



Report of meeting

Representatives from Brussels based human rights NGOs participated in the EU NGO Round Table organised by VSE and hosted by the DG Justice of the European Commission on 16 October 2019. It was the 6th time that the EU NGO Round Table is organised.

Participants: Confederation of European Probation, European Forum for Restorative Justice, Inclusion Europe, End FGM European Network, PICUM, European Disability Forum, TGEU Transgender Europe, Mental Health Europe, European Commission, VSE.

The European Commission opened the meeting with some important information: there are currently cases of infringement proceedings against 25 Member States for incorrect transposition of the Victims' Rights Directive. It is not the objective of the Commission to bring Member States to Court, they rather help them to implement the directive during bilateral meetings. The European Commission organises a high level expert meeting on victims' rights on 6 November.

Session 1 - Roundtable on current activities and priorities for 2020

Participants shared their current priorities and future work in the field of victims' rights.

Confederation of European Probation (CEP):

- Summer 2019 with European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ), organise a summer course focus on management of sexual offenders in the broad sense.
- 2020: will organise an event with probation and restorative justice service in the Czech Republic, will focus on offenders and victims. Work on drafting recommendation on treatment of sexual offender in prison and probation.

European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ):

- Just started a new project on restorative justice for child victims (with Terre des hommes). Children are actively involved and participate in design of training and awareness raising campaigns on restorative justice. Results of project can be found on the website.
- New project *Let's go* with Barcelona university. Focus on research of restorative justice in hate crimes.
- Strengthening relation with RAN network. RAN expressed interest to meet the needs of victims of terrorism by understanding more restorative justice.
- Closed event at beginning of December on VoT, former combatant and experts on victims' rights and restorative justice.
- Every 2 years: summer school, this July in Poland child restorative justice.
- 3rd week of November: European restorative justice week. Launch booklet in environmental justice. Needs of corporate victims too. Launch on 19 November.
- 2020: international conference in Italy, Justice beyond borders. Call for papers is open.

- In coming month, develop a practice guidance's and self-assessment tool on restorative justice for practitioners.
- Plan to develop training programme on restorative justice.

Inclusion Europe:

- Be safe project: cybercrime. Case studies. Guide for people with intellectual disabilities in various languages: they can approach police, how to talk to police. Guide for police officers on how to deal with people with intellectual disabilities. AAC (Advanced augmentative and alternative communication) tool to ease communication between police officers and people with intellectual disabilities. Resources for trainers organising trainings for teachers/persons with intellectual disabilities. Videos to raise-awareness on dangers on the Internet and how to get support.
- Life after violence – was a project on women with intellectual disabilities who have lived in institutions in the Netherlands. Women with disabilities are much more often victims of violence and difficult to access victims support. Project (now called “Women empowerment”) has been extended to Croatia, Italy, Lithuania and Romania.
- Currently have two surveys (now closed, results available soon) on accessibility of victim support services to women with intellectual disabilities and involvement of women in intellectual disabilities in women's organisations.
- Project (“Inclusive Campus Life”) about how universities can be made accessible for students with intellectual disabilities & how to involve them as teachers, e.g. for students of social work.
- Inter-agency research.

End FGM European Network:

- 2020: services available to survivor of FGM on online map.
- 2019: preparing paper on services available, focus on asylum. Reception conditions and integration policies in each country: legislative side and what it is in practice, what are the gaps, what are the lessons Member States can learn from each other.
- Launching a booklet : how to talk about FGM. Event in December: about importance of language, how we as orga can work together in terms of common priorities;

PICUM:

- Guidance for shelter, publication for law enforcement.
- Framework of good practices on safe reporting – put together examples from MS; from national and local levels to show what is already in place
- Campaign on terminology.
- Issue of personal data, looking more closely in context of GDPR

TGEU Transgender Europe:

- Research on transgender people in EU
- Report of the trans-murder

European Disability Forum: Work done in 2019 and plan to do in 2020:

- Training on “your rights within EU” for members in Romania. Discussion to hold another one in Croatia next year. Look into updated the document to include more victims' rights

- Women community: combatting violence against women
- Legal remedies and how to support victim with disabilities
- Advocate for compliance UN Declaration people with disabilities
- Accessibility of victim support services

Mental Health Europe:

- Collected promising practices on coercion – one of the biggest human rights abuses to persons with disabilities and mental ill health in institution. Institutionalisation is a priority.
- Report on alternative to coercion – event beginning in December.

