



the motivation to show distinctiveness, the reinforced positive distinctiveness between the groups will lead people to feel more happy and satisfied with their own group, have a more positive social identity of their ingroup and feel more negatively about the outgroup.

On the other hand, when help with the motive of distinctiveness is rejected the positive social identity of the group offering the help is threatened because the outgroup indicates that they do not agree with the positive distinction the ingroup wants to assert. Therefore the distinctiveness is not emphasized and the outgroup liking, willingness to engage and trust will be more positive when the help offer has been rejected than when the help offer is accepted because acceptance of the help offer indicates a stronger intergroup difference. Thus, it is expected that groups offering help with a motivation for distinctiveness have less outgroup liking, less willingness to engage and less trust and respect (a more negative intergroup relation) when help is accepted than when help is rejected. This results in the following hypothesis:

Hypothesis 2: When help is rejected, intergroup relations (a. trust and respect, b. outgroup liking, c. willingness to engage) will be more positive when the motive of the help offer is to emphasize the distinctiveness with Belgium (the outgroup) than when the motive of the help offer is to show togetherness and inclusion with Belgium. However, when help has been accepted, intergroup relations (a. trust and respect, b. outgroup liking, c. willingness to engage) will be more positive when motive for offering help is to show togetherness and inclusion as opposed to distinctiveness with Belgium.

### **Coping after rejection**

People react to and cope with ostracism, exclusion and rejection in different ways, and there are two main phases in the coping process. The first phase is an automatic and reflexive response of distress, followed by the second more deliberate and reflective reaction

(Williams, 2007). Research on ostracism through the Cyberball paradigm showed the first reflexive phase and the negative consequences of rejection through self-reported distress (Eisenberger et al., 2003). Also, being ostracized correlated with activity in the dorsal anterior cingulate cortex (dACC; active during exposure to physical pain and loss of social connections) and diary reports of social disconnection (MacDonald & Leary, 2005). Overall, ostracism - regardless of its source - triggers an immediate reaction of distress to help people to pay attention to what is going on in the situation (Eisenberger, Lieberman and Williams, 2003). This first reaction of distress occurs for all individuals and is not influenced by the situation (Williams & Nida, 2011). In accordance with the negative effect of rejection on an individual level, it was expected that rejection on group level would also show distress level to be higher for people who are part of a group whose help offer was rejected than for people who are part of a group whose help offer was accepted, regardless of the motive of the help offer. This resulted in the following hypothesis:

Hypothesis 3: People will experience more distress when help is rejected than when help is accepted, regardless of the motive of the help offer.

The first blunt blow of ostracism is so strong that personality and individual difference do not guard people from the immediate reaction of distress (Williams, 2007). The second more deliberative phase however, does have different reactions for different people and is partially dependent on the situation and personal attributes for a person to decide which appropriate coping mechanism to use (Williams, 2007). These coping strategies might even seem contradictory. Research has shown there are four different reactions in the second stage of coping with ostracism; fight, flight, freeze and tend-and-befriend (Taylor et al, 2000; Williams, 2007). When someone uses the fight, flight or freeze reaction to rejection, this either excludes or attacks the outgroup. The tend-and-befriend mechanism is a response to

rejection to behave in ways that improve the inclusionary status of the individual by showing pro-social behavior (Williams, 2007). This is a more social coping mechanism in terms of intergroup relations because of the use of prosocial behavior. One might intuitively expect that people do not want to show pro-social behavior to the person or group that has rejected them but research on this coping mechanism indicates that people sometimes do show pro-social behavior in this situation. To see whether this socially more positive coping mechanism ‘tend-and-befriend’ is also used after the group you belong to has been rejected, this coping mechanism was included in this study.

The tend-and-befriend coping mechanism is to reach out to the outgroup (again), to try and mend the relationship after rejection. For the coping mechanism tend-and-befriend the reaction of a person is to behave in ways that improves their inclusionary status to maintain their social status by showing cooperative and prosocial behavior (Williams, 2007). It is expected that this is also the case in the context of intergroup relations. So, even when the help offer was rejected, the ingroup will still try to include the outgroup by showing prosocial behavior. This is expected because the ingroup (whose psychological needs are threatened) feels the need to mend the group difference emphasized by the rejection of the help offer. When help has been accepted people do not need a coping mechanism and are therefore less inclined to show additional prosocial behavior (after the prosocial behavior of the help offer). Overall, people will be more inclined to use the coping mechanism tend-and-befriend when the help offer has been rejected than when the help offer has been accepted.

Hypothesis 4: People show the inclination to cooperate more with Belgium in the future on various aspects (use the tend-and-befriend coping mechanism) more when help is rejected than when help is accepted.

When looking at the effects of rejection on intergroup relations it is important that the participants are Dutch and also identify with the Netherlands (the ingroup). Therefore, all hypothesized effects were expected to be found for people that have a high identification with the Netherlands. In the next section, the methods used to conduct the study are outlined in further detail.

## **Method**

### **Participants and Design**

This study has a 2 (reaction: reject vs. accept) x 2 (motive: distinctiveness vs. inclusion) between subjects design and is an experimental field study. The motive of the help offer and the reaction from Belgium to the help offered by the Netherlands were the independent variables. These variables were manipulated in a newspaper article where the Netherlands offered help towards Belgium with the motive of inclusion or distinctiveness and the help offer was either rejected or accepted by Belgium. There were 192 participants in total (female  $n = 94$ , age  $M = 28$ , 98% Dutch nationality). All participants were recruited on the street of Amsterdam and Leiden, two cities in the Netherlands. Participants were randomly assigned to one of four articles ( $n_{min} = 45$ ,  $n_{max} = 50$ ), after which they filled in a questionnaire to test the intergroup relations (trust, willingness to engage and outgroup liking) and the participants' reaction to rejection (level of distress and inclination to tend-and-befriend). The level of identification with the Netherlands (the ingroup) was a moderating independent variable.

Two hundred and two participants filled in the questionnaire. However, ten participants did not answer the control question for the manipulation check of reaction to the help offer correctly. It was concluded that these ten participants did not understand the instructions or the article correctly and they were excluded from all analyses.

## Materials

**Scenario.** The independent variables of motive and reaction were manipulated in a newspaper article where the prime-minister of the Netherlands, Mark Rutte, offered help to Belgium after the terrorist attacks at Airport Zaventum and metro-station Maalbeek on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2016 (2016 Brussel Bombings, 2016). These two countries were chosen because they can be considered of equal status, so status difference cannot influence the perception of the motive of inclusion or distinctiveness. The different motives were manipulated in a quote made by premier Rutte. The scenarios can be found in Appendix B. A portion of the article with the manipulation of the motive is presented below:

Inclusion motive: "... What happened to Belgium could also have happened to us. The Belgians currently live in fear and uncertainty, and we share these feelings. The big similarity between our nation's only motivates us more to think of the Belgians who this happened to. The Netherlands is one with our southern neighbors in this period of mourning and grief and we full heartedly offer our help to make Belgium safe again" says prime-minister Rutte.

