



#victimsupporteu
you won't believe it,
but  exists



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2022

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VSE NEWS

VSE Annual Conference 2022 – Early Bird Registration is still open!



Join Victim Support Europe's Annual Conference '[The Age of Resilience](#)' which will take place in Malta on 11-12 May 2022!

The Conference is an international event bringing together the key players working with victims of crime. In 2022, the event will be held physically again, at [Urban Valley Resort](#) in Kappara, which is a very central and quaint area in Malta.

The discussion aims at highlighting the ways to achieve resilience, individual, social, and structural, by sharing resilience strategies and approaches to contain systemic threats.

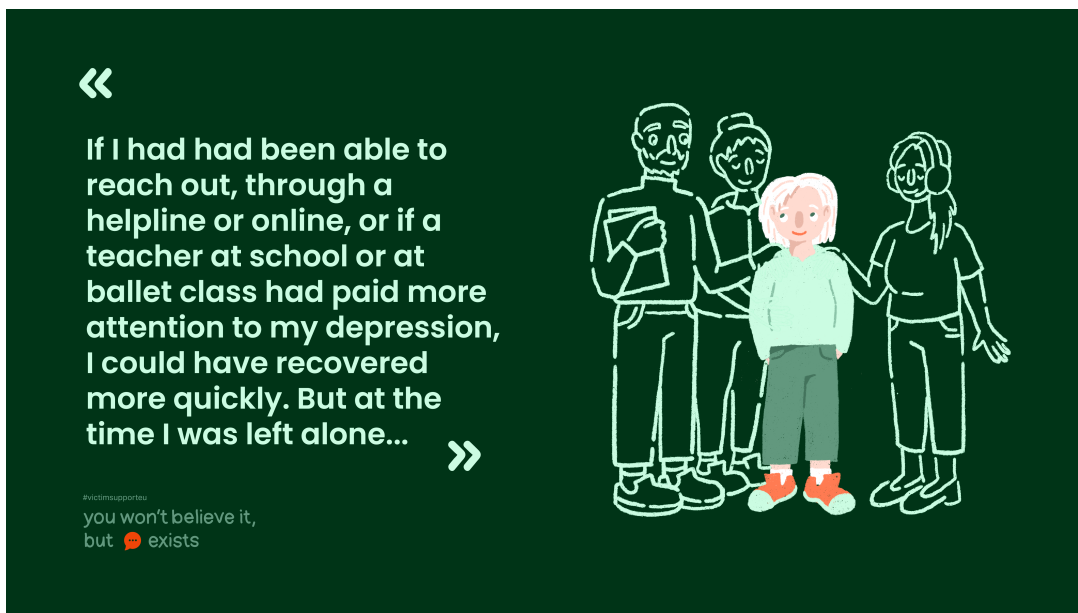
The early bird registrations are open till 1 April, places are limited so make sure to register. Please find the registration link [here](#).

[→ LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CONFERENCE](#)

Victim Support Europe's "You won't believe it, but it exists" campaign has come to an end

After a year of raising awareness of victims' rights among victim support community and general public, the 'You won't believe, but it exists...' campaign is coming to an end. Conducted with 14 partners across 13 different countries, the campaign intended to inform general public of the existence of victim support services and to encourage victims to reach out these services. Animation speed-paintings, videos and other information materials were rolled out in social media and offline from 22 of February 2021 till the end of March 2022 under the hashtag #itexists.

On March 21, VSE is launching the last eighth [animation film](#) of the 'You won't believe it, but it exists...' series. The video shows how Wendy, victim of sexual abuse, coped with trauma when there was no support available.



VSE will keep the wealth of resources created for the campaign on the dedicated [campaign webpage](#) and remains committed to continue its campaigning efforts in 2022 to:

1. advocate for the full and effective implementation of existing EU legislation
2. influence EC's proposal for revision of EU law related to victims' rights
3. mainstream victims' rights in all EU policies
4. support members to advocate on the national level

We would like to thank all campaign partners for their contributions to the content development and dissemination: Bijeli Krug Croatia, Victim Support Denmark, Victim Support Finland, France Victimes, Associazione Libra Onlus, Rete Dafne Italia, The Portuguese Association for Victim Support (APAV) and Victim Support Sweden.

In the coming months, VSE will continue to wholeheartedly pursue our awareness-raising goals. We are excited to start building up the **Victims' Rights Communicators Network** that has been faithfully prepared for the establishment over the past years and to push ahead toward the achievement of even bolder social goals for our sector.

Thanks to our members and partners for being a part of it.

Check out the animation films to inspire your own efforts.

[STORY 1 - EU](#)

[STORY 2 - CROATIA](#)

[STORY 3 - ITALY](#)

[STORY 4 - DENMARK](#)

[STORY 5 - FINLAND](#)

[STORY 6 - SWEDEN](#)

[STORY 7 - FRANCE](#)

[STORY 8 - BELGIUM](#)

[→ LEARN MORE](#)

Victim Support Europe welcomes the European Commission's proposal on combating violence against women and domestic violence



On the occasion of the International Women's Day (8 March), the European Commission presented a strong proposal for a Directive to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and protect and support its victims.

Victim Support Europe welcomes this new comprehensive legislative proposal that sets standards for prevention, protection, support, access to justice and compensation for victims of different forms of violence, in particular women victims of gender-based violence.

[→ READ MORE](#)

Commemorating Victims of Terrorism

Every year on 11 March, the European Remembrance Day for Victims of Terrorism, we come together to show our solidarity, to demonstrate that victims are neither forgotten nor alone.

