



VICTIMS' VOICE

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2025



Welcome to the Spring 2025 edition of Victims' Voice, Victim Support Europe's newsletter! For more regular updates on our work, make sure to follow us on [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#).

01 - VICTIM SUPPORT NEWS IN 120 SECONDS - EPISODE #4

In a rush but want to hear the latest development in victims' rights across Europe? Watch the newest episode of victim support news in just 360 seconds!



02 - VSE PROJECT NEWS



OUR LATEST NEWS

[Introducing the VICTIMS' VOICES Webpage](#)

[As part of our 2025 – The Year of Victims' Rights campaign, we are proud to launch the VICTIMS' VOICES webpage. This platform brings together all the films, victim stories, and testimonies we've produced and collected over the years.](#)

[Join to See Which MEPs Support Victims' Rights in 2025!](#)

[In this milestone year, VSE is following up with MEPs on the pledges they made for the EU elections 2024 to further the promise of victims' rights for all. The Parliamentarians Platform can be found on our website!](#)

[VSE launches a new platform to amplify victim voices and drive meaningful change in support services.](#)

[Discover how this initiative is shaping a more victim-centred approach.](#)

LITI-GATE: Empowering advocacy for Persons with Disabilities: Discover how EU training on strategic litigation is paving the way for greater inclusion and justice across Europe!

[LEARN MORE](#)



BENEVICT: Transforming victims' rights in the EU: The BeneVict project wraps up its groundbreaking Final Conference in Brussels, unveiling new evidence on the true impact of victim support. Discover how this pioneering initiative is pushing for legislative change, better policies, and greater investment in victim services. Don't miss out—join the conversation with an exclusive online advocacy training and a powerful workshop in Lisbon on May 22, 2025!

[LEARN MORE](#)



IMPACT: IMPACTing change across Europe: Country teams in Estonia, Malta, and Portugal are taking the lead to strengthen victim support frameworks through expert collaboration and in-depth research. From national supervisory board meetings to focus groups and field visits, see how this project is shaping the future of victim rights.

[LEARN MORE](#)



DISRUPT: Trapped with no way out — could you escape? At the Belgian [DISRUPT](#) training in Brussels, participants stepped inside the **Escape Truck** for a chilling glimpse into the harsh reality of human trafficking. Read how this immersive experience is changing the fight against trafficking!

[LEARN MORE](#)

Justice, Care,
and the Future
of Victim
Support:

Discover how Italy is
paving the way for
comprehensive reform in
victim services at a
groundbreaking national
meeting in Verona.



INVICTUS: A Game-Changer for Victim Support in Europe!

8 partners, 6 countries, 1 mission—transforming how victims receive help. From better information to stronger support networks, this EU-funded initiative is redefining victim services. Discover how collaboration is shaping a more compassionate future.

[LEARN MORE](#)



NO-OBLIVION

Promoting Universal Jurisdiction while Evoking the
Crimes Committed within Former Yugoslavia

NO-OBLIVION:

Step into the emotional echoes of the past with “Remembering Through Art” — a powerful digital exhibition reflecting on the Yugoslav conflicts through striking visual stories. Discover how artists across Europe turned testimony into truth.

[SEE WHAT MOVED HEARTS AND WON MINDS!](#)

**03 - VSE LAUNCHES 2025 CAMPAIGN “YEAR OF VICTIMS’ RIGHTS”
WITH THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF
EU DAY FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME**



The event launched our 2025 campaign, ["The Year of Victims' Rights,"](#) bringing together citizens, professionals, and politicians to emphasise the importance of victim support for a sustainable future. Held on February 21st at the Press Club in Brussels, it also marked the 35th anniversary of the European Day for Victims of Crime. Co-organised with the Polish Presidency, the event, titled ["Once Upon a Support: A 35-Year Story of the European Day for Victims of Crime,"](#) reflected on 35 years of progress and discussed the future of victim support.

