



Gemeente  
Rotterdam

## ‘Being offline’, but how?



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## Meeting September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022



- ▶ Young Rotterdammers
- ▶ Experts

Young people: 2 in the workshop; 3 afterwards reviewers  
Experts (stakeholders/civil servants): 5

% Vrouwen: 80  
% Mannen: 20

## Point of view from young Rotterdammers

- ▶ We don't feel bored because you always have your mobile phone at hand.
- ▶ Many online friends who demand quick responses. Sometimes you spend more time on them than on your offline contacts.
- ▶ Telling your friend you're on vacation and can't respond makes it easier to be offline for a while. The same with a lost mobile phone.
- ▶ Many hours a day they use their phones. Little finger is even slightly bent.
- ▶ “Even without looking, my fingers find their way to Instagram.” It's the reason for throwing off social media sometimes because I want to get back to myself. I am so busy with others.
- ▶ Finding a quiet place to study in the city is difficult. The library is also restless, loud whispering, sounds of eating.



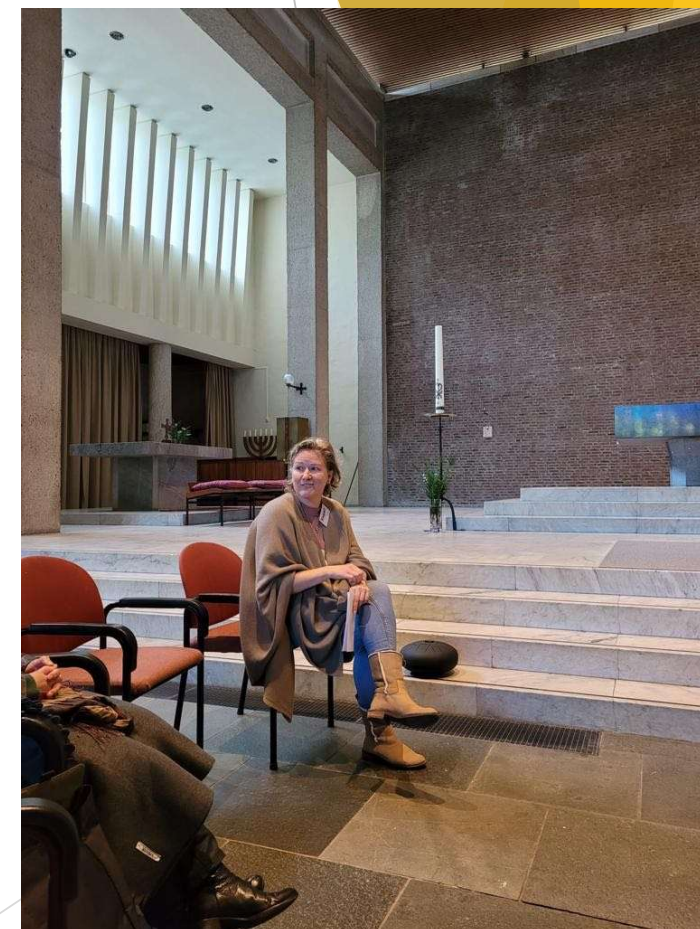




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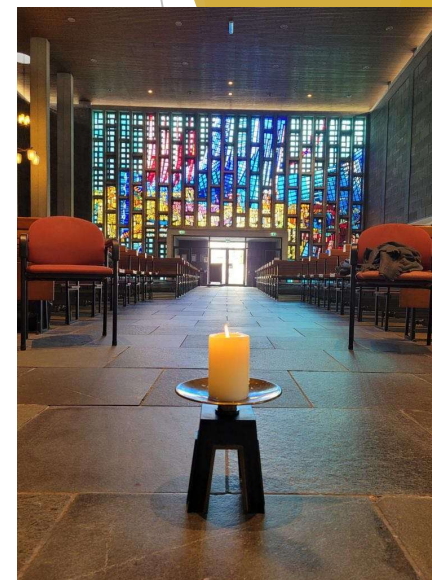
## Tranquility in a digital world

- ▶ Music helps to find tranquility in a busy city. Or listen to a podcast in the background. In your own digital bubble is better than all the sounds and conversations around you.
- ▶ A discussion is going on in Rotterdam about balance between quiet places and action (vision on the city); Do we pay sufficient attention to the influence of the digital world on quiet place and action in the city?



## Best practices

1. Silence meetings in church Het Steiger, [www.evenstil.nl](http://www.evenstil.nl)
2. Helping young people to be more often offline, for example with an oftalk box for cafés and restaurants, <https://onbutoff.nl> and <https://onbutoff.nl/wat-doet-onbutoff/offtalk-box/>
3. Rotterdam vision on the city, with a focus on rest and action, also in the city centre  
[Vision \(omgevingsvisie\)](#)  
[Vision inner City](#)

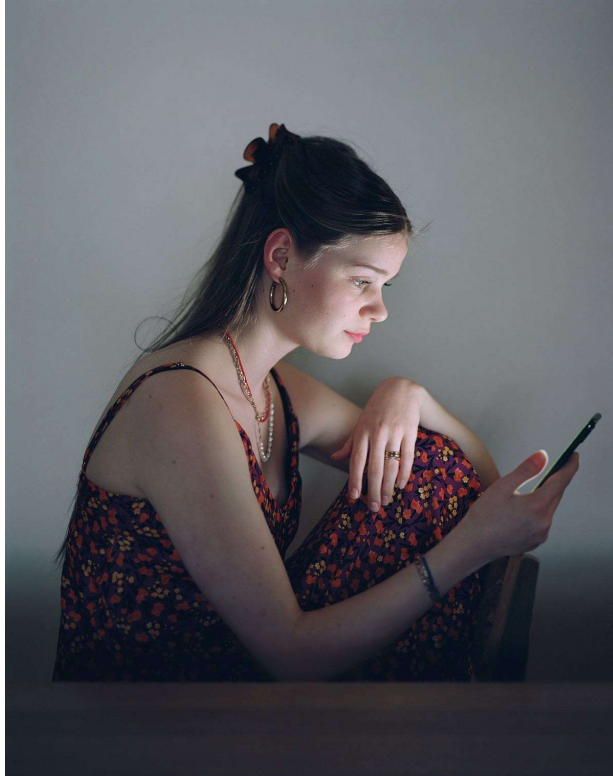


## Insights

- ▶ Silence and tranquility are different concepts. Silence does not always mean tranquility. Bird sounds can sometimes cause a lot of noise, but are relaxing. Sound levels are also experienced differently.
- ▶ In a city that is becoming busier, it is important that quiet places are close by in the city itself. It can help to appoint them explicitly to make them more accessible and easier to find. So an 'offline place to study' in the city center or an 'offline meeting room'
- ▶ Now it is often the responsibility of an individual to change their behavior. The best practices we mentioned focus on groups and make it easier to be offline. So who bears which responsibility for being offline? Shouldn't we have more 'offline places to study' in the city center or 'offline meeting rooms'?







What do you see?  
Thank you for your attention!



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Source: Gerard ter Borch & Rineke Dijkstra; FlashBack exposition Mauritshuis Den Haag