



**Victim Support**  
Europe

HOSTED BY:



# PROTECTING FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, A VICTIM'S PERSPECTIVE

Victim Support Europe Annual Conference 2023  
7th to 9th June | Berlin

#VSEAC2023



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IMMERSONAL



Victim Support Asia



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## WELCOME!

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Victim Support Europe and WEISSER RING e. V. Germany are delighted to welcome you to Berlin!

We would like to deliver warm greetings and a heartfelt welcome to all participants of the Victim Support Europe 2023 Annual Conference – ‘Protecting Fundamental Freedoms, a victim’s perspective’.

VSE’s Annual Conference is one of the largest and most influential events for the global victim support community. It's where victim related challenges turn into solutions, where tomorrow’s support practices are launched today, and where, together, we shine the light on the potential of our victim support world.

This year’s theme focuses on the interconnection of fundamental freedoms and victims’ policy. A theme driven by the rising number of crimes carried out against politicians and journalists, increasing extremism, terrorism and hate crimes as well as increased attempts to stifle free speech.

2023 is a crucial year for victims' rights, with the upcoming revision of the 2012 Victims' Rights Directive and other EU legislative changes to victims' rights. In light of this, conference participants will discuss how we can achieve a strategic vision for the next 10 years and what should be done to maintain our role in safeguarding victims' rights and fundamental freedoms.

**Day one** will see us investigate the relationship between democracy, fundamental freedoms and victims' rights. The sessions will explore the challenges faced by democracies and aspiring democracies in responding to victims' needs; how populism, right-wing extremism, and disinformation jeopardize democratic processes; and what role community, religion and victim support play in social cohesion.

For the first time ever, the conference will include **a day dedicated to police officers' interaction with** victims. In particular, discussions will highlight the challenges of balancing respect for fundamental rights, protecting security, and developing a victim-sensitive police service. The topic of 'trust in police' and how to build it will be an important element of the sessions.

On **Day three** we will hear about supporting victims from conflict-affected areas. The discussion will address fragility, violence and resilience issues affecting victims of armed conflict, both from the perspective of frontline victims' support and from a policy perspective.

The conference will encourage you not only to exchange knowledge but is also your gateway to meeting more people. The social events' programme invites you to a flying buffet dinner at "The Museum für Naturkunde", one of the oldest museums in Berlin, which features zoological, paleontological and mineral collections, and a gala evening at "Wintergarten Variete", the "most beautiful vaudeville theatre in Europe".

As members of the Victim Support Europe and Weisser Ring's conference team, we are here to assist you in any way possible. Please reach out to us as we here to help you make the best of your time at the conference.

Thank you and, together, let's enjoy Berlin!





# PLENARY SESSIONS PANEL DISCUSSIONS LIVE TESTIMONIES

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VSE's Annual Conference will take place at the H4 Conference Center in Berlin, between 7-9 June, 2023 as a hybrid event; we hope to welcome participants from around the world, both in-person and online. This is one of the global victim support community's largest, most influential events, where victim-related challenges are given solutions, where tomorrow's support practices are launched today, and where, together, we highlight the potential of our victim support world. This is your chance to network with frontline victim support workers, policymakers, law enforcement professionals, technology providers, academics, journalists, and civil society activists: to accelerate your service, your product, or your ideas that will benefit victims of crime.

## WORKSHOPS

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This year's conference theme "Protecting Fundamental Freedoms, a Victim's Perspective" provides an opportunity to discuss the role of victim support communities, law enforcement agents, health professionals, academics, journalists and the private sector in guaranteeing the promotion and respect of victims' rights and democracy, and in safeguarding the rule of law.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

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What did our world look like 150 million years ago?

Dark velvet, precious wood and the unique starry ceiling create an atmosphere of the glamorous 1920s.

Curious? Enjoy discovering everything about these two locations.

# PROGRAMME

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## DAY 1: SETTING THE SCENE – WHY DEMOCRACY AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS MATTER FOR VICTIM'S RIGHTS?