Distinctiveness motive: "... From what happened to Belgium, the Netherlands has been spared. The Belgians currently live in fear and uncertainty, while we still feel safe. However, the big difference between our nations does not keep us from thinking of the Belgians who this happened to. From a distance, the Netherlands sympathizes with the Belgians in this period of mourning and grief, and we full heartedly offer our help to make Belgium safe again" says prime-minister Rutte.<sup>1</sup>

**Pilot study motive of help offer.** To test the manipulation of the motive of distinctiveness and inclusion of the help offer in the newspaper article scenario a pilot study was conducted. The pilot study had 46 participants who were recruited via social media

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<sup>1</sup> Sources used to write the quote in the article: 2016 Brussel Bombings, 2016, Persverklaring minister-president Rutte, 14 november 2015, 2015, Reactie Rutte n.a.v. aanslagen Brussel, 2016

(female  $n = 29$ , age  $M$  of scales = 30). Participants received one of the two newspaper articles, with the motive of inclusion or distinctiveness, after which they filled in a short questionnaire about the perceived inclusion. The degree of *inclusion* or distinctiveness the participants perceived the Netherlands to have with Belgium after reading the news article was measured with 8-items with a minimum of 80% of the total number of items,  $\alpha = .71$  (e.g. “The Netherlands and Belgium have a lot common”). This scale was used to check the manipulation of the motive of the help offer in the article. The duration of the study was 5 minutes after which participants were debriefed about the purpose of the study.

An independent sample t-test was used to analyze whether the two different motives of the help offer differed for the participants perceived inclusion the Netherlands had with Belgium. The two response sets, from the motive of inclusion and the motive of distinctiveness, were both entered into the analyses with the scale of *inclusion* as the independent variable. The analysis was significant,  $t(44) = -11.76, p < .001$ , showing that participants who were led to believe the motive of the help offer was inclusion reported more inclusion ( $M = 2.50, SD = .36$ ) than participants who were led to believe the motive of the help offer in the article was distinctiveness ( $M = 3.73, SD = .35$ ). It can therefore be concluded that the manipulation of the motive was successful and the news article was used for the main study. For the main study the reaction (rejection or acceptance) toward the help offer of the Netherlands was included.

**Questionnaire.** The questionnaire contained several different constructs measured with scales and some single items. All constructs had different main questions (e.g., “To what extent are the following statements applicable to you?” or “To what extent are the following attributes applicable for Belgium?”) followed by words or statements with a 5-point scale where the participant could report how much the word or statement was applicable for them

(1 = “absolutely not applicable”, 5 = “very strongly applicable”). Scales were created by averaging the items with a minimum response of 80% of the number of items of the scale.

Scales are reported in the order they are presented in the questionnaire, which can be found in Appendix A. *Identification* with the Netherlands was measured using a 3-item scale ( $\alpha = .80$ ,  $M = 3.98$ ,  $SD = .82$ ; e.g., “I identify myself with the Netherlands”). The *distress* participants experienced right after reading the article was measured with 12-items ( $\alpha = .79$ ,  $M = 3.60$ ,  $SD = .58$ ; e.g., “happy”; “angry”). The amount of *trust*<sup>2</sup> and respect people had for Belgium was measured with two items ( $\alpha = .76$ ,  $M = 3.66$ ,  $SD = .71$ ; “I trust Belgium”; “I respect Belgium”). How much participants liked Belgium, *outgroup liking*, was measured with 6-items ( $\alpha = .78$ ,  $M = 3.59$ ,  $SD = .58$ ; e.g., “I have a positive attitude toward Belgium in general”). The degree of *inclusion* or distinctiveness the participants perceived the Netherlands to have with Belgium was measured with 8-items ( $\alpha = .63$ ,  $M = 3.40$ ,  $SD = .59$ ; e.g. “The Netherlands and Belgium have a lot in common”). This is the same scale as was used in the pilot study to test the manipulation of the motive of the help offer. The *willingness to engage* and work together with Belgium was measured with 5-items ( $\alpha = .69$ ,  $M = 3.79$ ,  $SD = .62$ ; e.g., “The Netherlands should be willing to cooperate with Belgium on issues that are relevant for both countries”). The original scale for willingness to engage had 6-items and the reliability of the scale with this item was  $\alpha = .43$ , which means the internal consistency of the scale was poor ( $>.5$ ), and the scale was unacceptable to measure the construct (Gliem & Gliem, 2003). Therefore, one item was deleted from the scale, after which the reliability was acceptable (the deleted item was; “The Netherlands should accept that Belgium has more power within the European Union”). The inclination to show pro-social behavior toward

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<sup>2</sup> The items trust and respect correlate highly with each other,  $r = .62$ ,  $p < .001$ , suggesting that they both tapped into the same underlying construct. Therefore the items on trust and respect were put into a single scale labelled 'trust'.

Belgium through the aspiration for more cooperation, *tend-and-befriend*, was measured with 5-items ( $\alpha = .81$ ,  $M = 3.42$ ,  $SD = .75$ ; e.g., “The Netherlands should cooperate more with Belgium on economic issues”).

A number of additional variables were included in the questionnaire for exploratory analyses. One scale measured the opinion on the reaction of Belgium of the help offer with 8 items ( $\alpha = .89$ ,  $M = 3.49$ ,  $SD = .80$ ; e.g., “understandable”; “hostile”). Another scale was used to measure the perception of Belgium through the attributes participants ascribed to Belgium after the article with 6 items ( $\alpha = .72$ ,  $M = 3.55$ ,  $SD = .53$ ; e.g., “warm”; “strong”; “sympathetic”). Additionally, a single item was added to measure the relationship between the Netherlands and Belgium as to how close or different and distinctive the two countries were. Lastly, gender, age and nationality were all measured.

### **Procedure**

When people were willing to participate, they would sign the informed consent. Then, they first filled in the identification questions on the questionnaire. Secondly they read the scenario: one of the newspaper articles. After reading the article they continued with the rest of the questionnaire. Lastly, participants were debriefed about the purpose of the research. The whole procedure was done individually and the duration of the entire procedure was 7 to 10 minutes.

### **Results**

All data was analyzed using separate regression analyses with the intergroup relations indicators (trust, outgroup liking and willingness to engage) and coping (distress and *tend-and-befriend*) as dependent variables. All regression analyses were conducted with reaction (0 = rejection, 1 = acceptance), motive (0 = inclusion, 1 = distinctiveness) and identification (centered score), as well as all possible interaction terms, as independent variables.



Identification was included as a continuous factor in the design because identification with the Netherlands gives an indication of how much people feel they are part of the ingroup. The hypothesized effects on intergroup relations were expected to be higher for participants who reported to have a high level of identification with the Netherlands (+1 *SD*) than for participants that reported to have a low level of identification with the Netherlands (−1 *SD*). All significant effects are reported.

### **Manipulation Checks**

**Reaction.** The manipulation of the reaction of rejection or acceptance of the help offer was checked with a single control question at the end of the questionnaire (e.g., Was the help offer in the article accepted or rejected?). Two hundred and two participants filled in the questionnaire of which ten participants did not answer the control question correctly. As mentioned in the participant part of the method section, these ten participants were excluded from all analyses because by filling in the manipulation check question wrongly it was concluded they did not understand the instructions or the article correctly. The remaining 192 participants all answered the manipulation question of reaction correctly. Therefore, it can be concluded that the manipulation was successful for all participants in the analyses.