"In 2025, we are on a good path to finalise an ambitious revision of the victims' rights directive. I'm also confident that once this is done, we'll be able to look at additional non-legislative actions that will be taken into the new EU strategy for victims' rights." – [Katarzyna Janicka-Pawlowska.](#)

Both the Deputy Minister of Justice of Poland, [Zuzanna Rudinska-Bluszcz,](#) and the Justice Counsellor at the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the European Union, Sławomir Buczma, reaffirmed their dedication to advancing victims' rights, identifying it as one of the major priorities of their presidency. "First of all, we decided to consider the revision of this directive as our flagship and top priority, which may explain the position of the Polish government to put the individual at the centre." – [Sławomir Buczma.](#)

[READ MORE](#)

04 - HURRY UP! REGISTER FOR VSE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

REGISTER NOW!

VSE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

LISBON 22 & 23 MAY

#VSEAC2025

35

years of
Victim Support
in Europe

Transforming Lives Today,
Inspiring a Brighter Tomorrow

2025 VSE Annual Conference
LISBON 22 - 23 MAY



Victim Support Europe (VSE) and the Portuguese Association for Victim Support (APAV) are excited to invite you to the VSE 2025 Annual Conference – “35 Years of Victim Support in Europe – Transforming Lives Today, Inspiring a Brighter Tomorrow.” This hybrid event will take place in Lisbon on **22–23 May 2025** at the prestigious Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, with the option to attend digitally.

As VSE and APAV celebrate their 35th anniversary, this conference will highlight the progress made in victim support over the past three decades. The program, shaped by the current political landscape in post-election Europe, focuses on youth and key milestones for victims’ rights in the European Union in 2025. Join us for an inspiring reflection on the past and a forward-looking vision for the future of victim support.

Special thanks to our sponsors: Issured, NECX, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Buyhearts, Turismo de Lisboa, Lisbon Marriott Hotel, and Sheraton Lisboa Hotel & Spa.

[LEARN MORE](#)

05 - POLICY NEWS



Policy Progress:

Recent Advancements in Victims' Rights Advocacy



Victim Support Europe's **policy and advocacy team** has been working tirelessly to further bring victims' rights to the fore. Learn more:

- [VSE Policy Team Takes Action on the Revision of the Victims' Rights Directive \(VRD\)](#)
- [Victim Support Europe Advocates for EU Funding to Prioritise Support for Crime Victims](#)
- [Victim Support Europe's continued advocacy with the Child Rights Action Group](#)
- [VSE takes part in the UNODC Side-event on Strengthening the Criminal Justice System to Address Barriers to Equal Access to Justice for All in Europe](#)
- [VSE's insights from EU Civil Society Week 2025](#)
- [VSE Joins Kick-Off Meeting for Alliance of NGOs on Cybercrime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Paving the Way for UN Cybercrime Convention](#)
- [Putting Victims First: VSE's Call for a Safer, More Inclusive EU Security Strategy](#)
- [Victim Support Europe Marks 21st European Remembrance Day for Victims of Terrorism in Strasbourg](#)
- [Kicking off 2025 with Collaborative Impact: Victim Support Europe's First EU NGO Roundtable](#)

Aleksandra Ivankovic, Deputy Director of VSE, attended the 21st European Remembrance Day for Victims of Terrorism in Strasbourg, representing VSE in solidarity with victims and their families. At the Pavillon Josephine, she reconnected with colleagues and those affected by terrorism, emphasising the shared **responsibility of remembrance** and resilience.

06 - NEWS FROM VSE MEMBERS

AUSTRIA: A new amendment to the Austrian Code of Criminal Procedure, effective January 1, 2025, allows victims to request their data be sent to a support center for legal and psychological aid. However, WEISSER RING AUSTRIA argues that requiring victims to proactively ask for help may disadvantage those in shock, limiting access to necessary support.

STRENGTHENING VICTIM SUPPORT:

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Victim Support Sweden and Police Partner for Faster, Fairer Assistance to Crime Victims



SWEDEN: Victim Support Sweden has achieved a major milestone by becoming the sole recipient of all police-referred victims in Sweden, ensuring faster and more efficient access to support.

