



JOINT STATEMENT FOR EUROPEAN DAY FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

On this European Day for Victims of Crime, Victim Support Europe and signatories of this statement **stand in solidarity with all victims of a crime** across Europe, no matter who the victim is, no matter where the crime took place, no matter what it was.

Each year, more than **75 million people fall victim to serious crimes** in the European Union. EU legislations, such as the 2012 Victims' Rights Directive, has made a difference – helping victims to be treated respectfully, and to have support and protection. We welcome new initiatives such as the Proposal for a Directive on Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, which further protects many of the most vulnerable.

Yet **thousands upon thousands of victims are not fully protected by these laws**. Thousands never report even the most terrible of crimes. Where victims do report a crime, they face significant challenges and anguish. In some countries, victims have no access to professional support.

In the 21st century, **the most vulnerable in our societies must be taken care of**. Justice systems should be safe for victims, protecting them as much as the accused. This is why, **we welcome the commitment of the European Commission to update EU Victims' laws and look forward to it urgently publishing a new Victims Rights Directive**.

This is an opportunity to transform how we think about victims' rights, and about their access to support, justice and protection. A robust Victims Rights Directive will form **a strong foundation for all victims of all crimes**, including for example victims of terrorism, victims with disabilities, and families of murdered victims who are not covered by current EU proposals. It will **complement specialist laws** focused on specific groups of victims ensuring a comprehensive system to protect and support every victim.

We call on every person to **stand as one for victims and to support the publication of the revised Victims' Rights Directive** to ensure that **no victim is forgotten or remains voiceless**.

List of signatories

- Action Against Stalking
- Advocates for Victims of Homicide (AdvIC)
- AGE Platform Europe
- Associação Portuguesa de Apoio à Vítima (APAV)
- Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family (APHVF) / Σύνδεσμος για την Πρόληψη και Αντιμετώπιση της Βίας στην Οικογένεια (ΣΠΑΒΟ)
- Arbeitskreis der Opferhilfen
- ATENIN
- Bijeli krug Hrvatske (White Circle Croatia)
- Brottsofferjouren Sverige (Victim Support Sweden)
- CAW Groep vzw
- Center for Reproductive Rights
- Child-Friendly Justice European Network (CFJ-EN)
- Child Helpline International
- Child Rights Centre of Albania (CRCA/ECPAT)
- Co-operation for the Development of Emerging Countries (COSPE Onlus)
- Crime Victims Helpline
- EMDR Europe
- European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN)
- European Disability Forum
- European Federation of Road Traffic Victims
- European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ)
- European Sex Workers Alliance (ESWA)
- Federation for Victim Assistance
- Fehér Gyűrű Közhasznú Egyesület
- France Victimes
- Humanitarian Law Centre Foundation
- ILGA-Europe
- International Road Victims Partnership (IRVP)
- Irish Road Victims Association (IRVA)
- Irish Tourist Assistant Centre (ITAS)
- Klaipėda Social and Psychological Support Center
- La Strada International
- LIBRA ETS
- Mediante – Centre pour une justice restauratrice
- Missing Children Europe
- Offerrådgivningen i Danmark
- Opferhilfe Schweiz (Victim Support Switzerland)
- Organisation Intersex International Europe (OII Europe)
- Payoke
- Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)
- REDRESS
- Rete Dafne Italia
- Rikosuhripäivystys (Victim Support Finland- RIKU)
- Skalbes
- Slachtofferhulp Nederland
- Thorn: Digital Defenders of Children
- Transgender Europe (TGEU)
- Udruga za podršku žrtvama i svjedocima (Victim and Witness Support Service Croatia)
- Validity
- V-Europe
- Victim Support Europe
- Victim Support (England and Wales)
- Victim Support Malta
- Victim Support Northern Ireland
- Victim Support Scotland
- Viktimolosko društvo Srbije (Victimology Society Serbia)
- Vilias
- Weisser Ring Austria
- Weisser Ring Germany