VSE:

- 2019: Report on compensation for all victims of crime
- Organising national meetings and regional meetings, strategic litigation, training, victims of terrorism, mapping of all existing victim support organisations in Europe
- Hate crime – campaigns:
 - o Making victims' rights a reality (22 February 2019); with project EEAS good human rights stories
 - o Crime is crime even online: awareness raising of rights of victims of crime in all EU member States, provide visibility for our members. Training at VSE Autumn conference
- Finalised VOciare Project: report that analyses practical implementation of the Victims' Rights Directive in all Member States.
- Autumn Conference 20 November – time to act: push MS to take this seriously and start implement rights
- Priorities for 2020: access and report, data protection, EU victims strategy, 5 year strategy , National framework for victim support services, Gender based violence

Session 2 - EU funding opportunities and challenges

Representatives from the financial department of the European Commission presented the different programmes and calls that will be available for civil society in 2020.

The **Rights equality and citizenship program of the European Commission** will focus on strengthening the implementation of fundamental rights in EU (data protection, gender-based violence, gender equality, racism, discrimination). One specific objective on Gender based violence: children, young people and women. It is a yearly call of proposal of 14 million euros.

The **Annual programme for 2020** will be adopted in November and the call will be published in December. Priorities: prevention, support of victim of violence against women, violence against children.

Calls within the JUST programme will be published in December with a deadline for submission at the end of April.

MFF – 1 billion 800 hundreds in negotiations over the course of 7 years for the whole programme. Under programme, fight against violence for young people, woman and children. New trends -> EU values: intend to support NGOs and organisations to foster the respect of EU fundamental rights.

Participants discussed the struggle for grassroots organisations to take part in EU projects and expressed the wish to have easier administrative requirements for applying and reporting to the European Commission.

Session 3 - Priorities for next 5 years in terms on engagement with European Parliament and European Commission

Organisation	Priorities
VSE	Under-reporting, access to justice, emerging crimes, e-evidence, data protection. Resilient societies: How do we achieve resilience pre attack or pre crime, inform population so they are aware, reduce victimisation, society know how to respond better to victims. Empowering citizens to support victims. Trauma trained experts. EU can promote more in the health sector to support victims – health and justice sector can work together. Promoting partnership between civil society and State and funding of the civil society so they can deliver their services.
CEP	Inter-agency collaboration in communities (VS, police, housing, probation, work together)
PICUM	Collaboration between different actors, role of NGO in relation to law enforcement. Safe reporting. NYPD – report on victim support Person, focal point to support victims and can connect with specialist services Linked to European values – collaboration of NGO and government.
European Forum for Restorative justice	Strengthening advocacy activity at EU level: more binding instruments for restorative justice. The Council of Europe launched the recommendations, UN revising work on restorative justice. European Commission could also push for this. Will launch a new working group on Gender based violence and one on restorative justice and violent extremism. Restorative justice and hate crime Inter-agency collaboration Transform research results in policy and practice
Inclusion Europe	Project about university being accessible for student with disabilities. research and academics. Inter-agency research.
End FGM	Education: module: created 19 modules in 4 different countries to teach in school

European Network	<p>on health education and know your rights. Sharing research between NGOs. Engagement with EP: push for ensuring that there is a gender equality focal point in each committee. Not much dialogue in the different committees; focus on LIBE, DEVE, DROI, FEMM. Istanbul convention: education, FGM,</p>
European Commission	<p>EC will evaluate the implementation of the directive in practice. Priority first is to close infringement procedures in the next year. EP is an important ally in issues relation to victims' rights, equality. The Commission is pushing civil society to be more in touch with MEPs, inviting them to events. Pilot project 1 Million euro EU Center Expertise for Victims of Terrorism. E-evidence proposal – access to evidence online.</p>