**Motive.** The regression analysis of the perceived inclusion between the two countries, the manipulation check for motive of the help offer, was significant,  $F(7, 184) = 7.22, p < .001$ . The analysis revealed a significant main effect for motive,  $\beta = -.345, t = -3.15, p = .002$ , showing participants who were led to believe the motive of the help offer was inclusion reported significantly more inclusion ( $M = 3.66, SD = .46$ ) than participants who were led to believe the motive of the help offer was distinctiveness ( $M = 3.15, SD = .60$ ). The analysis also showed a significant two-way interaction effect between motive and reaction,  $\beta = -.33, t = -2.10, p = .037$ , which means a reaction of acceptance or rejection of the help offer in

combination with the manipulated motive of distinctiveness or inclusion also had an effect on the perceived inclusion. When the help offer was accepted, participants who were led to believe the motive of the help offer was inclusion reported more inclusion between the Netherlands and Belgium ( $M = 3.74$ ,  $SD = .45$ ) than participants who were led to believe the help motive of the offer was distinctiveness ( $M = 3.10$ ,  $SD = .54$ ). This effect was the same for participants who read the article where the help offer was rejected. In this case participants who were led to believe the help motive was inclusion reported more inclusion between the Netherlands and Belgium than participants with the help motive of distinctiveness (inclusion motive  $M = 3.70$ ,  $SD = .45$  and distinctiveness motive  $M = 3.23$ ,  $SD = .65$ , respectively). So, next to the main effect of the motive, the analyses also showed a subtle interaction effect with motive and reaction. Nevertheless, the manipulation of the motive was considered successful because the manipulation mainly influences the motive and was only very slightly effected by the reaction of acceptance or rejection, as can be seen in the means of the interaction between motive and reaction.

### **Intergroup Relations**

**Trust.** The regression analysis of trust was significant,  $F(7, 184) = 3.72$ ,  $p = .001$ , and revealed a number of main and interaction effects. Providing tentative support for Hypothesis 1a, reaction was a marginally significant predictor in the analysis,  $\beta = .25$ ,  $t = 1.81$ ,  $p = .072$ , showing participants who were led to believe the help offer was accepted by Belgium had more trust in Belgium ( $M = 3.74$ ,  $SD = .72$ ) than participants who were led to believe that the help offer was rejected ( $M = 3.59$ ,  $SD = .71$ ). The main effect for motive was also significant,  $\beta = .29$ ,  $t = 2.02$ ,  $p = .045$ , showing participants who were led to believe that motive of the help offer was distinctiveness had more trust in Belgium ( $M = 3.76$ ,  $SD = .60$ ) than participants who were led to believe there was a motive of inclusion ( $M = 3.57$ ,  $SD = .80$ ).

The analysis further revealed a significant two-way interaction between motive and identification,  $\beta = .38$ ,  $t = 2.58$ ,  $p = .011$ . However, this interaction was fully qualified by reaction, as demonstrated by the significant three-way interaction,  $\beta = -.65$ ,  $t = -2.52$ ,  $p = .013$ . The slopes, presented in Figure 1a, show participants with high identification with the Netherlands (+1 *SD*), who were led to believe the help offer was accepted by Belgium, showed more trust in Belgium when the motive was inclusion ( $M = 4.06$ ,  $SD = .79$ ) than participants who were led to believe the motive was distinctiveness ( $M = 3.69$ ,  $SD = .64$ ). When help had been rejected however, participants with high identification with the Netherlands showed more trust in Belgium with the help motive of distinctiveness ( $M = 3.85$ ,  $SD = .55$ ) than participants who were led to believe the motive was inclusion ( $M = 3.49$ ,  $SD = .80$ ). In other words, when help was accepted inclusion had a more positive effect on trust in Belgium than the distinctiveness motive, among high identifiers. When help was rejected, the distinctiveness motive had a more positive effect on the amount of trust for Belgium than the inclusion motive, among high identifiers. These findings support Hypothesis 2a. Participants with low identification with the Netherlands (-1 *SD*) did not show the same effect, as can be seen in Figure 1b. The slopes show participants with low identification with the Netherlands show less trust for Belgium with the motive of inclusion (acceptance  $M = 3.40$ , rejection  $M = 3.34$ , respectively) than participants who were led to believe the motive was distinctiveness (acceptance  $M = 3.89$ , rejection  $M = 3.62$ , respectively). This shows the hypothesized effects of rejection of a help offer, with the two different motives of inclusion and distinctiveness was only supported for participants that identified highly with the ingroup, as expected.