09:00 – 10:00 Welcome Coffee & Registration

10:00 – 10:35 Opening Addresses

Chair: Rosa Jansen (President, Victim Support Europe)

Welcoming remarks

**Rosa Jansen** | President, Victim Support Europe

Live testimony

**Astrid Passin** | Spokeswoman for the survivors and victims of the attack on Breitscheidplatz on 19 December 2016

Opening speech

**Richard Sonnenschein** | Director of Directorate responsible for criminal and civil justice in DG Justice, European Commission

**Katarzyna Janicka-Pawlowska** | Coordinator for Victims' Rights, European Commission

10:35 – 10:45 Icebreaker Session

10:45 – 11:40 Plenary session: Crime victimisation and public support for democracy

Chair: Bianca Biwer (Federal Executive Director, WEISSER RING e. V.)

Make Empathy Great Again. A plea to beat populism with its own weapons.

**Tom De Bruyne** | Founder, Behavioural Design Academy



The fourth pillar of democracy: How journalism can give victims a voice and how disinformation risks silencing them

**Lauren Walker** | General Reporter, The Brussels Times

Safeguarding freedom of religion in Europe

**Elie Kagan** | Head of Crisis Management, Security and Crisis Centre by European Jewish Congress (ECJ)

**11:40 - 12:10** Coffee Break

**12:10 - 13:15** Panel discussion: Fundamental freedoms and the future of Europe's victim support

Moderator: Petra Klein (Vice-President, Victim Support Europe)

The role of religious organisations in victims' recovery and their role in prevention/protection

**Ahmad Mansour** | CEO, MIND Prevention

The role of youth in victim support

**Lena Weilbacher** | Youth coordinator Lower Saxony, WEISSER RING e. V.

Gender, culture, and terrorism: Why women are victimised and silenced

**Fatima Ali Haider** | Founder & Chairperson, The Grief Directory

Helping politicians, media professionals and journalists who have been the victims of reprisal

**Katharina Wall** | Programme Manager Engagement, Körber Foundation



**13:15 – 13:30**     **IMMERSONAL Icebreaker Session**

**13:30 – 15:00**     **Lunch**

**15:00 – 17:00**     **Workshops**

DAY 1 (7 June 2023) | 15:00 - 17:00 CEST

WORKSHOP A | The Power Of Youth: Challenging Organisations To Think Young In Order To Better Reach And Serve Young Clients

WORKSHOP B | Having The Courage To Stand Up For Your Beliefs Online – United Against Hate Speech And Threatening Behaviour

WORKSHOP C | Specialised Integrated Intervention Strategies: Examples Of Gender-Based And Child Sexual Violence

WORKSHOP D | Promoting Respect Of Victims' Rights Through The Implementation Of Restorative Practices (Protect Project)

WORKSHOP E | Protecting Fundamental Freedoms. A Closer Look At The EU Directive And The European Convention On Human Rights (ECHR)

WORKSHOP F | Sexual Offences Legal Advisors: Giving Victims Of Sexual Crime In Northern Ireland A Voice

WORKSHOP G | In-Depth Case Examples Of Fundamental Freedom Violations

**17:00 – 17:15**     **Master of Ceremony's summary**

**19:30**                 **Social event: Flying buffet at The Museum für Naturkunde**

June 7th 2023 – Museum für Naturkunde, Invalidenstraße 43, 10115 Berlin

## **DAY 2: NEXUS BETWEEN FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS PROTECTION, CONFLICT PREVENTION, AND POLICE WORK**

**09:00 – 10:00** Welcome Coffee & Registration

**10:00 – 10:15** Opening Addresses

Chair: Rosa Jansen (President, Victim Support Europe)

**Welcoming remarks**

**Rosa Jansen** | President, Victim Support Europe

**Opening speech**

**Yong Woo Lee** | President & Founder, Victim Support Asia

**Hak Seok Kim** | Vice President, Victim Support Asia

**10:15 – 11:15** Plenary session: How victim-oriented is  
policing?

**Policing, ethics and fundamental rights**

**Ben Bradford** | Professor of Global City Policing at the  
Department of Security and Crime Science, University  
College London

