



Victim Support Europe

VSE NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN 2018



GROWTH IS NEVER BY MERE CHANCE; IT IS THE RESULT OF FORCES WORKING TOGETHER!

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1. VSE NEWS

Our 21st of August campaign has been a success

On August 21st, VSE launched a 1-day social media campaign 'In the Light and the Dark' dedicated to those affected by terrorist attacks. The action aimed at raising awareness on the first International Day of remembrance of and tribute to victims of terrorism and it has been a success.

The campaign was received enthusiastically, achieving 13,703 views in Facebook only seven days after its launch, with over 5,000 impressions in Twitter in its first week and a trending hashtag #SurvivingTerrorism.

We thank VSE members for joining us in the creation of the video-poem and active participation in the campaign. Your dedication and contribution are invaluable!

[Watch the video-poem "In the Light and the Dark" >>](#)



Victim Support Europe pays tribute to the victims of terror attacks on the 1st International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to Victims of Terrorism

The President of Victim Support Europe João Lázaro and the Executive Director Levent Altan were among those attending the first ever International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to Victims of Terrorism commemoration service taking place in Brussels on the 21st of August. [Continue Reading >>](#)



Meet our new board member from Northern Ireland: Geraldine Hanna

VSE: What made you to decide to join VSE as board member?

Geraldine Hanna: I have worked in various roles within Victim Support in the UK for 17 years and am a keen supporter of the aims of VSE. Given Brendan's (former treasurer) need to step down as treasurer, I was keen to ensure that there was minimum impact on the work of VSE so offered to take on this role. I was delighted to have been approved at the last AGM and looking forward to the challenges and rewards that this role will no doubt bring. [Continue Reading >>](#)



Meet our new board member from Russia: Olga Kostina

VSE: What made you to decide to join VSE as board member?

Olga Kostina: Victim Support Russia is very committed to supporting and empowering victims and dedicated to improving the service we provide to victims of crime. Joining VSE board will give me the chance to learn from top victim support professionals, as well as the opportunity to share my knowledge and experiences with other board members. I'm excited to see VSE continue to move forward and expand internationally, and I want to make a meaningful contribution to that development and growth. [Continue Reading >>](#)



Meet our new board member from Austria: Tobias Koertner

VSE: What made you decide to join VSE as board member?

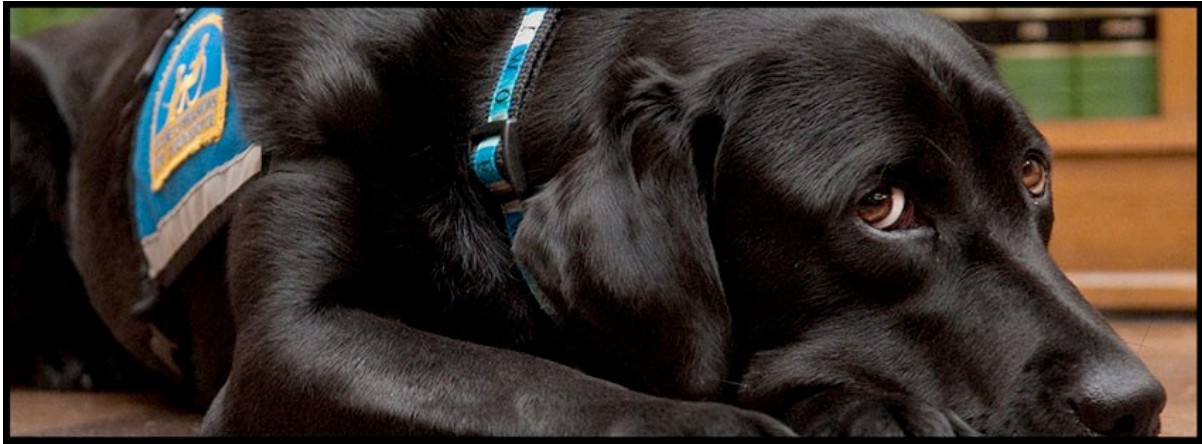
Tobias Koertner: I am mainly interested in the international networking and linking between victim support services and the possibilities this might offer to strengthen victims' rights and for policy making. With my psychological background and background in active victim support work, I hope to be able to provide some valuable input into the work of VSE. [Continue reading >>](#)



Courthouse Dogs: a New Approach to Help Vulnerable Witnesses

Levent Altan participated in a conference “Child-friendly justice and integrated child protection systems – lessons learned from EU projects” in Ireland. Focusing on best practices from abroad the conference featured the real examples on how we can improve our criminal justice system for the benefit of victims. A representative from the Seattle-based organisation, Courthouse Dogs Foundation, spoke about the impact that specially trained court dogs can have in helping particularly vulnerable victims, such as child victims of sexual abuse, to testify in court.

