



Welcome to the Spring 2024 edition of Victim Support Europe’s newsletter, now titled Victims’ Voice! For more regular updates on our work, make sure to follow us on [Instagram](#), [X](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#).

01 - ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024 REGISTRATION IS OPEN!



[Victim Support Europe](#) and [Victim and Witness Support Service Croatia](#) are delighted to welcome you to the Victim Support Europe 2024 Annual Conference – ‘The Bridge Over Troubled Water: Celebrating and Strengthening Victim Support’. Held in Zagreb from 22 - 23 May 2024, this year’s conference builds upon the foundation laid by its predecessors, aspiring to create a collaborative space where stakeholders from diverse sectors converge to celebrate achievements, address challenges, and forge pathways for a more resilient and victim-centred future.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

02 - VICTIM SUPPORT NEWS IN 120 SECONDS

In a rush but want to hear the latest development in victims' rights across Europe? Watch victim support news in just 120 seconds!



LATEST NEWS

[Victim Support Europe](#)

[Commemorates EU](#)

[Day for Victims of](#)

[Crime](#)

[VSE's Aleksandra
Ivankovic Contributes
to UNDP Ukraine
Conference](#)

[VSE's Levent Altan
Attends Seminar on
Rights of Terrorism
Victims in Copenhagen](#)

03 - VSE PROJECT NEWS



BeneVict: VSE is developing a methodology for a Victim's Rights Index which will rank EU member states according to their performance in the sphere of victims' rights. Moreover, VSE is analysing data from Portugal, Sweden and the Netherlands on the cost of victimisation which will be presented in a report later this year. In addition, VSE is putting together a report which analyses the findings from the research conducted in 26 EU Members States on the practical implementation of the Victims' Rights Directive.

[READ MORE](#)

[VSE and France](#)

[Victimes Discuss State
of Victim Support with](#)

[MEP Irène Tolleret](#)

[Registration is Open for](#)

[VSE Annual](#)

[Conference 2024](#)



INVERT: The INVERT project has taken vital next steps in achieving its goals. Aiming to combat the use of legal companies by labour traffickers to exploit victims, INVERT assists EU prosecutor offices, law enforcement agencies (LEAs), and judicial authorities in identifying and disrupting the trafficking chain.

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COVIS: Building upon the previous study visits the COVIS project visited Paris, for its final study visit. From the April 9th to the 11th, the team was warmly welcomed by France Victimes. During their time in Paris, the COVIS team had the privilege of visiting the Judicial Court of Paris, immersing themselves in the French judicial system's approach to victim support.

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04 - NEWS FROM VSE MEMBERS



PORTUGAL: The National Strategy for the Rights of Victims of Crime (NSVC) was published on the 5th of January 2024. Under the motto “listening to victims”, the NSVC is an innovative instrument that, aligned with international guidelines in the field, comprehends a wide set of objectives and measures to improve the situation of victims of crime in Portugal. With a comprehensive approach that envisages action that decisively influence the manner in which society at large address the rights and needs of victims of crime.

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IRELAND: Victim Support at Court (V-SAC) is delighted to announce that Prof. Marie Cassidy, former State Pathologist, has agreed to become the new Patron of Victim Support at Court. Dympna Kenny, General Manager, Victim Support at Court said ‘We are delighted to welcome Prof Marie Cassidy as our Patron. We have come so far over the past few years, and this is a real pivotal moment for V-SAC as we continue to grow our organisation nationwide.’



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CROATIA: On March 6 and 7, 2024, a study visit was held within the project COVIS - Court based support services for victims and witnesses of crime. The visit was hosted by the Victim and Witness Support Service Croatia. During the visit, partners had the opportunity to hear more about the development of the support system for victims and witnesses, the challenges faced by experts in Croatia, and to exchange knowledge and experiences from their countries.

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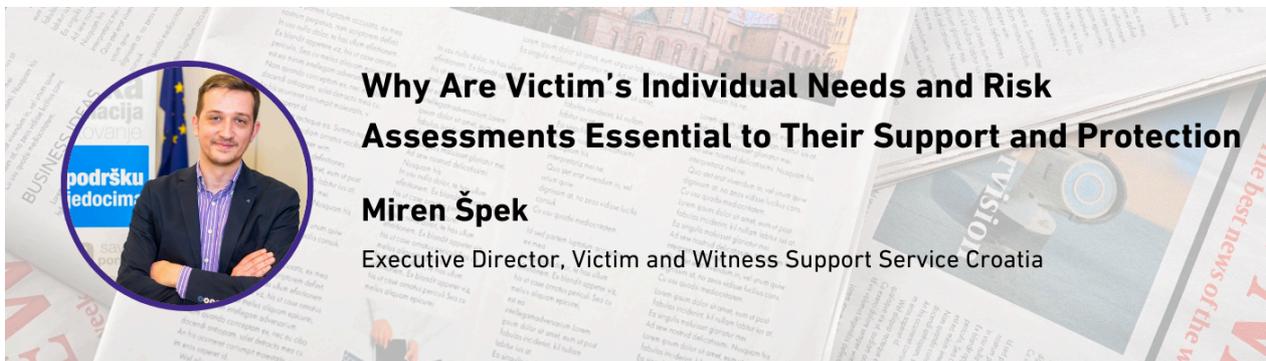
GERMANY: What do US pop star Taylor Swift and senior citizens have in common? They all became victims of digital violence last year: Swift by fake nude photos, the senior citizens by online scammers. Those examples are showing how digital violence can look like and that anyone could be a victim. With its annual theme for 2024, WEISSER RING wants to highlight the dimensions of the problem and is driving a special attention to it – also in order to provide information on how to protect yourself.