**Community Trust building**

**John Letteney** | President of Executive Board, International  
Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)

**Innovative Approaches to Planning and Preparing  
for Supporting Crime Victims**

**Staci Beers** | Victim Services Coordinator, FBI Victim Services  
Division

**11:15 – 11:30** Icebreaker Session

**11:30 – 12:00** Coffee Break

## **12:00 – 13:15**    **Panel discussion: Putting victims at the heart of policing**

Moderator: Rosa Jansen (President, Victim Support Europe)

**Police training on diversity and protecting the vulnerable within the police and those who encounter the police**

**Elena Sánchez** | Executive Board Co-chair, LGBTIpol

**Equality, Inclusion and Respect in the Workplace**

**Jochen Kopelke** | Senior Police Officer & Federal Chairman of the Police Union Germany

**Community Trust building**

**John Letteney** | President of Executive Board, International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)

**Putting victims at the heart of policing: OSCAD's experience**

**Francesca Romana Capaldo** | Lieutenant Colonel, Italian National Police & Director of Secretariat, Observatory for Security Against Acts of Discrimination (OSCAD)

## **13:15 – 13:30**    **Icebreaker Session**

## **13:30 – 15:00**    **Lunch**

## **15:00 – 17:00**    **Workshops**

DAY 2 (8 June 2023) | 15:00 - 17:00 CEST

**WORKSHOP A** | Virtual Reality Court Familiarisation: A Core Fundamental Right To Access Justice

WORKSHOP B | Tackling Gender-Related Violence From An Intersectional Perspective; Resources For Professional Education/Training Of Front Line Practitioners Developed In European Projects.

WORKSHOP C | Fundamental Freedoms: Considerations On How To Achieve Victim Rights For A Broad Spectrum Of Victims

WORKSHOP D | “I Could Never Have Done It Without You” – Insights And Inspiration For Delivering Victim/Witness Support In Court As A Fundamental Part Of Justice

WORKSHOP E | Ensuring The Right To Support For Victims Of Violence And Abuse. Overcoming Barriers To Support Services As Part Of An Aid Continuum: The Example Of Professional Helplines And Specialised Services Of The Centres For General Welfare Work (CAW) In Flanders, Belgium.

WORKSHOP F | Victims Of Terrorism To Highlight Gender Needs And Its Impact On Youth Issues

WORKSHOP G | Trauma Notifications To Crime Victims

**17:00 – 17:15     Master of Ceremony’s summary**

**19:30                Social event: Seated dinner at  
Wintergarten Variete**

June 8th 2023 – Wintergarten Varieté Berlin, Potsdamer Str. 96,  
10785 Berlin

## DAY 3: SUPPORTING VICTIMS FROM CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREAS

09:00 – 10:00 Welcome Coffee & Registration

10:00 – 10:15 Opening Addresses

Welcoming remarks

**Levent Altan** | Executive Director, Victim Support Europe  
**Hilde Vandevoorde** | National Member for Belgium and Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Team, Eurojust

10:15 – 11:30 Panel session: Supporting victims from conflict-affected areas  
(victim support perspective)

Moderator: Andrea Walraven-Thissen (Critical Incident Manager)

Supporting victims of hate crime from conflict-affected areas

**Anna-Lena von Hodenberg** | Founding Manager, NGO HateAid

Practical support to LGBTQ+ Ukrainians and Russians seeking asylum abroad

**Svetlana Shaytanova** | Quarteera e.V.

Sharing knowledge – Shared Trauma: scaling knowledge from Israel to Ukraine

**Hila Shvoron** | Deputy CEO, NATAL

Representing victims of international border crimes

**Patrick Kroker** | Senior Legal Advisor, European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights e.V.

**11:30 – 12:00 Coffee Break**

**12:00 – 13:00 Panel discussion: Supporting victims from conflict-affected areas (policy perspective)**

Moderator: Levent Altan (Executive Director, Victim Support Europe)

### **EU Victims' Rights Platform**

**Katarzyna Janicka-Pawlowska** | Coordinator for Victims' Rights, European Commission

### **Migrants as victims of trafficking in human beings: the need to step up protection**

**Tetiana Rudenko** | Senior Coordination Adviser, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

**Hilde Vandevoorde** | National Member for Belgium and Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Team, Eurojust

### **Strategic coordination of psychosocial support in conflict-affected areas**

**Ea Suzanne Akasha** | Technical Advisor, Psychosocial Centre of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**13:00 – 13:15 Closing of conference**

**Rosa Jansen** | President, Victim Support Europe

**13:45 – 14:00 Lunch Box**

# SOCIAL EVENTS

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A large hall with high ceilings and arched windows, filled with various dinosaur skeletons. A large T-Rex skeleton is the central focus, with other smaller skeletons and a long dinosaur spine visible in the background.

