



Welcome to the Winter 2024 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](#).

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## 01 - VICTIM SUPPORT EUROPE WISHES YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS!



As we celebrate this festive season, we want to extend our warmest wishes to each of you in the VSE family. Christmas is a time for hope, compassion, and unity, and we are grateful for your ongoing support in empowering those affected by crime. Whether you're spending the holiday with loved ones or finding peace in your own way, we hope this season brings comfort, strength, and renewal. Together, we continue to make a difference, and we look forward to another year of working hand in hand to support victims and create lasting change. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you all!

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## 02 - REGISTRATION FOR VSE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025 IS OPEN



We are excited to announce that registration is now open for the 2025 VSE Annual Conference - **'Transforming Lives Today, Inspiring a Brighter Tomorrow'!** Next year's event promises to be an inspiring and informative gathering, bringing together advocates, professionals, and survivors to discuss critical issues and share insights on victim support. Don't miss the opportunity to connect, learn, and be part of meaningful conversations that drive change. VSE Annual Conference 2025 will take place in **Lisbon from 22 – 23 May 2025**. It will be a hybrid conference, and we hope to welcome the victim support community and affiliated professionals from around the world both on-site, at the spectacular premises of Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, and digitally. Secure your spot today and join us for this impactful edition!

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER NOW](#)

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### 03 - VSE & CAW ORGANISES STAFF EXCHANGE IN ANTWERP



On December 2nd and 3rd, Victim Support Europe (VSE) organised a Staff Exchange in Antwerp, hosted by CAW. The staff exchange focused on exploring the support systems in place for victims of familial violence at CAW. Over the course of two days, participants gained insight into the organisation's structure, the methods used to support victims, and the challenges faced in delivering consistent care.

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## 04 - VSE LAUNCHES VICTIM PLATFORM



On the 6th of December 2024, the kick-off meeting for the new Victim Platform took place. The Victims Platform represents a major initiative designed to amplify the voices of victims and adopt a more victim-centred approach within the organisation. This event marked a significant step in VSE's commitment to directly engaging with victims, ensuring their perspectives play a key role in shaping the organisation's strategy. Looking ahead, VSE plans to host several meetings in 2025, where participants will further shape the platform's activities.

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## 05 - CLOSING VSE'S X ACCOUNT: A STRATEGIC DECISION



As a team, we have made the decision to close our X account on December 17th. This was not an easy choice, as digital platforms are key to amplifying our mission to support victims of crime and advocate for their rights across Europe. The decision to discontinue our use of the platform stems from several key challenges. We thank our followers on X for their support and invite you to continue following our work through our other communication channels (VSE website, Facebook, Instagram, & LinkedIn).

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## 06 - OUR CAMPAIGN FOR 2025: 'THE YEAR OF VICTIMS' RIGHTS'



We'd like to once again highlight our upcoming 2025 campaign – **'The Year of Victims' Rights'**! This year-long endeavour, driven by VSE and its 81 member organisations, aims at advancing the cause of victims' rights through three core objectives: universality, progress, and engagement. With your support, we can build a brighter future for all victims of crime. Don't miss out on how you can get involved and make a difference—read the full article in the Brussels Times now!

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## 07 - VSE PROJECT NEWS



We're pleased to announce that the final conference of the BeneVict project will take place on **February 20th, 2025!** Bringing together researchers, policymakers, and advocates, the conference will provide a unique platform for discussing innovative solutions and shaping the future of victim support in Europe. Save the date now!

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## Apply Now to Participate in EU-wide Training on Digital Evidence in Human Trafficking Cases

We are pleased to invite you to the second EU Capacity Building event within the DISRUPT project, aimed at enhancing professionals' capabilities in terms of digital evidence-based investigations, prosecution, and judicial response in human trafficking cases. The capacity building event will be held on **12 – 13.02.2025 in Vienna, Austria.**

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER NOW](#)

## Apply Now to Participate in the Belgian National Training on Digital Evidence in Human Trafficking Cases

We would like to extend a warm invitation to participate in the DISRUPT national training, which will take place on **16 January and 5 February 2025 in Brussels.** The goal of these national training activities is to strengthen the ability of first line practitioners to prevent, investigate and prosecute cases of child trafficking through a better exploitation of digital evidence.

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## 08 - IN CONVERSATION WITH



In Conversation With:

**Céline Bisschop  
and Bart Claes**

of Centrum Algemeen Welzijnswerk  
(CAW)



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



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Every victim of a crime, disaster, or terror attack has the right to counselling, aid, and support, whether a complaint or report has been filed with the police or not. Have you lost a friend or family member to a road accident or suicide? That means you're also entitled to that same care. **CAW, the Centre for Social Welfare (Centrum Algemeen Welzijnswerk)**, provides essential victim support in Flanders and Brussels. We spoke with Céline Bisschop and Bart Claes to find out more about what CAW does.

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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 81 national member organisations, providing support and information services to more than 3 million people affected by crime every year in over 35 countries.



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