



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

01 - VICTIM SUPPORT NEWS IN 120 SECONDS - EPISODE #2

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 120 seconds!



LATEST NEWS

Joint Statement in

Reaction to the

02 - VSE PROJECT NEWS

Council Position on the
Victims' Rights
Directive Revision

VSE Successfully
Holds Annual
Conference 2024 in
Zagreb, Croatia



VSE's Interactive Map
of Victim Support
Services Gets a
Makeover!

DISRUPT: The DISRUPT Consortium held its second in-person partner meeting on June 5 and 6, 2024 in Sofia (Bulgaria). With the project now more than halfway complete, the consortium reviewed their achievements and outlined the next steps.

[READ MORE](#)

VSE Collaborates with
Member DROGA on
Victims' Rights
Directive Campaign

Victim Support Europe
Joins Statement by La
Strada International on
Significant EU Anti-
Trafficking Directive



VSE Statement on the
Violence Against
Women Directive

Transcrime-UCSC,
INVERT Coordinator,
Organises Online
Workshop Showcasing
INVERT Tools

2GETHER4VICTIMS: During VSE Annual Conference 2024, Aleksandra Ivankovic, Annelies Blondé and Sara Fontanot, VSE staff working on the project 2Gether4Victims – Coordinating and harmonising Generic and Specialist Support services for victims of gender-based violence (2G4V) – along with some project partners, Maria Nassar (FRANCE VICTIMES 58 - ANDAVI) and Ramunė Jakštienė (Mykolo Romerio Universitetas), held the 2G4V Coffee speed talk. The Coffee Speed Talk provided an informal opportunity to raise awareness and disseminate information about the 2G4V project and its deliverables among conference participants.

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NO-OBLIVION

Promoting Universal Jurisdiction while Evoking the Crimes Committed within Former Yugoslavia

NO OBLIVION: VSE has begun collaboration on the delivery of the NO OBLIVION project. Through a victim-centred and jurisprudential lens, the project looks back at the conflicts of the former Yugoslavia to preserve the lessons learnt in the aftermath of this war and ultimately safeguard a European legacy of respect for human rights, rule of law and peace.

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INVERT

Disrupting Exploitation Networks

INVERT: On 6th June 2024, Országos Kriminológiai Intézet-[OKRI](#), Hungary National Institute of Criminology and partner of the INVERT Consortium, held a hybrid conference entitled "Recent trends in human trafficking since 2020, with a special focus on the characteristics of labour exploitation". The conference was attended by 170 police officers, prosecutors and labour inspectors both in person and online via MS Teams.

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03 - NEWS FROM VSE MEMBERS



IRELAND: After 30 years of providing a free nationwide support service to international visitors to Ireland, Irish Tourist Assistance Service has rebranded to Tourist SOS. The new name, Tourist SOS, is intended to be easier to understand and remember for visitors as well as the Gardaí (Irish Police) and those in the tourism and hospitality industries who are often the first point of contact for tourists in distress.

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HUNGARY: The Hungarian Ministry of Justice joined the CyberShield (www.kiberpajzs.hu) program, launched in autumn 2022 by the Hungarian National Bank, the Hungarian Banking Association, the police, and other cybersecurity and telecommunications organizations. This program provides a platform for sharing experiences, knowledge, and coordinating communication. The Ministry of Justice and other state organizations contribute to the communication and educational campaign. This collaboration enables the monitoring of fraud patterns and cybersecurity risks in financial transactions. By understanding international trends and integrating these findings into professional practices, the initiative aims to enhance financial security and raise customer awareness.

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PORTUGAL: APAV is marking the 50th anniversary of the revolution of 25 April 1974 with a new campaign with the slogan 'Democracy is freedom for all'. This campaign recalls the importance of freedom and the right of all people to live without fear and violence. APAV is marking a milestone from the past (25 April), celebrating the present (50 years) and opening the door to a future with freedom for all. When a person is the victim of crime or violence, their freedom is taken away. APAV works every day to support and protect the rights of victims of crime and violence in Portugal. The campaign was creatively developed by the agency Solid Dogma.