**JUNE 7TH 2023**

**FLYING BUFFET AT THE MUSEUM FÜR NATURKUNDE**

**19:30 ENTRY**

**20:00 OFFICIAL START**

📍 MUSEUM FÜR NATURKUNDE, INVALIDENSTRASSE 43, 10115 BERLIN

A restaurant interior with red upholstered chairs and tables set with white cloths, glassware, and cutlery. The background shows a stage area with blue and red lighting.

**GALA DINNER AT WINTERGARTEN VARIETE**

**JUNE 8TH 2023**

**19:00 ENTRY**

**20:00 SEATED DINNER**

📍 WINTERGARTEN VARIÉTÉ BERLIN, POTSDAMER STR. 96, 10785 BERLIN



# SPEAKERS

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**Ahmad Mansour** | Ahmad Mansour is a graduate psychologist and author from Berlin. Born in Kfar Saba in 1976, he holds dual Israeli and German citizenship. In 2018, Ahmad founded an initiative, which carries out various projects in the education and integration sectors as well as in prisons, to promote democracy and prevent extremism. He is steadfast in his commitment to combating anti-Semitism. 2015 saw the publication of his book “Generation Allah. Warum wir im Kampf gegen religiöse Extremismus umdenken müssen”, (“Generation Allah. Why we need to rethink the fight against religious extremism”), followed in 2018 by “Klartext zur Integration – gegen falsche Toleranz und Panikmache” (“Plain speaking on integration – countering false tolerance and scaremongering”) and in 2020 by “Solidarisch Sein! Gegen Rassismus, Antisemitismus und Hass” (“Show solidarity! Against racism, anti-Semitism and hatred”). His fourth book “Operation Allah. Wie der politische Islam unsere Demokratie unterwandern will” (“Operation Allah. How political Islam seeks to infiltrate our democracy”) was published in 2022. He has received numerous awards for his work, including the Carl von Ossietzky Prize for Contemporary History and Politics, the Gerhart and Renate Baum Foundation’s Human Rights Award and the Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. The theological faculty of the University of Basel awarded him an honorary doctorate in 2022.



**Andrea Walraven-Thissen** | Andrea Walraven-Thissen specializes in incident management during and after critical incidents. She structures and organizes the first hours as a first responder and is an expert in psychosocial triage. She has a background in psychiatric nursing and has been working under blue lights for 25 years. She trains and supervises teams in many countries and has written several books on the subject. Within EUCVT Andrea has been advising on how to improve the first response, during and right after terrorist attacks.



**Anna-Lena von Hodenberg** | Anna-Lena von Hodenberg is a professional journalist, who has worked for the media companies RTL and NDR, among others. In 2020, she was awarded the Digital Female Leader Award, while in 2021, she made it onto Capital magazine's "Top 40 under 40" list; she was also granted the Ashoka fellowship for her work with HateAid.

In 2018, Anna-Lena von Hodenberg, along with Campact e. V., Fearless Democracy e. V. and a lawyer committed to combatting right-wing violence, founded HateAid gGmbH. This CEO-led non-profit organisation advocates for human rights in the digital space. Its goal: to make the internet a positive space where democratic values apply to everyone.

So far, HateAid has supported more than 2,700 people affected by digital violence, through for example, emotionally stabilising counselling sessions, IT security and communication advice, or funding for litigation costs in civil proceedings. HateAid is the central reference point for policy and legal questions on the topic of digital violence; and works together with several specialised law firms, special prosecution offices, and various federal and state authorities as well as European decision-makers. With campaigns, petitions and targeted actions, HateAid encourages people to speak up for a society that lives democracy in all its facets.