[Watch the video >>](#)



Centre of Excellence Meeting - a forum for VSE members for sharing best practices and challenges

On Tuesday 4th September 2018, Victim Support Europe and VSE member organisations working on the ‘116006 helpline’ and those providing distance support services participated in an online meeting in order to discuss priorities for the future and to prepare for the upcoming Centre of Excellence workshop that will be held in Mainz, Germany on

5-7 December 2018

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VSE is shooting ‘Good Human Rights Story’ video for the UN General Assembly Ministerial Week

The European External Action Service is launching “Good Human Rights Stories Initiative”, a cross-regional coalition of human rights-minded countries to develop and share a new positive narrative on Human Rights. The EU story will focus on the victims' rights.

Victim Support Europe have been asked by the EEAS to showcase good news stories relevant to victims rights. Therefore, we are preparing a 2-minute video which reflects how the EU has benefitted victims of crime.

The film will be shown at the UN General Assembly meeting in New York on the 27th of September, during which the EU together with other countries (14 foreign ministers and the UN) will launch the Good Human Rights Stories global initiative.

The ceremony will be chaired by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and the EU High

Representative for Foreign Affairs and Vice President, Federica Mogherini.



OPEN CALL:

JOIN VSE's 1-DAY SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN “#GoodHumanRightsStories” (27 September 2018)

By taking part in 1-day social media campaign, members share their positive victims' stories or victim support workers' stories in order to showcase positive practices of victim support services. On the 27th of September, Victim Support Europe will share a teaser of the 'Good Victim Rights Story' produced by EEAS in its Facebook and Twitter pages with the following hashtags: #GoodHumanRightsStories, #Stories2Inspire.

Then, VSE's members and stakeholders will join the initiative by sharing their own stories as a reaction to VSE's Facebook and Twitter posts: a photo, a video or a text – whatever form they prefer!

It would be great if we could create some momentum, particularly on victims rights, to highlight where things have gone right – including the individual efforts, e.g. the one police officer who went the extra mile.

Practicalities:

When: 27 September 2018 (as a reaction to VSE's Twitter and Facebook post which will be published on the 27th of September)

What: a photo, a video or a text depicting a good victim rights/victim support service experience

Where: Twitter, Facebook

Hashtags: #GoodHumanRightsStories, #Stories2Inspire

[Share the open call >>](#)



2. VSE EVENTS

The next VSE Autumn conference “Cybercrime and real world solutions” will take place on 11 & 12 December 2018

The Conference will provide an unique opportunity to address the most active issues related to cybercrime. This year’s theme will focus on a holistic approach to supporting victims. Much of the focus and prioritisation of work in the field has been on law enforcement, removal of images etc, without sufficient attention to supporting people who have been victimised. At the same time, awareness raising and prevention need to be an integral part of any support service working on cybercrime.

The conference will therefore explore these two different aspects of support, how they are best delivered and how this is achieved with victims from different areas such as fraud, bullying, non- consensual sexual image sharing, stalking etc.

The main conference days are the 11th and 12th of the month, with the focus on General Meeting and the workshop for VSE members being held on the 11th of December and the conference taking place on the 12th of December.

The detailed program is currently in progress. Please, save the date!

3. VSE FEATURE STORY

Victim Support Europe: Growing Our People with their Strengths



As any leader will agree, there are a multitude of ways you can invest in your organisation. There's always something new that promises to make our establishments better. But smart investing requires priorities, a strategy about where to put your resources first. And those priorities, according to Victim Support Europe, must start with the people, with the team.

VSE's Executive Director Levent Altan has led the organisation since November 2014. What was a couple of colleagues in VSE's headquarters 5 years ago has grown over the years to 8 Brussels Office team members, with 29% increase in membership and income growth by 200% through a range of funding sources by the end of 2017.

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4. VSE FEATURE INTERVIEW

Introducing Aleksandra Ivankovic, VSE's New Deputy Director

VSE: Tell us about your experience in human rights field, especially in human rights of the most disadvantaged groups. How did you get your start?

Aleksandra Ivankovic: My very first legal job started two exams before I officially graduated from law school – I was given a trial job as a junior lawyer at the Human Rights Chamber for Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Chamber was a post-civil war institution which was adjudicating human rights violations of Bosnia-Herzegovina citizens in the first few years after the war, before the country was accepted as a full member of the Council of Europe. Those were very trying times, where refugees and internally displaced were trying to reclaim their property and return to their homes and the wounds of war were still very fresh. This kind of got me hooked on the rights of the most fragile and the most vulnerable.