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05 - OPINION PIECES

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!

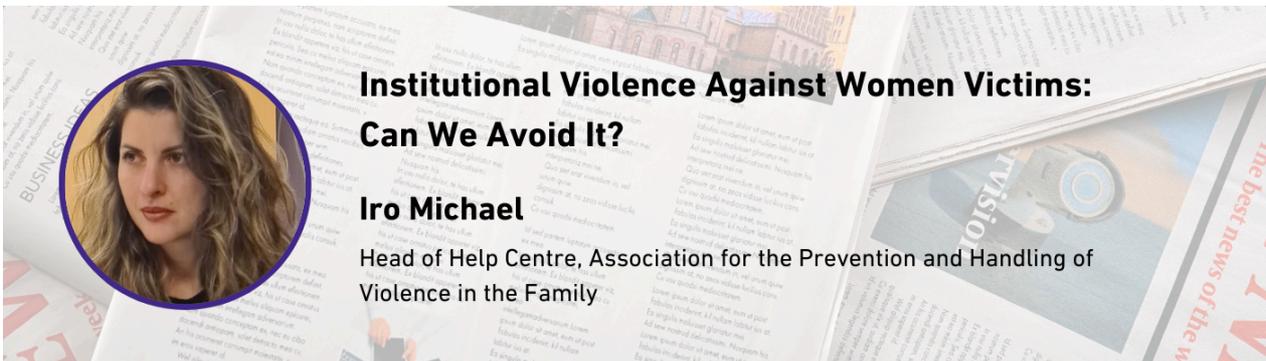


Miren Špek

Why Are Victim's Individual Needs and Risk Assessments Essential to Their Support and Protection?

Crime is not only a wrong against society, it is also a violation of victims' individual rights. Victims of crime should therefore be recognised and treated in a respectful, sensitive, and professional manner without discrimination of any kind or for any reason.

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Institutional Violence Against Women Victims: Can We Avoid It?

Iro Michael

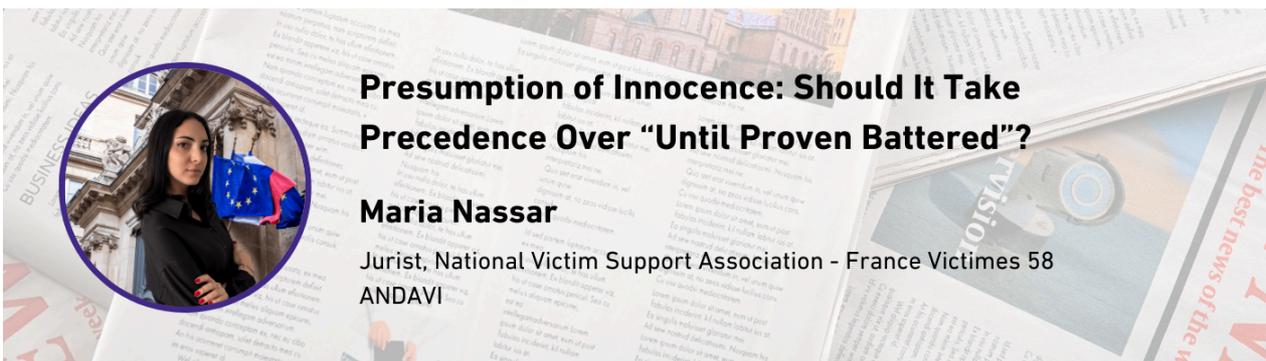
Head of Help Centre, Association for the Prevention and Handling of
Violence in the Family

Iro Michael

Institutional Violence Against Women Victims: Can We Void It?

Institutional violence against women victims refers to the systemic violence that can occur when the victim is confronted with attitudes or beliefs, practices and policies that enforce structural oppression and violate the human rights of women, and their rights as crime victims.

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Presumption of Innocence: Should It Take Precedence Over “Until Proven Battered”?

Maria Nassar

Jurist, National Victim Support Association - France Victimes 58
ANDAVI

Maria Nassar

Presumption of Innocence: Should It Take Precedence Over “Until Proven Battered”?

Whether in the dismissal or prosecution of cases, doubt has often been cast on statements made by victims of domestic violence. Even after enduring the trauma of abuse, the victim can frequently be discouraged from seeking justice by societal pressures: their limited access to legal knowledge leads them to believe that their partner’s threats and psychological violence will not be deemed valid by the court.

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06 - IN CONVERSATION WITH



IN CONVERSATION WITH

Jed Stone
Director, Issured Ltd.



Talking Sponsorship: Why Choose to Sponsor Victim Support Organisations?



The interview series 'In Conversation With' sees victims' rights visionaries, innovators and disruptors take the hot seat.

Talking Sponsorship: Why Choose to Sponsor Victim Support Organisations?

Jed Stone, Director of Issured Ltd, recently met with Victim Support Europe (VSE) to discuss collaboration between the private sector and victim support efforts. With over 20 years of experience in UK policing, including roles as Head of ICT and CIO, Stone has led various initiatives, notably contributing to the development of the UK Counter Terrorism intelligence system used during the 2012 Olympics.

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Editor: Marina Kazakova

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.

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