**Astrid Passin** | Astrid Passin was born in Görlitz in 1973. At the age of four, her family moved to Berlin because of her father's teaching job. Her artistic career as a glass engraver began at the porcelain manufactory in Meissen in 1989 and ended in Zwiesel, Bavaria after the country's shift in politics. She then studied graphics and communication design in Potsdam, after which she worked as a freelance graphic artist and interior designer in Berlin and Brandenburg. When her daughter was born, she joined the family company in retail, working first as a manager, then as a freelance entrepreneur.

But everything changed on 19 December 2016. She lost her father in the deadly terrorist attack on the Christmas market next to the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church in Berlin. A lorry was driven at full speed into a crowd, taking several lives and breaking Berlin's heart in seconds. Three days of uncertainty followed, as she waited to hear whether her father's death would be confirmed or whether he somehow survived in hospital. Once politicians and the authorities hesitantly began dealing with the people affected, Astrid Passin's battle to tackle these issues began. To this day, she volunteers to help the victims of terrorism, both in Germany and abroad. The national remembrance day commemorating the victims of terrorism on 11 March was established in Germany thanks to her efforts.



**Bianca Biwer** | Bianca Biwer, born 1975 in Fulda, has been in charge of WEISSER RING's operational business since 2013.

Before, she gained professional experience as a lawyer in Great Britain, the USA and in Zagreb and Sarajevo after the Balkan wars. She worked in a leading position for the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce – the umbrella organisation of Chambers of Industry and Commerce (IHKs). She was then for seven years managing director of IHK Rheinhausen.



**Ben Bradford** | Ben Bradford is Professor of Global City Policing at the Jill Dando Institute of Security and Crime Science, University College London, where he is also Director of the Centre for Global City Policing. His research interests include procedural justice, public trust, police legitimacy, cooperation and compliance in justice settings, and social identity as a factor in all these processes. He has also published on organisational justice within police agencies, ethnic and other disparities in policing, and elements of public-facing police work such as neighbourhood patrol, community engagement and stop and search.



**Ea Suzanne Akasha** | Ea Suzanne Akasha is a Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) technical advisor and a master trainer at the IFRC Reference Centre for Psychosocial Support. She specializes in developing guidance and tools for MHPSS emergencies. She offers support to Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies across Europe and is currently involved in responses to the international armed conflict in Ukraine. Ea has been an MHPSS delegate for the Danish Red Cross and the IFRC since 2007, working on both natural disasters and conflicts. Her background, as a lecturer and author of books on exercise and relaxation, is in psychomotor therapy. Gardening, cooking, and trekking as well as social chit chat are her favourite off-line activities.



**Elena Sanchez** | Elena Sanchez is a Spanish police officer currently assigned to the International Cooperation Division (Interpol-Sirene-Europol-SPOC Front Desk 24/7). She is also co-President of the LGTBIPol Police Association, on whose behalf she carries out training, awareness-raising and sensitisation activities for Spain's various Security Forces and other bodies. This is in addition to work on the prevention of hate crimes, the prevention of harassment at work and the prevention of bullying at school, and VICTIM CARE. The LGTBIPol Police Association collects information on the experiences of, and care received by, these types of victims in police stations across Spain. The Association highlights any shortcomings to, and requirements for the Spanish Ministry of the Interior's Action Plan against Hate Crimes through its role as a member of the Ministry's Monitoring Committee.



**Elie Kagan** | Elie Kagan is the Head of Crisis Management at the Security and Crisis Centre (SACC) by EJC. Elie carries out training, provides exercises, and organises conferences in Crisis Management to the Jewish Communities and other faith organizations in Europe. He also leads the #TOGETHERWEARESAFER Security Awareness programme of the European Jewish Congress to raise civic awareness on a better prepared and more resilient society. He has worked in the sector of operational security for twenty years. Elie has a master's degree in economics from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and is an INSEAD Alumnus; he is also an ISO 9001:2008 certified Auditor.