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5. NEWS FROM MEMBERS

News from Victim and Witness Support Service in Croatia:

The newly opened office in Varaždin made a change in its management / From June to August 2018, Victim and Witness Support Service held six out of seven workshops in Vukovar-Sirmium and Osijek-Baranja County, within the project "3 - PIP - Support, Information, Legal Aid to Protect the Elderly" funded by the Ministry of Family, Youth and Social Demography / On Monday, July 16, the organisation marked the 5th anniversary of National call center 's presence by sending media reports. The NCC has so far received 6950 calls from citizens and citizens

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News from Victim Support Finland:

In the period of January-June 2018, 106 victims of human trafficking receiving services from Victim Support Finland / New video on human trafficking released by Victim Support Finland / New cooperation model for preventing love scams

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News from London's European Office:

Mayor calls to protect victims of serious crime with insecure status.

Work carried out by Claire Waxman, London's first Victims' Commissioner, has highlighted cases of victims who are too frightened to report crimes and forced to remain in abusive relationships due to their immigration status. The government's hostile environment policies are leading to vulnerable people being denied access to much-needed services and facing significant risk of being unlawfully detained.

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News from Rete Dafne:

Rete Dafne Association is pleased to announce the creation of Rete Dafne Italia, the first National Crime Victims Support Network that provides general and specialised services to all crime victims. The official presentation of the National Network will be held in Verona, in September. [Continue Reading >>](#)

News from Victim Support Denmark:

In February, VS Denmark hosted a major conference at Christiansborg - the Danish parliament - with the subjects "victims of cybercrime and victims of terror"/ Nordic Meeting 2018 / OID General Meeting 2018 / A visit from Germany

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News from International Cruise Victims (ICV):

Missing on the high seas: When passengers disappear on cruises.

A woman goes overboard and survives ten hours in the Adriatic. Similar cases often end in death: every year more than 20 people disappear on cruise ships. Survivors worldwide fight for stricter security measures - and come across granite.

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News from White Circle Croatia:

White Circle Croatia represented its volunteering programme on SOS free phonenumber 0800 63 29 in Youth Club Association Split / White Circle Croatia started with project co-funded by Ecumenical Initiative of Women "With Care for Others to New Beginnings" / White Circle Croatia participated in a conference in Zagreb organized by Documenta / Handbook for victims of criminal offence was formally published on 12th March/Appearance in media regarding Istanbul Convention / In July, annual report "Position and rights of victims in Republic of Croatia" was published.

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News from Victim Support Northern Ireland:

Belfast's annual Pride Parade / VS NI launched our Victims' Journey microsite on our website / VS NI has taken on the administration of a project called the Aggression Related Trauma Project (ART).

[Continue Reading >>](#)

News from Weisser Ring Germany:

WEISSER RING publishes a Draft for a new Victim Compensation Act.

For several years, there is a movement to improve compensation for victims of crime in Germany. As the only federal Victim Support Organization in Germany with more than 40 years of experience in victim support and the Victim Compensation Law, WEISSER RING has decided to actively take part in this process.

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News from Victimology Society of Serbia:

The Multi Donor Trust Fund for Justice Sector Support (MDTF-JSS) in partnership with the Victimology Society of Serbia implemented the project Raising awareness on victims' rights in Serbia.

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News from Associazione LIBRA Onlus:

Libra Onlus project "Sapori di Libertà" (English version: Taste of Freedom) is currently being implemented. It is much more than a real opportunity for offenders for the re-inclusion and for re-entering the society. [Continue Reading >>](#)

6.MEMBER AND STAKEHOLDER EVENTS

Hate No More Conference, Lisbon, 26 September 2018

On September 26th, Lisbon will host the Hate No More conference about hate crimes and hate speech. This is an international conference, promoted by the Portuguese Association for Victim Support (APAV) in partnership with several portuguese organisations: the Judiciary Police (PJ), the Public Prosecution Office (PGR), and the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality, and international organisations such as Faith Matters (United Kingdom), Solidarci (Italy), Swedish Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority (Sweden), Victim Support Austria (Austria), and Victim Support Malta (Malta).

For registration and more information, please visit [conference website](#).



IX Annual Conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia New and Old Forms of Victimization: Challenges for Victimology Theory and Practice, 29th and 30th November 2018, Belgrade.

Within the main Conference topic, the focus will be on reconsidering and reimagining new and old forms of victimization, their characteristics and social responses to them, particularly in the context of the development of new technologies, globalization and fast social and economic changes.