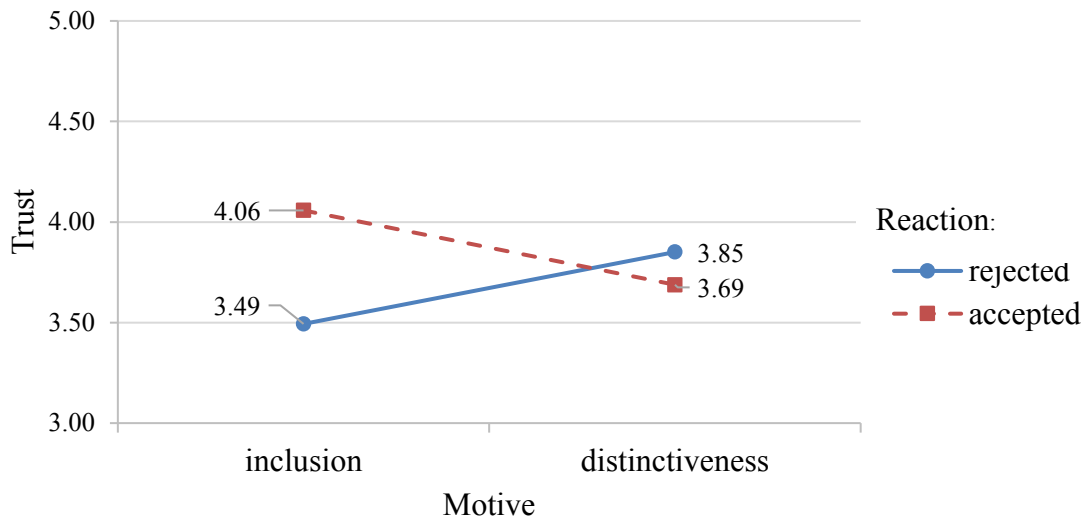


Figure 1a. Trust with motive, reaction and high identification

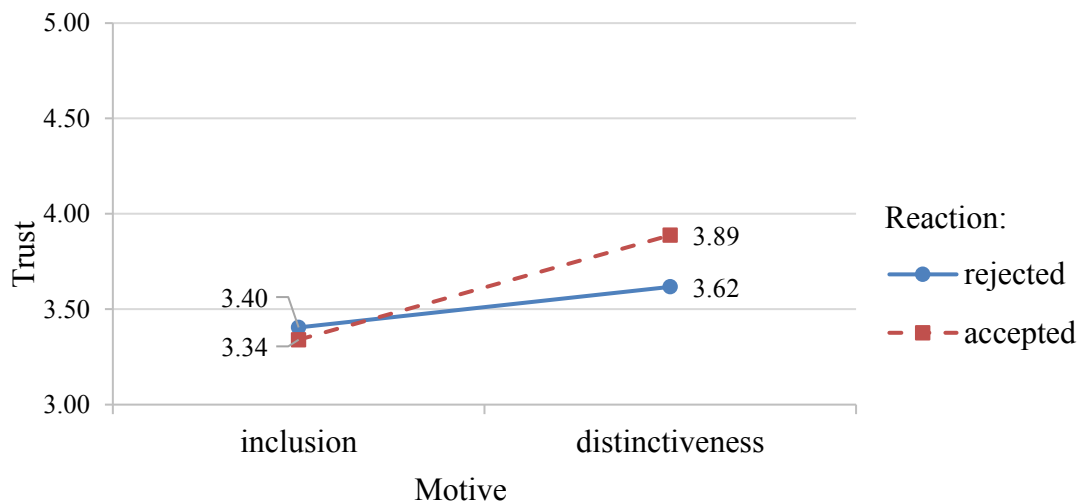


Figure 1b. Trust with motive, reaction and low identification

**Outgroup liking.** The regression analysis of outgroup liking was significant,  $F(7, 183) = 3.37, p = .002$ . The main effect of reaction was not significant,  $\beta = 0.16, t = 1.43, p = .153$ , therefore not supporting Hypothesis 1b. Additionally, the analysis showed the three-way interaction of reaction, motive and identification was not significant,  $\beta = -.13, t = -0.60, p = .551$ , therefore also not supporting Hypothesis 2b. The analysis did reveal a marginally significant interaction effect between motive and identification with the Netherlands,  $\beta =$

$-.29, t = -1.91, p = .057$ . The slopes, presented in Figure 2, show high identifying participants who were led to believe that the help motive was inclusion reported more liking for Belgium ( $M = 3.74, SD = .65$ ) than participants who were led to believe the help motive was distinctiveness ( $M = 3.57, SD = .48$ ), regardless of Belgium's reaction to the help offer. This shows participants with high identification with the Netherlands who were led to believe that the motive was inclusion, liked Belgium more than participants who were led to believe that the motive of the help offer was distinctiveness.

Participants with a low level of identification with the Netherlands reported they liked Belgium more when they were led to believe the motive of the help offer was distinctiveness ( $M = 3.77$ ) than participants who were led to believe the motive was inclusion ( $M = 3.35$ ), regardless of the reaction to the help offer. The effect of motive when participants had low identification shows an opposite effect of participants with high identification with the Netherlands in comparison to participants with high identification with the Netherlands, as can be seen in Figure 2.

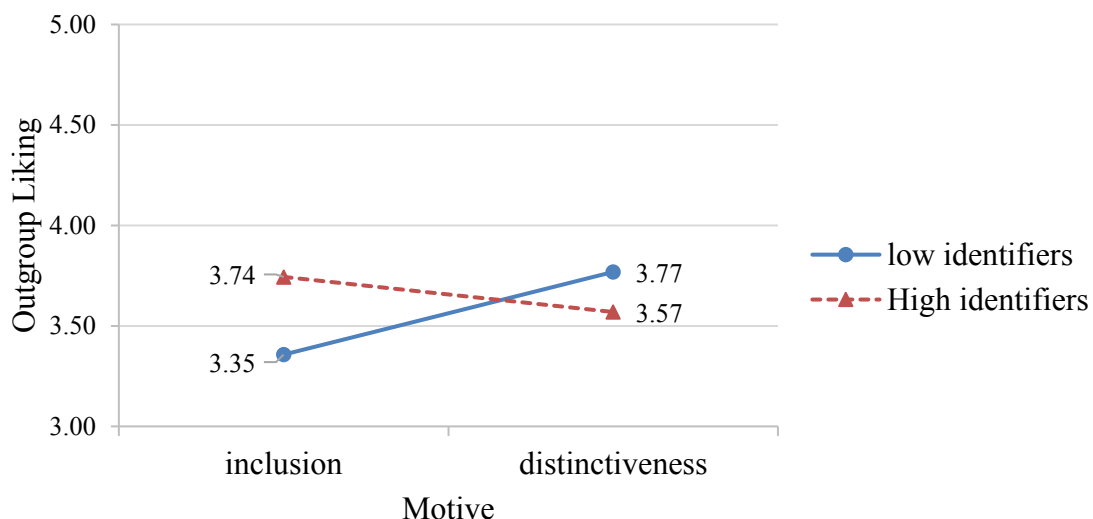


Figure 2. Outgroup liking with motive and high versus low identification

**Willingness to engage.** The regression analysis of willingness to engage was not significant,  $F(7, 184) = 0.95, p = .469$ . The model did not show a significant main effect of reaction nor did it show a significant three-way interaction for motive, reaction and identification, therefore Hypotheses 1c and 2c are not supported.

The model did not show any significant effects to support the drawn up Hypotheses for willingness to engage but the model did, however, show a significant interaction effect of motive and identification,  $\beta = -.27, t = -2.08, p = .039$ . This interaction effect showed participants with high identification with the Netherlands who were led to believe the motive of the help offer was inclusion were more willing to engage with Belgium ( $M = 3.93, SD = .65$ ) than participants who were led to believe the motive was distinctiveness ( $M = 3.42, SD = .60$ ). For the people who reported low identification the analyses showed the opposite effect. Low identifying participants who were led to believe the motive was inclusion reported less willingness to engage with Belgium than participants who were led to believe the motive was distinctiveness (inclusion  $M = 3.78$ , distinctiveness  $M = 4.08$ , respectively). It is important to note that these results are difficult to interpret because the main regression analysis was not significant. Therefore, these findings will not be discussed further.

### **Reaction to Rejection**

**Distress.** The regression analysis with distress was significant,  $F(7, 184) = 3.50, p = .002$ . Supporting Hypothesis 3, the main effect of the predictor reaction was significant,  $\beta = -.35, t = -2.90, p = .004$ , showing participants reported more distress when the help offer was rejected ( $M = 3.23, SD = .59$ ) than when help offer was accepted ( $M = 2.81, SD = .58$ ). No other predictors in the regression analyses were significant. This shows all participants who were in the situation where their country was rejected reported more distress, than participants

who experienced no rejection (were the help offer was accepted), regardless of the motive of the help offer.

**Tend-and-befriend.** The regression analysis with tend-and-befriend was not significant,  $F(7, 183) = 1.36, p = .225$ . The analyses also showed no significant predictors. This shows participants, who were led to believe the help offer by Rutte was rejected by Belgium, did not use the coping mechanism of tend-and-befriend more than participants who were led to believe the help was accepted, therefore not supporting Hypothesis 4.

