

Victim Support Europe

NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2020



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✦ A LOOK INTO 2020



The new year is upon us, what should you expect from Victim Support Europe in 2020?

From firm favourites like our victims' rights social media campaigns, we will continue pushing forward the findings of our VOCIARE report that tracks how EU Member States implement the Victims' Rights Directive 7 years after it was established; we will launch a new website in spring 2020; we will set the foundation for the European Centre of Expertise on

Terrorism which will operate to make sure that victims of terrorism across Europe receive the support and recognition they deserve; plus so much more.

This year Victim Support Europe celebrates its [30th anniversary](#). We look forward to a new decade for the advancement of victims' rights in all Member States. Throughout 2020, we will be celebrating the many people — victims-survivors, frontline support workers, victims' rights defenders, civil society actors, authorities, funders, and community members — who have brought VSE's mission to life for the last 30 years.

Our priorities for 2020 will cover such issues as terrorism, disability, cyber and hate crimes, gender equality, enforcement of victims' rights across the EU and the use of new technologies in communicating victims rights to name just a few. As the EU's leading independent hub of victims'

rights excellence, Victim Support Europe sees these strands to actively engage in.

Worryingly, some governments across the EU are not pursuing their victims' rights commitments. This brings us to the need to make adamant demands of the politicians and governments for more urgent action.

In order to identify the most toughest victims' rights challenges Europe faces, VSE together with its partners carried out a two-year VOciare Project across the 26 EU Member States. Ultimately, these findings can stand as a basis for a careful rethinking, at national and EU-level, of how are victims' rights being enacted (or not) and what can be done to improve their standing. With concrete recommendations for each Member State, it promises to provide rich input to national governments, European Commission and VSE, as it reshapes our list of actions to advance the rights of crime victims across the EU.

The founding of Victim Support Europe was a process, not a moment. It took years to establish many national support services and projects that we are now associated with. The EU Victims' Rights Directive, the major EU law on the rights of victims of crime, wasn't established from scratch and arose from other policy initiatives and documents. Member States committed to victims rights 35 years ago and repeatedly:

- Council of Europe Recommendations – 1985 and 2006
- UN Declaration of Basic Principles – 1985
- EU – Framework Decision on standing of victims – 2001
- EU Victims Directive - 2012 (in force 2015)

30 years is a quite a time. There is much to celebrate. There is much to be done. Let's remember the lessons we can draw from more than 3 decades of our collaborative work. The alliance of our 58 member organisations, which help more than 2 million victims of crime a year, does fundamentally influence the enforcement of victims' rights across the EU. On this 30th anniversary, let's remember that we can't connect the dots looking forward, we can only connect them looking backwards.

✦ VSE NEWS SINCE THE LAST UPDATE

Victim Support Europe appointed to run the European Commission's EU Centre of Expertise for Victims of Terrorism.

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Victim Support Europe Teams Up with Twitter

[READ MORE →](#)

Congratulations to our Re-Elected Board Member Livija Plančić

[READ MORE →](#)

VSE's Executive Director Levent Altan was interviewed by FRANCE 24

[WATCH THE VIDEO →](#)

Staff Exchange News

Read the blog post by Tirion Seymour about her recent staff exchange experience in the Netherlands coordinated by Victim Support Europe, and learn more about how victims are

supported in Europe.

[READ MORE →](#)

Now you can find us on Instagram!

From now on, in addition to Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter posts, we will also supply our news on Instagram.

[OUR INSTAGRAM PAGE →](#)

Press Release: Police Expert Network on Missing Persons officially recognised by Council of the European Union

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✦ LATEST PUBLICATIONS

Victim Support Europe published its European-wide analysis of victims' access to compensation: A Journey from Crime to Compensation.

[DIRECT DOWNLOAD→](#)

Victim Support Europe's Annual Report 2018 is now available online!

[DIRECT DOWNLOAD→](#)

✦ NEWS FROM VSE MEMBERS

January Update from AdVIC – Advocates (Ad) who campaign for greater rights for Victims(VIC) of Homicide, their families & friends.

