

The Obligations of Prevention, Protection and Assistance to Victims of Crime

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Presentation

- Victim Support Europe
- Victims' Needs
- Victims' Rights in international and European instruments: **Theory vs Practice**
- Future action





**over
2 million
victims
supported
every year**

56 organisations:
*NGOs, State, Individuals,
Universities*

31 countries

5000+
staff and volunteers

Est. 1990

*To promote rights and services for **all** victims of crime in Europe.*

The voice of victims in Europe

Advocacy to improve EU and international laws, research and knowledge development, capacity building at the national and local level.

**ACCESS TO
JUSTICE**



**SUPPORT AND
INFORMATION**



PROTECTION



**RESPECT AND
RECOGNITION**



**COMPENSATION
AND
RESTORATION**



Victims' Needs

Individual
needs

Specific
groups

General needs

Victims' needs as a starting points



5 general needs



Needs of specific groups

Trafficked, LGBTI+, disabled, terrorism, religious.



Individual needs

Personal situation and character.

VICTIMS' RIGHTS: THEORY VS PRACTICE



United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime

- Art.14.2 – **compensation**
- Art.18 – **mutual legal assistance** (transnational); **participation of victims in criminal proceedings, voluntary appearance of victims.**
- Art. 25 – **Assistance** and **protection** of victims
 - Against **threat of retaliation or intimidation**
 - **Compensation**
 - Enable **views and concerns of victims**
- Art. 29 – **training** and **technical assistance**
 - **Prevention, detection and control**
 - (i) Methods used in the **protection of victims** and witnesses
- Art. 31 – **Prevention**
 - **Awareness raising**
 - **Collaboration** : international and regional

...VICTIMS' RIGHTS: THEORY VS PRACTICE

Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children

- Art. 6:
 - Information
 - Assistance
 - Physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking
 - Housing, counselling, information, medical-psychological-material assistance, employment and educational opportunities.
 - Individual needs (age, gender, etc.)
- Art. 9 : protect against revictimisation
- Art 10: Information exchange and training

Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air

- Art. 15.2: public information to prevent potential migrants from falling victim to organised criminal groups.
- Art 16: Protection and assistance measures:
 - Protection against violence
 - Protection against exploitation
 - Special needs of women and children

...VICTIMS' RIGHTS: THEORY VS PRACTICE

Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime



...VICTIMS' RIGHTS: THEORY VS PRACTICE



Women who have experienced violence seek help

These same women report to the police

Victim claimed revictimisation discouraged or prevented them from continuing with legal proceedings

Victims claim they did not receive sufficient information and did not understand the information received.

Future Action

Working together to promote and protect victims' rights in Europe

- Victim-oriented justice system
- Victim-sensitive approach
- Education for justice
- Improving accessible, understandable information
 - Awareness raising
- Ensuring effective referral mechanisms
- Training of **all** professionals who come into contact with victims of crime.
 - Recognising the signs of trafficking
 - Knowing when, where and how to refer
 - Liaison between LEA and victim services
- Safeguards for reporting
- Firewalls for accessing justice



Thank You

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