### Exploratory Analyses

**Feeling about rejection.** The regression analysis with the opinion on the reaction of acceptance versus rejection of the help offer was significant,  $F(7, 183) = 28.54, p < .001$ . The main effect of reaction was also significant,  $\beta = 1.18, t = 10.24, p < .001$ , showing participants who were led to believe that the help offer was rejected perceived the reaction of Belgium to be more negative ( $M = 2.91, SD = .65$ ) than participants who were led to believe the help offer was accepted ( $M = 4.10, SD = .45$ ).

**Perception of Belgium.** The regression analyses with attributes of Belgium was significant,  $F(7, 182) = 3.58, p < .001$ . There is a significant main effect of reaction,  $\beta = .28, t = 2.74, p = .007$ . This main effect is fully qualified by the two-way interaction of reaction and identification that was also significant,  $\beta = .30, t = 2.71, p = .007$ . The two-way interaction showed participants with high identification with the Netherlands who were led to believe the help offer was accepted perceived Belgium more positively ( $M = 3.78, SD = .48$ ) than participants who were led to believe the help offer was rejected ( $M = 3.36, SD = .56$ ). This shows participants with a high level of identification with the ingroup report greater outgroup liking (ascribing positive attributes to Belgium) when help is accepted than when help is

rejected. Participants with low identification with the Netherlands did not differ in ascribing positive attributes to Belgium when the help offer was accepted or rejected.

**Social distance.** The regression analysis with social distance was marginally significant,  $F(7, 182) = 1.88, p = .076$ . The main effect of reaction was significant,  $\beta = .42, t = 2.01, p = .046$ , showing participants who were led to believe that the Dutch help offer was accepted by Belgium perceived more closeness between the Netherlands and Belgium ( $M = 3.32, SD = 1.03$ ) than participants who were led to believe that the Dutch help offer was rejected ( $M = 2.89, SD = 1.04$ ).

## Discussion

### The effects of rejection on intergroup relations

**Conclusions.** This research studied how rejection of a help offer affects intergroup relations, as seen through the eyes of the group whose help offer has been rejected. A small body of research has shown that the rejection of a help offer can have negative effects on an individual level (Cheuk, & Rosen, 1992; Cheuk, Swearse, Wong, & Rosen, 1998; Cheuk & Wong, 1998), and this paper explored whether this also occurs on a group level and negatively affects relations between groups. In order to do this an experimental field study was conducted with a newspaper article where the Netherlands offered help to Belgium, and Belgium either rejected or accepted the help offer. The analysis showed that participants had a lower level of trust in Belgium when help was rejected than when help was accepted, supporting Hypothesis 1a. The lower levels of trust indicate that the rejection of a help offer can indeed have a negative influence on intergroup relations - as perceived by the party offering the help.

The motive of the help offer was included in the study to see whether the motivation of the help offer - inclusion or distinctiveness - also influences the effects of the rejection.



Help may be offered with the motivation to show power through positive distinctiveness with the outgroup or with the motivation to show inclusion and togetherness (Van Leeuwen, 2017). This study expected that different motivations behind the help offer lead to different effects of rejection of that offer, because it seems likely that the acceptance or rejection of a help offer corresponds with the acceptance or rejection of the motivation behind the offer. Specifically, it was expected that the acceptance of a help offer that was motivated by inclusion would result in more positive intergroup relations than rejection of the help offer. The acceptance of a help offer that originated from a motive of distinctiveness was expected to result in a less positive intergroup relation than rejection of the help offer.

The analysis showed that the effect of rejection was also influenced by the motivation behind the offer. Specifically, the Netherlands' motivation for offering help directly influenced how participants' level of trust for Belgium was affected by acceptance or rejection of the offer. In the cases where help was accepted, the levels of trust for Belgium were higher when there was an inclusion motive than when there was a distinctiveness motive behind the help offer. When help was rejected, this was the other way around: the distinctiveness motive had a more positive effect on the amount of trust for Belgium than the inclusion motive. Overall, the analysis showed that the motivation behind the help offer, in combination with the reaction of rejection or acceptance of the help, affects the amount of trust in the outgroup (an indicator of intergroup relations), supporting hypothesis 2a. As expected, identification with the Netherlands was a moderating factor for the interaction effect of the reaction of rejection and the motive of a help offer. The hypothesized effect of rejection and motive on the intergroup relations was only found for participants with high identification with the Netherlands, not for participants with low identification with the Netherlands.

The hypothesized effects were not found for the constructs outgroup liking and willingness to engage. However, the exploratory analyses showed different results for outgroup liking after rejection. For the exploratory analyses we included the feeling participants had about the rejection, the perception of Belgium and the social distance participants had towards Belgium after the rejection. The analyses showed participants perceived the reaction of Belgium more negatively when help was rejected than when help was accepted, and rejection also influenced the closeness participants perceived the Netherlands and Belgium to have, perceiving the relationship as more close after acceptance than after rejection of the help offer. Additionally, the interaction effect between reaction and identification for perception of Belgium, showed participants' perception of Belgium was more positive when help was accepted than when help was rejected, for participants with high identification with the Netherlands. These results of the constructs of the exploratory analyses give an indication of the liking participants had for Belgium.

From the above, it can be concluded that the liking participants had for the outgroup after rejection of a help offer of their group was negatively affected by rejection, supporting Hypothesis 1b. Why the results did not show the effects of rejection of the inclination to engage with Belgium will be discussed under 'pro-social behavior' in the section alternative explanations.

### **Coping after Rejection**

**Conclusions.** To explore coping after a help offer is rejected, the two phases for coping with ostracism, exclusion or rejection were investigated. Firstly, the first reflexive response of distress was investigated by measuring the amount of distress participants reported right after reading the article. Secondly, this study also looked at the second phase of coping with rejection by investigating the coping mechanism in which people show more

cooperative and pro-social behavior, tend-and-befriend. The first reaction of distress is shown to be a very reflexive automatic reaction on an individual level (Williams, 2007). Ostracism, regardless of its source, triggers an immediate reaction of distress to help people to pay attention to what is going on, so that they can react and cope with the rejection (Eisenberger, Lieberman and Williams, 2003). Williams and Nida (2011) suggested that future research should focus on the interplay between ostracized individuals and groups. We took it one step further and looked at the interplay of two groups. We hypothesized that the experienced rejection of a group would lead to distress for members of that group. The analyses showed that all participants reported more distress when help was rejected than when help was accepted (regardless of the help giving motive), supporting Hypothesis 3. Additionally, research showed the effect of rejection in terms of distress occurs in different situations (Williams & Nida, 2011). Since the motive of the help offer did not influence the reaction of distress that participants reported, it can be concluded that the situation of the help offer, in this case the motive of the help offer, did not influence the effect of distress participants had after rejection of a help offer.

For the second, more deliberative and reflective, phase of coping with rejection, this study investigated the coping mechanism tend-and-befriend. For this coping mechanism the reaction of a person is to behave in a way that improves their inclusionary status to maintain their social status by showing cooperative and prosocial behavior (Williams, 2007). The results showed there was no difference for the coping strategy tend-and-befriend after acceptance or rejection of the help offer, therefore not supporting hypothesis 4. The results indicate that there is no difference for the tendency to tend-and-befriend after rejection or acceptance of a help offer, but why would this be the case?

