

JOINT STATEMENT SIGNED BY OVER 60 ORGANISATIONS

Welcoming the European Commission's Publication of the Revised Victims' Rights Directive

#NoVictimLeftBehind



Co-funded by the European Union

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2023



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- 01.

VSE NEWS

VSE Annual Conference 2023 was a great success! Recordings now available online.



**PROTECTING
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS,
A VICTIM'S PERSPECTIVE**
Victim Support Europe Annual Conference 2023
7TH TO 9TH JUNE / BERLIN


**Victim Support
Europe**



Co-funded by
the European Union

HOSTED BY:

 **WEISSER RING**
Wir helfen Kriminalitätsoffern.

THANK YOU to all #VSEAC2023 participants!



The #VSEAC2023 held just over a month ago was a great success and the videos are now available to watch online via our [YouTube channel](#).

The H4 Conference Center in Berlin was filled with people from all over the world passionate about protecting victims' rights and advancing support services. The conference theme, "Protecting Fundamental Freedoms, a victim's perspective", proved to be of considerable interest to conference attendees, who said they really enjoyed the variety of topics and passion of the speakers.

Presenters included a diverse array of experts in the field: frontline victim support workers, policymakers, law enforcement professionals, technology providers, academics, journalists and civil society activists.

The conference also included a special moment to honour the commitment and dedication of victims' rights advocates: Helgard Van Hullen, one of the founding mothers of VSE, whose tireless dedication has set the standard for generations to come, and João Lazaro, former president of VSE, whose unwavering passion has propelled us towards progress.

👉 [WATCH THE VIDEO #VSEAC2023 DAY 1: Why democracy and fundamental freedoms matter for victim's rights?](#)

👉 [WATCH THE VIDEO #VSEAC2023 DAY 2: Nexus between fundamental rights protection, conflict prevention, and police work](#)

👉 [WATCH THE VIDEO #VSEAC2023 DAY 3: Supporting victims from conflict-affected areas](#)

JOINT STATEMENT: Welcoming the European Commission's Publication of the Revised Victims' Rights Directive

We are thrilled to welcome the publication of the European Commission's revision of the Victims' Rights Directive! This significant step marks a remarkable milestone in safeguarding the rights and well-being of victims across

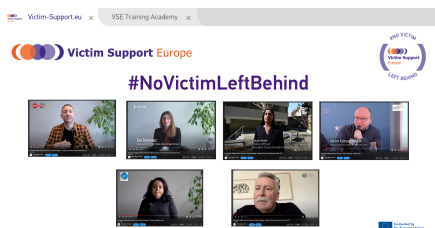


Europe.

VSE and signatories have been working for decades to improve the situation of the most vulnerable and most marginalised in society. This is why we commit to fully supporting the revision process, and the implementation of the Directive, and we urge the European Parliament and EU Member States to do the same. We call on all relevant stakeholders to work together, to create a Europe where each and every individual is supported and empowered after falling victim to a crime.

[→ READ THE STATEMENT](#)

Video Campaign for Revision of the Victim’s Rights Directive



We have invited leading European NGOs to join our online video campaign highlighting the importance of the revision of the Victims Rights Directive for different groups of victims. The campaign contributors answered the following questions in their video messages:

1. Why a revision of the EU Victim’s Rights Directive is important to this specific group of victims?
2. What are the concrete ways in which the rights and needs of this specific group of victims can be enhanced within the revision of the Victims’ Rights Directive?

Explore the [campaign guide](#) that outlines how VSE members and partners can support the action.

[→ LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN](#)

VSE’s Deputy Director Aleksandra Ivanković on [FYDO Europe](#) for the Spanish newspaper “20 Minutos”



Victim support professionals, in the US and Canada, have – for many years – worked with facility dogs to offer support to the most vulnerable victims of crimes. In Europe, interest in this type of victim support has grown over the past 10 years, and a number of isolated, non-regulated, non-standardised initiatives were launched.

As [Victim Support Europe](#) is the European umbrella organisation that advocates for high quality services for victims of crime, we at felt that this was an initiative with much potential; however, as a network of victim support professionals, we knew little about dog training. So, in 2019, we partnered with victim support and dog training professionals to develop a highly standardised programme for the training of justice facility dogs and their handlers, under a watchful eye of university researchers. We knew that many victims could benefit from the support of facility dogs, but we needed to ensure that any programme offered to very vulnerable victims was fail-proof and closely monitored.