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January Update from ANVDV - The Crime Victims Support Association

[READ MORE→](#)

January Update from APAV - The Portuguese Association for Victim Support

[READ MORE→](#)

Winter Update from Victim and Witness Support Service Croatia

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January Update from Weisser Ring Austria

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News from Weisser Ring Germany: Victims' Rights are Human Rights – Right to state compensation strengthened

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Winter Update from White Circle Croatia

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✦ COMING UP EVENTS

[Register online:](#) **VSE Annual Conference in Berlin 13-14 May 2020**



Victim Support

Europe

Annual Conference 2020



CELEBRATING OUR PAST
CREATING HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

BERLIN
13 - 14 MAY



With Financial support from
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Hosted by:



[This year's edition](#) is a celebration of the work the victim support community of Europe has done over the last three decades. The community has many successes in 30 years. However, in the current political climate, the protection and promotion of victims' rights is more essential than ever. Together, we can learn from the past and create a positive, actionable vision for the comprehensive victim support system in the EU: today, tomorrow and 30 years from now.

[READ MORE →](#)

Final conference: 'Best Practices in Victims' Support: Referrals, Information, Individual Assessment: VICToRIIA', 20 February, Brussels

To learn more about the project check VICToRIIA's [website](#).

[You can register your participation here](#) by Friday 7th February 2020.

SAVE THE DATE: 5-6 April, 2020! The 2nd International Conference of Victim Support Asia will take place this year in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Victim Support Asia (VSA) is the first organisation dedicated to all victims of crime across the whole of Asia. The conference provides a unique opportunity to set the agenda for future development of rights and support services for all victims of crime in Asia and identify priorities for moving forward.

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📌 COMING UP CAMPAIGN

22 February: The European Day of Victims of Crime

VSE'S Action Week: 17-22 February

#OneVoiceOneCause

The European Day of Victims of Crime aims to mobilise people to speak up and take action against crimes, as well as show solidarity and support for the victims of crimes.

The Action Week #OneVoiceOneCause mobilises the national campaigns and European partners of the victim support community in joint activities on raising awareness on victims' rights.

The core content will be the outputs of our currently completed 'Project VOciare: Victims of Crime Implementation Analysis of Rights in Europe'.

During the Action Week we will be publishing the findings of the project on our social media channels and the website. Our goal is to strengthen VOciare's social media footprint, spark engagement and conversation in order to continue our practical work to improve the situation in every member state.

Partners and interested parties are encouraged to submit any content related to victims' rights relevant for the upcoming campaign: visuals, videos, quotes, reports or publications. Deadline is February 5.

[SUBMIT ONLINE →](#)



 **Victim Support Europe**
The Voice of Victims in Europe

✦ VSE NEW MEMBERS

We are thrilled to welcome three new members from Ireland, Italia and Serbia to our victim support family: Federation for Victim Assistance (Ireland), Associazione Spondé (Italy) and Humanitarian Law Centre (Serbia).

We look forward to working together with you all, as we continue to expand our global reach to strengthen the rights and services for all victims of crime in Europe and beyond.



To conclude our 2019 membership achievements, we gained 5 new members, bringing us to the total of 58 members from 30 countries.

[READ MORE →](#)

✦ FEATURED ARTICLE: Victim Support Europe Teams Up with Twitter

Using technology effectively and safely is key to advance victims' rights in the 21st century. Victim Support Europe is constantly looking for ways to adapt to the transformative era of the information society. Today, our victims' rights campaigns rely heavily on social media. That's why we've partnered with [Twitter](#) to better engage with our communities, to advance improvements in laws and policies as well as to raise awareness of our work.

[READ MORE →](#)



together we act
as the voice of victims



Editor: Helgard van Hüllen
Contributor: Marina Kazakova

[About Victim Support Europe](#)

Victim Support Europe is an umbrella organisation which currently consists of 58 national and regional victim support organisations in 30 countries.

Contact Victim Support Europe:
+32 23460455 | info@victimsupporteurope.eu
<http://victimsupport.eu/>



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