**Alternative explanation.**

**Coping after rejection.** Why did this study not find a higher level of inclination to use the coping mechanisms tend-and-befriend after rejection than after acceptance of a help offer? There is a possibility that when rejection takes place between groups, people do not need a coping mechanism and do therefore not use the coping mechanism tend-and-befriend to improve their inclusionary status. This study did show participants reported more distress after being rejected than when the help offer was accepted. This gives an indication that the first phase does take place when a person's group has been rejected. Is this not the case for the second phase of coping with rejection? Or is it just the coping mechanism tend-and-befriend that is not needed?

Williams and Zadro (2005) proposed that the sequence in the two phased coping system is: (a) the reflexive response (distress), (b) threat to the four psychological needs (belonging, self-esteem, control and meaningful existence), and (c) reflective stage (the response to ostracism or rejection through a coping mechanism). On an individual level, all four psychological needs are threatened (Williams & Nida, 2011). This inclination to strive for inclusion when this is still perceived to be possible is most likely because of the threatened need for belonging and a positive self-esteem (Williams & Nida, 2011). Are these two psychological needs really threatened after rejection on a group level?

The need for belonging is a motive to be accepted by others (Fiske & Taylor, 2013), therefore it could be expected that people would use the tend-and-befriend coping mechanism. However, the need to belong can also motivate an automatic thinking process to think in "us" and "them" more easily (Perdue, Dovidio, Gurtman & Taylor, 1990). Additionally, the need for positive self-esteem is liked more to a person's ingroup than an outgroup (Fiske & Taylor, 2013). This could indicate that when rejection took place on a

group level the need to belong and the need for positive self-esteem are not threatened (as much) since participants belonged to the Netherlands (the ingroup), which would lead ingroup members to show less pro-social behavior after rejection of a help offer made by their group. It is therefore a possibility that the need for belonging and positive self-esteem are threatened less after rejection on a group level than on an individual level. This could be a possible explanation why this study did not find the inclination to use the coping mechanism tend-and-befriend more when help was rejected than when help was accepted. We cannot yet say, however, that the second phase of the coping system does not take place after rejection on a group level. Therefore, more research needs to be done on the effects of rejection on group level on the other coping mechanisms (fight, flight and freeze). Before examining the different coping strategies, it would be essential to look at which (if any) psychological needs are threatened after rejection on a group level.

**Pro-social behavior.** To see why the expected for willingness to engage were not found, a comparison between willingness to engage and tend-and-befriend is made because both are inclination for pro-social behavior while these constructs originated from different theoretical viewpoints. Willingness to engage measured the intergroup relations and tend-and-befriend a coping mechanism after rejection. Both scales were compared, which showed that the items were comparable and the scales of willingness to engage and tend-and-befriend have a moderate correlation ( $r = .42, p < .001$ ), showing there is a clear distinction between the two constructs but there is also a relationship between the two. The theoretical points of view for both constructs were contradictory however.

Willingness to engage (an indicator of intergroup relations) was expected to be more positive when help was accepted than when help was rejected because rejection can have negative effects on an individual and this study therefore theorized it would also negatively

affect the relationship. Contradictory; the inclination to use the coping mechanism tend-and-befriend was expected to be more present when help was rejected than when help was accepted because people would want improve their inclusionary status. As was discussed earlier in the alternative explanation of coping after rejection, people might not show pro-social behavior through the coping mechanism after rejection on group level because they are still part of the Netherlands (ingroup) and the psychological needs of belonging and self-esteem are not threatened (as much). Therefore it could be expected that people show more pro-social behavior after acceptance of a help offer than after rejection. Not finding the expected results for willingness to engage indicates that the level of trust and liking for the outgroup is threatened by rejection but the intention for pro-social behavior is not influenced by it. Further research on this topic is needed to establish how and to what extent rejection of a persons group influences their behavior, as it seems that the behavior aspect of intergroup relations are intertwined with the behavioral coping mechanism in the second phase of coping with rejection.

### **Implications**

**Theoretical implications.** The negative effects of rejection were already well established on an individual level (Cheuk, & Rosen, 1992; Cheuk, Swearse, Wong, & Rosen, 1998; Cheuk & Wong, 1998). This study contributes to existing research, firstly, by showing that the rejection of a help offer can negatively impact intergroup relations by a decreased level of trust for the outgroup; secondly, by showing that the effect of the rejection is also influenced by the motivation behind the rejected help offer; and thirdly, by exploring how two particular types of strategic motivations – inclusion and distinctiveness – influence the effects of rejection.

The findings of the negative effect of rejection on the level of distress a person experiences contribute to the line of research on the effects of ostracism, exclusion and rejection by showing that the negative effect of rejection (the induced distress) that was established on an individual level is also present for the individual when a help offer made by their group has been rejected. Not finding an increased use of the coping mechanism tend-and-befriend after rejection of a help offer indicates that the psychological needs of belonging and positive self-esteem are not threatened (as much) after rejection of a help offer on a group level in comparison to rejection on an individual level.

**Practical implications.** This study showed rejection can have negative affects on the intergroup relations on a group level, by the decreasing amount of trust and liking for the outgroup when help is rejected. Trust makes cooperating and working together easier and is important for a good relationship between groups (Lount, 2010). Outgroup liking contributes to a better relationship between the groups. Therefore, it is important to know what influences or damages the trust and liking between groups in order to be aware rejection of a help offer can damage the amount of trust for the outgroup. The new knowledge on the effects of the motive and the rejection or acceptance of the help offer could help international policy makers to be more successful in managing the relationship and coordinating help offers and the acceptance or rejection thereof.

### **Limitations and Future research**

This research presumed the same psychological needs would be threatened when the group of a person is rejected as when an individual person is rejected. Not finding the expected results on the use of the coping mechanism tend-and-befriend when help of a person's group was rejected indicates that we first have to take a step back and look into the effect of rejection of a person's group on the four psychological needs. What (if any)

psychological needs are threatened after a help offer of a person's group has been rejected? Future research should look into this question before going further into the second phase of coping with rejection to see what mechanism people would use, because the possible threats of the psychological needs are the basis of peoples reaction to ostracism, rejection and exclusion.

In regard to the behavior inclination after rejection, and the comparable aspects of the behavioral part of intergroup relations and the behavior aspect of the coping mechanism, the results of this study were inconclusive. Future research on this topic should look at the affect rejection of a persons group has on their behavior, and at how the behavioral aspect of intergroup relations are intertwined with the behavioral coping mechanism in the second phase of coping with rejection.