[→ READ THE ARTICLE](#)

“How Do I Measure The Value Of A Human Life?” | Astrid Passin – Testimonial at [#VSEAC2023](#)



In the wake of unspeakable tragedy, voices of resilience and courage emerge to share their harrowing experiences. Today, we bring you the testimonial of Astrid Passin, a victim of terrorism. Astrid's life was forever changed when she found herself caught in the midst of a violent act that shattered countless lives. Her story serves as a powerful reminder of the profound impact of terrorism and the unwavering strength of those affected.

[→ READ THE ARTICLE](#)

“Discover the power of Google Ad Grants to boost non-profit organisations” workshop | Registration now open (VSE Members Only!)



On the 13th of October, the members of [the Victims' Rights Communicators Network](#) have an opportunity to attend an online workshop on the power of Google Ad Grants to boost non-profit organisations conducted by Lore Van Besien, the founder and manager of AdSpecialist. Lore has been Account Manager at Google since 2007, at the AdWords (now Google Ads) department in Dublin. There she became a true expert in

all Google Ads formats and Google Analytics.

About the workshop

Did you know that all victim support organisations can apply for a free advertising budget of \$10.000 per month to advertise on Google's search engine?

This programme is called 'Google Ad Grants' and during this workshop, we will show you how you can use it to better reach your advertising goals as an organisation. Together with an expert, we'll have a look at the application process, so you have all the tools at hand to get your organisation approved.

But that's just the beginning! Next, we show you how you can set up your first campaign, using a real-life example from Victim Support Europe. Finally, you will learn how to interpret the campaign's outcome to find valuable opportunities for improvement and to unlock the hidden potential to amplify your organisation's reach.

Do not miss this opportunity to kick-start a game-changing campaign for your organisation.

[→ REGISTER \(VSE MEMBERS ONLY\)](#)



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VSE PROJECT NEWS

[2gether4victims Project](#) | 2Gether4Victims project kicks off with the aim to enhance support for victims of gender-based violence



Partners of the [2Gether4Victims project](#) met for a first in-person partner meeting in Brussels on 12 and 13 July 2023. The project aims to improve support services for victims of gender-based violence (GBV) and domestic violence (DV). This ambitious endeavour brings together 11 partners from 7 countries, united in their mission to coordinate and harmonise generic and specialist support services, while implementing a gendered approach to meet the unique

needs of victims.

[→ LEARN MORE](#)

[Project DISRUPT](#) | **DISRUPT Project Kick-Off Meeting Sets the Stage for a Digital-Led Fight Against Child Trafficking**



In a powerful display of international collaboration, five partners hailing from five different countries came together virtually for the highly anticipated DISRUPT kick-off meeting. The project consortium, comprising [University of Malta](#) (Malta, coordinator), [Law and Internet Foundation](#) (Bulgaria), [CESIE](#) (Italy), [VICESSE](#) (Austria) and [Victim Support Europe](#) (Belgium, EU), united with a shared vision – to combat child trafficking using cutting-edge digital solutions.

[→ LEARN MORE](#)

[Project INVERT](#) | **Disrupting Criminal Business: The Fight Against Human Trafficking**



In an unwavering commitment to combat labor exploitation and human trafficking, a formidable coalition of European organisations has come together to launch the INVERT project. As part of the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) key EU priorities, INVERT sets out to disrupt the financial underpinnings of criminal traffickers and intensify the fight against this harrowing crime.

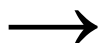
[→ LEARN MORE](#)

[LINK Project](#) | **Inadequate Child Protection Systems in Criminal Proceedings: A European Initiative to Empower Vulnerable Child Victims**



In a bid to address the myriad challenges faced by child victims with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities within the criminal justice system, the European Union recently unveiled a groundbreaking project called “Linking Information for Adaptive and Accessible Child-Friendly Courts” (LINK). The initiative, spanning two years from June 2023 to May 2025, has been granted EUR 649,930.22 in financial support.

[→ LEARN MORE](#)



NEWS FROM VSE MEMBERS

BULGARIA: Key takeaways from the workshop led by 'Law and Internet Foundation "[Boys' Right to Be Free of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Online](#)" at the VSE Annual Conference 2023.

[→ WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

BELGIUM: Key takeaways from the workshop led by 'CAW' and 'Helpline1712' "[Ensuring the right to support for victims of violence and abuse. Overcoming barriers to support services as part of an aid continuum: the example of professional helplines and specialised services of the Centres for General Welfare Work \(CAW\) in Flanders, Belgium](#)" at the VSE Annual Conference 2023.