[Read more >>](#)



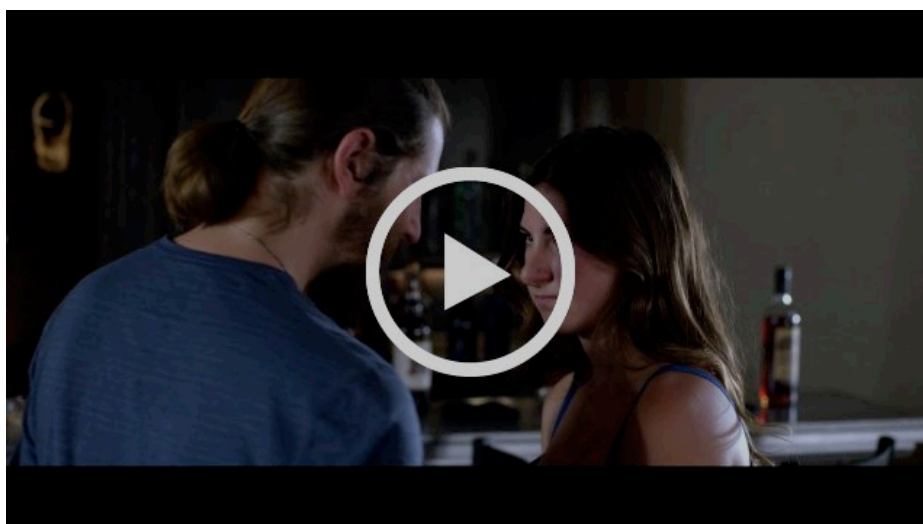
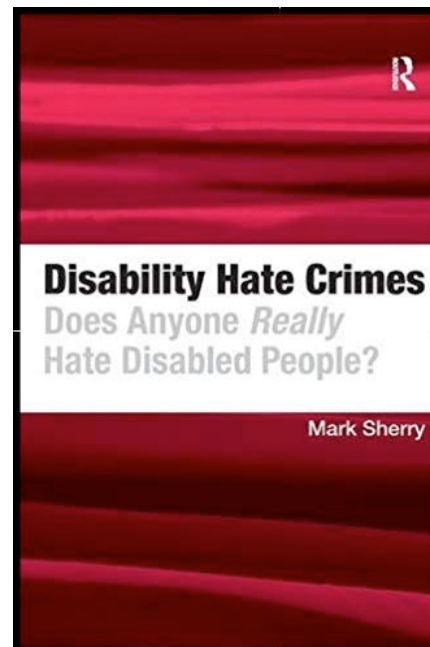
EU Gender Equality Law: Seminar for legal practitioners Trier, 5 November 2018 – 6 November 2018

The seminar will provide participants with an overview of EU gender equality legislation as interpreted by the Court of Justice of the European Union in its large case law on this topic. [Read more on ERA website.](#)

7. VSE'S BOOK PICK

"Disability Hate Crimes: Does Anyone Really Hate Disabled People?" by Mark Sherry

This ground-breaking book shows that disability hate crimes do exist, that they have unique characteristics which distinguish them from other hate crimes, and that more effective policies and practices can and must be developed to respond and prevent them. With particular focus on the UK and USA's contrasting response to this issue, this book will help readers to define hate crimes as well as place them within their wider social context. It discusses the need for legislative recognition and essential improvements on the reporting of incidents and assistance for individual victims of these crimes, as well as the need to address the social exclusion of disabled people and the negative attitudes surrounding their condition.



FILM WORTH YOUR TIME

“Trafficked”

The film does a great job in showing how widespread the issue of human and sex trafficking is, and the participants in the industry. Trafficked also touches upon various bioethical issues—abortion, consent, mistreatment of and violence against women, and even organ trafficking—and demonstrates how they are all linked together.

The film focuses on three young women from different countries—Amba from India, Mali from Nigeria, and Sara from California—who were all forced into the being sex slaves.

Amba was sold out of revenge by an upset suitor whom Amba rejected; Mali, who had been a sex slave for 5 years, was thrown into this world when she was forced to find work to support her son, Nelson; and Sara was deceived by a fake CPS agent (Ashley Judd) and forced into sex slavery. Many themes are constantly highlighted throughout the movie: money, violence, hope, desperation, togetherness and determination. Sara is beaten various times for her lack of obedience and submission; Amba is forced into having an abortion; and Mali is the optimistic one who cares for both of them throughout.

Together,

they attempt an escape—from the house in which they are trapped and from the industry. In the end, only Sara and Amba are successful in escaping from both, while Mali was sold once again and shown caring for a young girl on the side of the street

whom at the end of
the film.



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About Victim Support Europe

Victim Support Europe is an umbrella organisation which currently consists of 50 national and regional victim support organisations in 27 countries.

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