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## Appendix A

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**Beantwoord a.u.b. vraag 1 vóórdt u het bijgeleverde artikel gaat lezen.**

**1. In hoeverre zijn de volgende uitspraken op u van toepassing? (omcirkel het antwoord van uw keuze)**

	Absoluut niet				Ze sterk
Ik identificeer mij met Nederland	1	2	3	4	5
Ik voel mij betrokken bij Nederland	1	2	3	4	5
Ik zie mijzelf als een echte Nederlander	1	2	3	4	5

**Lees nu eerst aandachtig het bijgeleverde artikel door. Ga daarna pas door met het beantwoorden van de onderstaande vragen.**

**2. Als u denkt aan de reactie van België op het hulpaanbod van Nederland, in hoeverre voelt u zich dan...**

	Absoluut niet				Ze sterk
afgewezen?	1	2	3	4	5
blij?	1	2	3	4	5
boos?	1	2	3	4	5
gestrest?	1	2	3	4	5
gekwetst?	1	2	3	4	5
in controle?	1	2	3	4	5
eenzaam?	1	2	3	4	5
gerespecteerd?	1	2	3	4	5
bedroefd?	1	2	3	4	5
geaccepteerd?	1	2	3	4	5
vertrouwd?	1	2	3	4	5
solidair?	1	2	3	4	5

**3. In hoeverre zijn de volgende uitspraken op u van toepassing?**

	Absoluut niet				Ze sterk
Over het algemeen heb ik vertrouwen in België	1	2	3	4	5
Over het algemeen heb ik respect voor België	1	2	3	4	5

#### 4. In hoeverre zijn de volgende uitspraken op u van toepassing?

	Absoluut niet					Zeer sterk
Over het algemeen heb ik een positieve houding tegenover België	1	2	3	4	5	
Ik voel me op mijn gemak in het gezelschap van Belgen	1	2	3	4	5	
Ik heb een gevoel van verwantschap met de Belgen	1	2	3	4	5	
Ik ben geïnteresseerd in het begrijpen van de standpunten van België	1	2	3	4	5	
Ik ben onder de indruk van België	1	2	3	4	5	
Ik sta positief tegenover België	1	2	3	4	5	

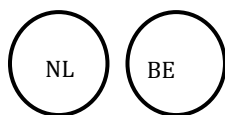
#### 5. In hoeverre zijn de volgende kenmerken, naar uw idee, van toepassing op België?

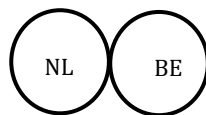
	Absoluut niet					Zeer sterk
Warm	1	2	3	4	5	
Sympathiek	1	2	3	4	5	
Aardig	1	2	3	4	5	
Competent	1	2	3	4	5	
Arrogant	1	2	3	4	5	
Sterk	1	2	3	4	5	

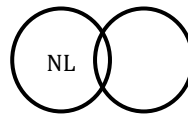
#### 6. Wat vindt u van de reactie van België op het hulpaanbod van Nederland?

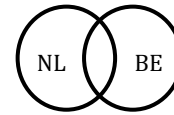
	Absoluut niet					Zeer sterk
Verstandig	1	2	3	4	5	
Begrijpelijk	1	2	3	4	5	
Sympathiek	1	2	3	4	5	
Coöperatief	1	2	3	4	5	
Bescheiden	1	2	3	4	5	
Vijandig	1	2	3	4	5	
Competitief	1	2	3	4	5	
Arrogant	1	2	3	4	5	

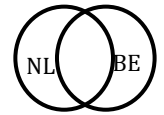
#### 7. Welk cirkelpaar geeft naar uw idee het beste de relatie weer tussen Nederland (NL) en België (BE)? *Kruis het vakje aan onder het cirkelpaar van uw keuze.*



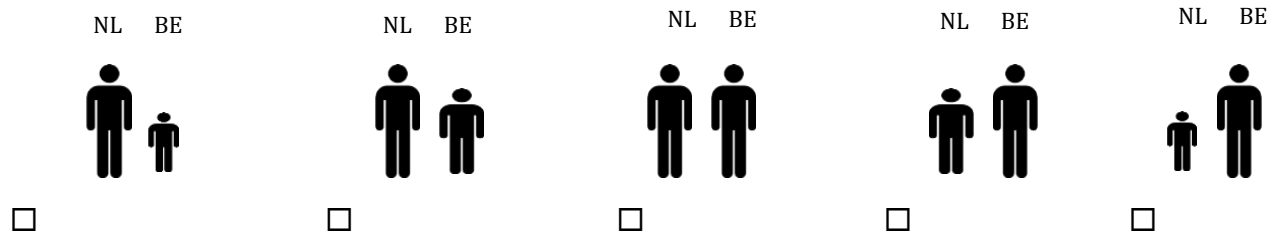








### 8. Welk plaatje geeft naar uw idee het beste de verhouding weer tussen Nederland (NL) en België (BE)?



### 9. Hoe ziet Rutte, volgens het artikel dat u zojuist heeft gelezen, de relatie tussen Nederland en België?

	Absoluut niet				Zeer sterk
Nederland en België verschillen sterk van elkaar	1	2	3	4	5
Nederland en België hebben veel gemeenschappelijk	1	2	3	4	5
Nederland en België vormen een eenheid	1	2	3	4	5
De verschillen tussen Nederland en België zijn nu groter dan ooit	1	2	3	4	5
Nederland en België hebben een goede relatie met elkaar	1	2	3	4	5
Nederland is op politiek en economisch gebied sterker dan België	1	2	3	4	5
Nederland en België hebben veel overeenkomsten	1	2	3	4	5
Nederland heeft een betere machtspositie binnen de EU dan België	1	2	3	4	5

### 10. In hoeverre bent u het eens met de volgende uitspraken? Nederland zou bereidwillig moeten zijn...

	Absoluut niet				Zeer sterk
...wanneer België geld wil lenen van Nederland	1	2	3	4	5
...om samen te werken met België voor problemen die inwoners van beide landen aangaan	1	2	3	4	5
...om de economische samenwerking met België uit te breiden	1	2	3	4	5
...te accepteren als België meer macht dan Nederland zou hebben binnen de EU	1	2	3	4	5
...om België als goede bondgenoot te accepteren	1	2	3	4	5

**11. In hoeverre bent u het eens met de volgende uitspraken?**

	Absoluut niet				Zeer sterk
Nederland zou <u>meer</u> met België moeten samenwerken op economisch gebied	1	2	3	4	5
Nederland zou <u>meer</u> met België moeten samenwerken op politiek gebied binnen de EU	1	2	3	4	5
Nederland zou moeten initiëren om samen met België, in plaats van alleen, te zorgen voor een verhoogde veiligheid in de Benelux	1	2	3	4	5
Nederland zou de krachten moeten bundelen met België om samen een sterker politiek en economisch front te vormen	1	2	3	4	5
Nederland zou nieuwe politieke banden aan moeten gaan met België	1	2	3	4	5

**12. Wat was, volgens het artikel dat u zojuist heeft gelezen, de reactie van de Belgische Premier Michel op het hulpaanbod van Premier Rutte?**

Het aanbod van hulp aan België is door Premier Michel:

- Afgewezen  
 Aangenomen

**13. Wat is uw geslacht?**

- Man  
 Vrouw

**14. Wat is uw leeftijd? ..... jaar****15. Wat is uw Nationaliteit?**

- Nederlander/Nederlandse  
 Anders, namelijk .....

**Hartelijk dank voor het invullen van de vragenlijst.**

## Appendix B



## 6 In het nieuws

nrc

MAANDAG 28 MAART 2016

## Nederland biedt Brussel hulp na aanslagen

Nederlandse hulp met beide handen aangenomen door België na aanslagen in Brussel.