[LEARN MORE](#)



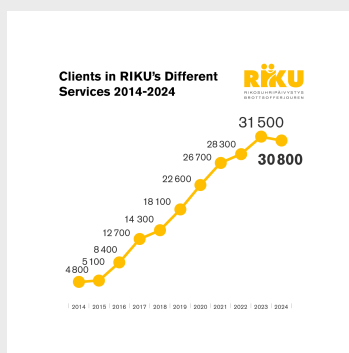
DENMARK: New look, same unwavering support. Victim Support Denmark unveils a fresh visual identity – modern, empathetic, and rooted in connection.

[LEARN MORE](#)



FRANCE: France Victimes Federation marked European Victims' Day with a national plea for long-term victim support, new guidance tools, and the launch of a dedicated podcast series. These initiatives aim to enhance awareness, access to justice, and structured support for victims across France.

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ITALY: Rete Dafne held its first residential seminar to enhance the integration of general and specialised support services for victims, particularly women affected by gender-based violence.

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FINLAND: RIKU supported a record number of victims of domestic violence and sexual crimes in 2024, despite financial challenges. With funding cuts leading to staff reductions, the organisation is adapting to ensure critical services remain available.

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HUNGARY: Honouring Heroes in Blue: Police Officers Recognised with **Victima Protector Award** for Exceptional Support to Crime Victims. For the fourth consecutive year, ten outstanding officers were awarded for their dedication to putting victims first—reminding us that justice begins with compassion.

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06 - NEWS FROM VSE PARTNERS



HEUNI News: Introducing E-ViVi! 🎥

The EU-funded E-ViVi project explores how video-recorded interviews & virtual hearings can enhance justice while safeguarding fairness and rights.

[LEARN MORE](#)

07 - IN CONVERSATION WITH

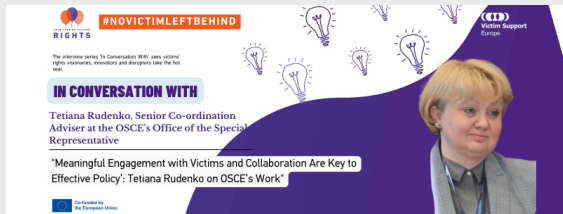


Can Stronger Victims' Rights Save Democracy?

Prof. Suzan Van Der Aa Reveals Bold New Vision in

Exclusive Interview

[READ FULL INTERVIEW](#)



What's Missing in Victims' Rights? Tetiana Rudenko

of the OSCE Reveals Key Strategies for Protecting

Crime Victims and Combating Human Trafficking

[READ FULL INTERVIEW](#)



Four decades after the UN's landmark Declaration on

Victims' Rights, progress has been uneven.

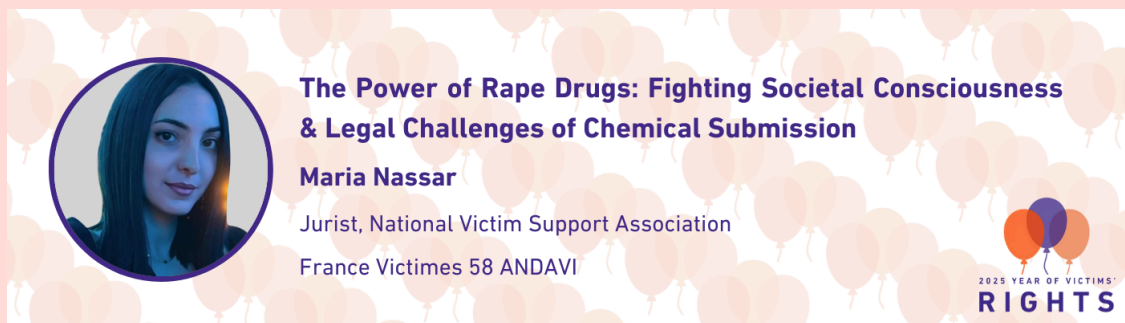
In this exclusive interview, Anna Giudice reveals why the fight

for justice remains as urgent as ever—and what must change

for victims worldwide.

[READ FULL INTERVIEW](#)

07 - OPINION



In a world where sexual violence often remains hidden in plain sight, Maria Nassar examines the harrowing reality of chemical submission—where victims, drugged into submission, lose both their autonomy and their voice. This opinion piece delves into the legal hurdles and societal apathy surrounding these insidious crimes.

[READ THE OPINION PIECE](#)

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 82 national member

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



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