[LEARN MORE](#)

04 - 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!



Szandra Windt

The Fight Against Labour Exploitation in Hungary.

Socio-economic changes have always impacted the structure of employment, the labour market and the perception of its actors. For decades, ageing and shrinking European societies have tried to respond to these phenomena by employing migrant 'guest workers'. While employment models in Hungary are currently changing and involving, a rise in migrant workers has been identified. However, international experience suggests that these migrants are often likely to be victims of labour exploitation.

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Anna-Greta Pekkariinen

The Approach to Forced Marriage - The Case of Finland

Forced marriage takes place all over the world. It is declared a violation of human rights by many international bodies and in legal instruments such as the Istanbul Convention. Victims of forced marriage are usually women or girls, but all genders can be forced to marry.

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Francesco Calderoni

Risk-Based Strategies Against Labour Exploitation in Europe

Labour exploitation remains a pervasive issue within Europe, undermining social justice, violating human rights, and distorting economic competition. Despite concerted efforts to combat this scourge, traditional approaches often fall short; this is where the European Project INVERT steps in, offering innovative tools and methodologies to effectively identify and address labour exploitation.

[READ MORE](#)

05 - IN CONVERSATION WITH



IN CONVERSATION WITH

Bart Claes (Director, Victim Support Flanders & Brussels (CAW) & Professor Restorative Justice, Avans University of Applied Sciences)

Staf Van Pelt (Ex-victim of Church Sexual Abuse)

A Conversation on Sexual Abuse Victimisation in the Church

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



A Conversation on Sexual Abuse Victimisation in the Church

This transcript captures the voices of Bart Claes, Director of CAW, and Staf Van Pelt, an ex-victim of sexual abuse within the church (we stick to the wording Staf prefers to use), as they delve into the complexities of victimisation, the challenges of speaking out, and the path towards healing and empowerment.

[READ MORE](#)


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

IN CONVERSATION WITH

Frida Weldon

Empowering Victims: How COVIS Partners' Advocacy Secured Court-Based Support in the Recently Proposed Victims' Rights Directive

Victim Support Europe, JOURNÉE EUROPEENNE DES VICTIMES, RIKU, V-SAC, APAV, Apelo a Victim, OfferRådgivningen, Co-funded by the European Union

Empowering Victims: How COVIS Partners' Advocacy Secured Court-Based Support in the Recently Proposed Victims' Rights Directive

This piece with Frida Wheldon of Victim Support Sweden and leader of the COVIS project explores the achievements of project partners' in securing court-based support as a critical element of the Victims' Rights Directive.

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Victim Support Europe

IN CONVERSATION WITH

Kate Wallace (Chief Executive Officer, Victim Support Scotland)

Victim Support Scotland's Transformational Journey: Navigating Legislative, Financial, and Collaborative Landscapes

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

Co-funded by the European Union

Victim Support Scotland's Transformational Journey: Navigating Legislative, Financial, and Collaborative Landscapes

Explore [Victim Support Scotland's](#) 40-year transformative journey and learn about its key milestones and innovative approaches. Our article looks at the significant legislative, financial, and collaborative challenges

Victim Support Scotland has faced and how it has addressed them to support victims effectively by implementing virtual reality court experiences, trauma-informed frameworks, and specialist services.

[READ MORE](#)



IN CONVERSATION WITH

Krzysztof Wilczek (DROGA)

Analyzing DROGA's Campaign on the Victims' Rights Directive in Poland

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

Co-funded by the European Union

Analyzing DROGA's Campaign on the Victims' Rights Directive in Poland

In this interview, we explore the impact of a recent campaign led by DROGA, a member of Victim Support Europe. The campaign, entitled "Stand up for the rights of crime victims. It's time for change!", aimed to raise awareness about the Victims' Rights Directive in Poland. Below, we discuss the campaign's objectives, methods, and results with Krzysztof Wilczek, DROGA's President.

[READ MORE](#)

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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