Door onze Redacteur  
**Jorg Leijten**

In de ochtend van 22 maart 2016 werd België opgeschikt door drie grote bomaanslagen in Brussel. Twee zelfmoordbommen gingen af op het vliegveld van Zaventem en één in het metrostation van Maalbeek. Hierbij kwamen 35 mensen om het leven en 300 mensen raakten gewond. IS heeft later de verantwoordelijkheid voor deze aanslagen opgeëist.

Deze aanslagen zijn breeduit besproken in de media en liggen bij ieder nog vers in het geheugen. De reactie van minister-president Mark Rutte op deze aanslagen is

wellicht minder bekend. Rutte heeft, namens Nederland, België als eerste van alle EU landen hulp aangeboden. Hij deed dat met de volgende woorden: "Ik heb vanmorgen mijn Belgische collega Michel onze condoleances overgebracht en onze volle steun aangeboden in woord en daad. Op momenten als deze is de

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NEDERLAND IS ÉÉN  
MET ONZE  
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onderlinge verbondenheid tussen onze landen groot. Nederland en België lijken in cultureel en economisch opzicht sterk op elkaar en die gemeenschappelijkheid treedt nu op de voorgrond. Wat België is overkomen had ons ook

kunnen overkomen. De Belgen leven in angst en onzekerheid, en wij delen deze gevoelens. De grote overeenkomst tussen onze landen motiveert ons alleen maar meer om stil te staan bij de Belgen die dit is overkomen. Nederland is één met onze zuiderburen in deze periode van rouw en verdriet, en wij bieden volmondig onze hulp aan om België weer veilig te maken", aldus premier Rutte.

België verwelkomde het aanbod van Rutte en nam de hulp het met beide handen aan. In de woorden van Charles Michel, België's eerste minister: "We waarderen het aanbod van premier Rutte. In deze tijden kunnen wij als land alle assistentie gebruiken. Wij nemen daarom de hulp van Nederland graag aan.'

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## 7 In het nieuws

nrc

MAANDAG 28 MAART 2016

# Nederland biedt Brussel hulp na aanslagen

Nederlandse hulp resoluut afgewezen door België na aanslagen in Brussel

Door onze Redacteur  
**Jorg Leijten**

In de ochtend van 22 maart 2016 werd België opgeschikt door drie grote bomaanslagen in Brussel. Twee zelfmoordbommen gingen af op het vliegveld van Zaventem en één in het metrostation van Maalbeek. Hierbij kwamen 35 mensen om het leven en 300 mensen raakten gewond. IS heeft later de verantwoordelijkheid voor deze aanslagen opgeëist.

Deze aanslagen zijn breeduit besproken in de media en liggen bij ieder nog vers in het geheugen. De reactie van minister-president Mark Rutte op deze aanslagen is wellicht minder bekend. Rutte

heeft, namens Nederland, België als eerste van alle EU landen hulp aangeboden. Hij deed dat met de volgende woorden: “Ik heb vanmorgen mijn Belgische collega Michel onze condoleances overgebracht en onze volle steun aangeboden in woord en daad. Op momenten als deze is de

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België wilde echter niets van het hulp aanbod van Rutte weten en sloeg de hulp resoluut af. In de woorden van Charles Michel, België's eerste minister: ‘We waarderen het aanbod van premier Rutte, maar in deze tijden zorgen wij graag voor onszelf. Wij hebben geen hulp van Nederland nodig’.

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## 8 In het nieuws

nrc

MAANDAG 28 MAART 2016

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# Nederland biedt Brussel hulp na aanslagen

Nederlandse hulp met beide handen aangenomen door België na aanslagen in Brussel

Door onze Redacteur  
**Jorg Leijten**

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In de ochtend van 22 maart 2016 werd België opgeschikt door drie grote bomaanslagen in Brussel. Twee zelfmoordbommen gingen af op het vliegveld van Zaventem en één in het metrostation van Maalbeek. Hierbij kwamen 35 mensen om het leven en raakten 300 mensen gewond. IS heeft later de verantwoordelijkheid voor deze aanslagen opgeëist.

Deze aanslagen zijn breeduit besproken in de media en deze liggen nog bij ieder vers in het geheugen. De reactie van minister-president Mark Rutte op deze

aanslagen is wellicht minder bekend. Rutte heeft, namens Nederland, België als eerste van alle EU landen hulp aangeboden met de volgende woorden: "Ik heb vanmorgen mijn Belgische collega Michel onze condoleances overgebracht en onze volle steun aangeboden in woord en daad. Op een moment als deze is het

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### CONTRAST MET ZUIDERBUREN NU ERG GROOT

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contrast tussen onze landen groot. Nederland en België verschillen traditioneel sterk van elkaar, en die verschillen treden nu op de voorgrond. Wat België is overkomen is ons bespaard gebleven. De Belgen leven

momenteel in angst en onzekerheid, terwijl wij ons nog veilig voelen. Het grote verschil tussen onze landen weerhoudt ons er echter niet van om stil te staan bij de Belgen die dit is overkomen. Vanuit een afstand leeft Nederland mee met België in deze periode van rouw en verdriet, en wij bieden volmondig onze hulp aan om België weer veilig te maken", aldus premier Rutte.

België verwelkomde het hulp aanbod van Rutte en nam de hulp met beide handen aan. In de woorden van Charles Michel, België's eerste minister: "We waarderen het aanbod van premier Rutte. In deze tijden kunnen wij als land alle assistentie gebruiken. Wij nemen daarom de hulp van Nederland graag aan."

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## 9 In het nieuws

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MAANDAG 28 MAART 2016

# Nederland biedt Brussel hulp na aanslagen

Nederlandse hulp robuust afgewezen door België na aanslagen in Brussel

Door onze Redacteur

**Jorg Leijten**

In de ochtend van 22 maart 2016 werd België opgeschikt door drie grote bomaanslagen in Brussel. Twee zelfmoordbommen gingen af op het vliegveld van Zaventem en één in het metrostation van Maalbeek. Hierbij kwamen 35 mensen om het leven en raakten 300 mensen gewond. IS heeft later de verantwoordelijkheid voor deze aanslagen opgeëist..

Deze aanslagen zijn breeduit besproken in de media en deze liggen nog bij ieder vers in het geheugen. De reactie van minister-president Mark Rutte op deze aanslagen is wellicht minder bekend. Rutte heeft, namens Nederland, België als eerste van alle EU landen hulp aangeboden met de volgende woorden: "Ik heb vanmorgen mijn Belgische collega

Michel onze condoleances overgebracht en onze volle steun aangeboden in woord en daad. Op een moment als deze is het contrast tussen onze landen groot. Nederland en België verschillen traditioneel sterk van elkaar, en die verschillen treden nu op de voorgrond. Wat België is

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België wilde echter niets van het hulp aanbod van Rutte weten en sloeg de hulp resoluut af. In de woorden van Charles Michel, België's eerste minister: 'We waarderen het aanbod van premier Rutte, maar in deze tijden zorgen wij graag voor onszelf. Wij hebben geen hulp van Nederland nodig'.

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### CONTRAST MET ZUIDERBUREN NU ERG GROOT

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