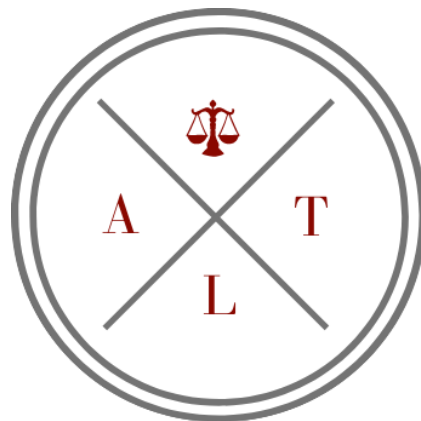


2024

# Case | Final Round

## Amsterdam Law Trials



3 May 2024

# Bangaboy List

**Content Note:** This case may contain references to sexual content, potentially coercive practices, and religious elements. Reader discretion is advised.

The Amsterdam Student Union (ASU) ranks among the oldest student associations in Amsterdam. Despite long-standing accusations of patriarchy and misogyny, recent years have seen significant reforms within the association. The ASU Senate 2023/2024, its governing body, is now predominantly female, led by Chair Sam Kluwer (she/her) and Treasurer Robin Wolters (she/her). Both Sam and Robin are law students at Amsterdam University (AU). Although ASU is not formally affiliated with AU, the university has long been closely connected with ASU and remains its primary sponsor.

In August 2023, ASU commenced a rigorous recruitment process for its new cohort. To demonstrate ASU's ambition to correct the gender imbalance of the past, this year, ASU established its first all-female initiation committee, including Sam, Robin, Isabella ten Bosch (she/her) and seven others. The ten-person initiation committee set up a WhatsApp group called 'Initiation '23' for internal communication.

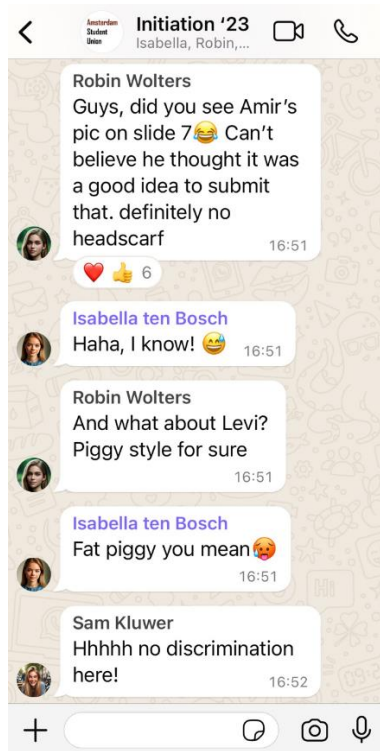
The initiation for the 2023/2024 cohort took place from 10 to 13 August. During this time, prospective members engaged in a series of hazing activities to test their dedication to joining ASU. On the evening of 13 August, the initiation committee informed fifteen boys that they had been selected to join ASU, on the condition that they voluntarily submit a photo of their penis to a WhatsApp group called 'Newbieboys2023' consisting of the fifteen boys and the ten girls from the initiation committee. Among these boys were Levi Cohen (he/him), Amir Al-Hassan (he/him), Joost van Linden (he/him), and Yusuf Ahmad (he/him).

Yusuf protested but was subsequently removed from the 'Newbieboys2023' group. He did not become a member of ASU. The other boys sent photos of their penises in the group chat. Everyone joked with each other, responding to photos with emojis like eggplant 🍆 and other creative comparisons.

Unknown to the boys, a presentation document titled 'Bangaboy List '23' was shared within the 'Initiation '23' group. The slideshow featured photos of the boys, each accompanied by the respective boy's name and the photo they submitted of their penis forwarded from the 'Newbieboys2023' group by the committee members. In addition, the presentation included comments on the boys' sexual performance and physical attributes, along with ratings from 0 to 5. Levi and Amir each received a score of 1 only, with comments such as 'circumcised', 'no headscarf', 'piggy style' and 'fat'. The document's last edited date was 25 August 2023.

On 12 April 2024, 'Bangaboy List '23' was leaked and circulated widely on social media. On the same day, a screenshot of the initiation committee's WhatsApp group was also leaked.





It remains unclear who leaked the presentation and the screenshot. Initially, ASU, its initiation committee, and the individuals involved all declined to comment on the matter. As the situation escalated, ASU publicly condemned the creation and distribution of the Bangaboy List on its website but stated it 'was the unsanctioned act of a few individuals and does not reflect the values or practices of ASU or its initiation committee' on 15 April 2024.

Nevertheless, in the same public statement, ASU acknowledged the need for significant cultural and procedural changes within the organisation, pledging to implement improvement measures, including training courses and revisions to the recruitment process, while disciplining individuals involved. The statement included the following text on sanctions for all initiation committee members:

*We have decided against the expulsion of the individuals involved. Our approach to sanctions involves not just retribution and deterrence but, importantly, focuses on restoration and prevention. The responsible individuals have been notified of the final suspension sanctions, which vary according to their involvement and can extend up to 2 years. This duration marks a precedent within ASU and underscores our firm stance against such behaviour. This decision is based on several factors: this is the first time that they did something like this; they did not themselves make the presentation public, nor did they intend to, and the identity of the individual who did so remains unknown; they are already facing significant consequences including threats and social isolation. At ASU, we believe in providing opportunities for learning and growth from mistakes, hence our decision to combine extended suspension and educational interventions rather than outright exclusion.*



## Amsterdam Law Trials 2024

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Amsterdam Honours College of Law (AHCL)  
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The leaked list not only sparked outrage in society but also subjected the boys to public criticism. Levi's and Amir's parents were particularly furious. Dissatisfied with ASU's response, they jointly hired a legal team to represent their children. They believe that the list, which judges sexual attractiveness based on circumcision, offends their Jewish and Islamic cultural and religious beliefs and has severely disrupted their private lives. They seek a declaratory judgment from the court affirming the wrongfulness of the Bangaboy List and symbolic damages of one euro for each of the two boys who came forward.

ASU is very concerned about the lawsuit. AU has already stated publicly that if the court finds ASU liable, it will cut its annual funding of 15,000 euro to ASU for the next five years.

\* \* \*

### Specific instructions:

1. Sam Kluwer and Joost van Linden will testify as witnesses in the final.
2. Any facts from the case for ALT 2024 first-round may not be used in the semi-finals and finals.
3. All exhibits included in the case materials are authentic. No objections to the authenticity of any exhibits will be entertained.
4. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR/*Algemene Verordening Gegevensbescherming*, AVG) and the Dutch Copyright Act (*Auteurswet*, Aw) are not applicable in this case (Levi Cohen and Amir Al-Hassan/ASU).