This year, Victim Support Europe would like to reflect on the EU Centre of Expertise for Victims of Terrorism (EUCVT), a project that was completed in December 2021.

[→ READ MORE](#)

Call for implementation and funding of 116 006 helplines in all EU countries



VSE welcomes the [statement](#) by Didier Reynders, EU Commissioner for Justice, and Eric Dupont-Moretti, Keeper of the Seals, French Minister for Justice, concerning the European 116 006 victim support helpline.

Helplines are an essential first point of contact for victims and are a means of support. They allow victims receive free information and support in a confidential, safe manner. Yet, to achieve such support for all victims of crime, it is crucial to establish 116006 helplines throughout all EU Member States.

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VSE's work towards victim centred justice systems

The theme of this year's European Day for Victims of Crime and of the VSE Action Week 2022 focused on safe justice for victims throughout the criminal justice proceedings. This resonates with the fifth strategic priority for VSE in the upcoming years. Accessing safe justice systems remains a fundamental problem for victims. Not only do many victims never enter the justice system, but for many the experience is unnecessarily traumatic. There are many examples of rules and actions which are harmful to victims, as well as jurisdictions which follow more victim centric approaches.



VSE will spend the coming years improving its knowledge on what works best, understanding where countries are failing or succeeding, and promoting improvements in justice systems.

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VSE's President Geraldine Hanna is new NI victims of crime commissioner



Victim Support Europe's President Geraldine Hanna has been announced as the new Victims of Crime Commissioner Designate for NI. The appointment was made following an open competition and Geraldine will take up office on 13 June for a term of three years with the potential for an extension of up to one year.

Geraldine has been a superb CEO of [Victim Support NI](#) and provided great leadership to Victim Support Europe over the last number of years.

We are confident that with her experience she can realise much of the potential and possibilities for improving wellbeing for victims of crime. We wish Geraldine the best in this new term of office.

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VSE's live debate on the Future of Justice for Victims in the EU



Were you unable to attend VSE's live debate on the Future of Justice for Victims in the EU? Watch the recording on our YouTube channel.

[→ WATCH THE VIDEO](#)



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VSE PROJECT NEWS

PREVICT Project | What makes a victims' rights campaign effective?



[PREVICT](#) (Promoting Rights of European Victims) project provides useful lessons about research-based information campaigns to deliver effective victims' rights awareness efforts.

[→ READ MORE](#)

Project CREST | Technological help to fight crime and terrorism



In these times where crime and terrorism still pose a major threat to any member state's security, it is important to highlight the dedication shown by [CREST](#) project partners in achieving a system which will allow to fight these issues more efficiently and accurately.

[→ READ MORE](#)

[AREV Project](#) | A great step forward for Estonian victims of crime!



Since the adoption of the 2012 EU Victims' Rights Directive, Estonia has made significant progress on improving the rights, support, and protection of victims of crime. While the provision of state support was established in 2006, the [116 006 helpline](#) for victims of crime has been operational since 2019, and 22 victim support offices, attached to police stations, were created in 2020. Yet, recent research, surveys, and assessment of the Directive show that a majority of Estonian victims of crime still do not receive the support they need.

[→ LEARN MORE](#)

[Project PROTECT](#) | Exchanging good practices on restorative justice and promoting the victims' rights protection



On March 15 was the start of a 3-day joint training event for restorative justice and victims' rights practitioners, organised under the [Protect Erasmusplus project](#), kindly hosted by [APAV | Associação Portuguesa de Apoio à Vítima](#) in Lisbon.

VSE Executive Director Levent Altan presented an overview of the EU Victims' Directive & the EU Strategy on Victims' Rights (2020 - 2025).

The project aims at exchanging good practices on restorative justice and promoting the victims' rights protection.

[→ LEARN MORE](#)



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NEWS FROM VSE MEMBERS

ALBANIA: On the occasion of the European Day for the Rights of Victims, CRCA/ECPAT Albania, held a roundtable discussion: The voices of the survivors of sexual violence in Albania

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FINLAND: Victim Support Finland produces and publishes various guides and other material necessary for improving the position of victims of crime. Below you will find links to RIKU's own publications as well as such publications that are produced by others, which are directly linked to the position of a victim of crime.

[→ READ MORE](#)

GERMANY: Weisser Ring have contributed to the VSE Action Week 2022! Weisser Ring have been working for years to raise awareness of hatred spread in society. With this video the organisation wants to give advice to witnesses on how to help the victim!

[→ WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

ITALY: Discover the latest projects of Libra Onlus Association

[→ READ MORE](#)

NEW ZEALAND: Leading transformation: An Interview with Kevin Tso – Victim Support New Zealand

[→ READ MORE](#)

PORTUGAL: The Portuguese Association for Victim Support (APAV) launched a new awareness campaign: To speak is a sign of strength

[→ READ MORE](#)

SCOTLAND: Victim Support Scotland launched their new campaign, [#MindMyVoice](#), focusing on untold stories of people affected by crime.

[→ READ MORE](#)

SWEDEN: Become a language volunteer

[→ READ MORE](#)

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About Victim Support Europe

Victim Support Europe is the leading European umbrella organisation advocating on behalf of all victims of crime, no matter what the crime, no matter who the victim is. VSE represents 65 national member organisations, providing support and information services to more than 2 million people affected by crime every year in 31 countries.

- **Contact Victim Support Europe:**

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