[→ WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

BELGIUM: Key takeaways from the workshop led by 'V-Europe' in collaboration with 'The Grief Directory' "[Victims of terrorism to highlight gender needs and its impact on youth issues](#)" at the VSE Annual Conference 2023.

[→ WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

PORTUGAL: Key takeaways from the workshop led by The Portuguese Association for Victim Support (APAV) "[Specialised Integrated Intervention Strategies: examples of gender-based and child sexual violence](#)" at the VSE Annual Conference 2023.

[→ WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

THE NETHERLANDS: Key takeaways from the workshop led by Slachtofferhulp "[Protecting fundamental freedoms. A closer look at the EU directive and the European Convention on Human Rights \(ECHR\)](#)" at the VSE Annual Conference 2023.

[→ WATCH THE VIDEO](#)



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IN CONVERSATION WITH

In summer 2023, we launched an interview series 'In Conversation With' that sees victims' rights visionaries, innovators and disruptors take the hot seat.

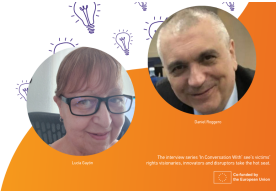
This month we had a talk with the visionaries of 'Victim Support Americas' Lucía Gayón and Daniel Roggero and the Founder and President of Victim Support Asia Yong Woo Lee.



In Conversation With:

Lucía Gayón & Daniel Roggero

Latin America on its Path to Victim Support: where are we?



LUCIA GAYON & DANIEL ROGGERO

[Latin America on its Path to Victim Support: where are we?](#)

7 MIN READ



IN CONVERSATION WITH

Yong Woo Lee

Founder and President of Victim Support Asia

Victim support is becoming part of the new normal in Asia



YONG WOO LEE

[Victim support is becoming part of the new normal in Asia](#)

7 MIN READ



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OPINIONS

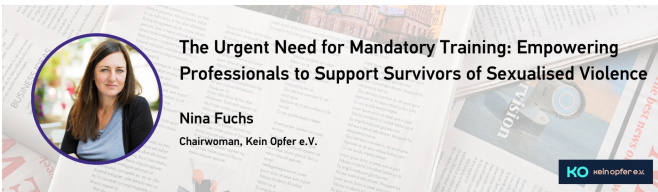
In 2022, we launched the [OPINION section](#) on our website. The section aspires to be the destination for sharing compelling, first-hand accounts of overcoming challenges on the road to improving victims' lives around the world.

Explore the latest opinion pieces written by our members and partners!

NINA FUCHS

[The Urgent Need for Mandatory Training: Empowering Professionals to Support Survivors of Sexualised Violence](#)

5 MIN MIN READ



As a survivor of sexualised violence, I feel compelled to shed light on the crucial issue of how professionals in law enforcement and the justice system treat survivors like myself. These individuals play a pivotal role in our healing and pursuit of justice. Unfortunately, my own harrowing experiences have demonstrated the dire

need for mandatory training on trauma reactions, freeze response, rape myths, victim-blaming, and sexualised violence. Only through comprehensive education can we ensure that survivors are met with the understanding, compassion, and support they deserve.

[→ READ MORE](#)



NEW MEMBERS

Three new member organisations join Victim Support Europe



VSE membership gives organisations unparalleled access not only to our in-house expertise but also to other network members, and to the EU institutions and international organisations with whom we collaborate and whose representatives regularly speak at our events.

🤍 On July 12 we were happy to welcome 3 new members to the Victim Support Europe family!

🇵🇱 [Fundacja Pomocy Ofiarom Przestępstw](#) (Poland)

🇩🇪 [Opferhilfe Berlin e.V.](#) (Germany)

🇨🇲 [Medinnovint Medical Innovative Interventions](#) (Cameroon)

[→ READ MORE](#)

VSE welcomes first Greek member: The smile of the child



We are very pleased to welcome the first Greek member to Victim Support Europe: [The smile of the child](#). VSE now represents 78 members in 36 countries.

“The Smile of the Child” is a prominent Greek support organisation dedicated to enhancing the lives of vulnerable children and families.

Established in 1995, the organisation’s mission revolves around providing comprehensive support, protection, and care for children facing various challenges. Through [their website](#), they offer a glimpse into their multifaceted activities.

- **Editor:** Marina Kazakova | Senior Communications Officer, VSE

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 78 national member organisations, providing support and information services to more than 3 million people affected by crime every year in 36 countries.

- **Contact Victim Support Europe:**

+32 23460455 | info@victimsupporteurope.eu <https://victim-support.eu/>



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