**Fatima Ali Haider** | Dr. Fatima is a both medical doctor and an Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapist. She worked as a physician, in Pakistan, till February 2013, when she lost her husband and younger son during a terrorist attack. In January 2015, she cofounded The Grief Directory to offer rehabilitative support to victims of terrorism in Pakistan. As well as offering direct support to victims, her work focuses on countering terrorism (CT) and on countering violent extremism (CVE) by promoting inter-faith harmony. She advocates for institutionalising mechanisms of victim support through state ownership and state-CSO collaborations. In 2019, Dr Fatima received an MSc in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Ulster. Her current doctoral research aims to document the experiences of women victims of terrorism in Pakistan. Dr Fatima regularly interacts on international platforms such as the United Nations Office for Counter Terrorism (UNOCT) and United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC). She was one of the team of core experts who helped draft the Model Legislative Provisions (UN). She is also a board member of Victim Support Asia (VSA) and a member of the Alliance of NGOs on crime prevention and criminal justice. Her areas of interest are in women and youth empowerment in conflict settings.



**Francesca Romana Capaldo** | Francesca Romana Capaldo Lieutenant Colonel of the Italian national police, current Director of OSCAD, OBSERVATORY FOR SECURITY AGAINST ACTS OF DISCRIMINATION, a law enforcement inter-agency body (National Police and Carabinieri Corps) with the aim to prevent and combat hate crime and hate speech.

Francesca has many years of experience in crimes against the person, gender violence and crimes against minors, which resulted in her being awarded the title of "Knight" of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic under an initiative by the President of the Italian Republic for "the exemplary activities in contrasting and preventing gender violence both in the control of the territory and at the Investigative Offices". Francesca is also a certified lawyer at the Naples Bar Council and holds two bachelor's degrees in law and public administration and two master's degrees in security issues.



**Hak Seok Kim** | Mr. Hak Seok Kim, an attorney, is Vice President of the Victim Support Asia (Republic of South Korea).

In 2008, Mr. Kim's work at the Ministry of Justice led to the establishment of the South Korean National Crime Victim Support Federation, which supervises and controls 56 Crime Victim Support Centers. In addition, Mr. Kim helped draft the Crime Victims' Fund Act and legislate for the Crime Adjustment System; he also hosted the First Korean Human Rights Convention. In 2017, Mr. Kim established Victim Support Asia as its founding member. At this time, he is Vice President of the Korean Association of Victimology and on the advisory board of Korean Terrorism Victim Support Association.



**Hila Shvoren** | Hila is the Deputy CEO of, and Director of Resiliency and Community at NATAL. While Hila currently manages NATAL's emergency intervention team, she both develops and leads national programmes that build resilience in Israeli society (for medical teams, mental health professionals, first responders etc.). She also develops training programmes and lectures at the Central School for Social Workers at the Israeli Ministry of Social Affairs. Hila has a BA in Social Work (she is a rehabilitation expert) and an MBA in Business Administration; she was Director of Therapeutic Services for the Community at Beit Issie Shapiro, Israel's leading non-profit in the field of disabilities. Hila's previous experience as CEO and co-owner of an internet company in the field of mental health allows her to serve as a mediator and mentor to CEOs in social organisations.



**Hilde Vandevoorde** | Mrs Hilde Vandevoorde was appointed Eurojust National Member for Belgium in December 2017. Since September 2019, she has been Chair of the College Counter-Terrorism [PV1] Team and since March 2023, the Chair ad-interim of the Victim Rights' Working Group. Mrs Vandevoorde's career has been dedicated to the fight against both organised crime and terrorism. After working as a defence lawyer, she was appointed as a prosecutor in Brussels, where she specialised in cases dealing with organised crime and terrorism. In 2000, Mrs Vandevoorde was appointed national magistrate and, in 2002, she joined the Federal Prosecutor's Office, coordinating organised crime and terrorism cases at the national and international levels. As Head of the Special Missions Unit, she was in charge of special investigation techniques, undercover investigations and Covert Human Intelligence Sources ('CHIS'/informants). At that time, Mrs Vandevoorde was also responsible for Belgium's witness protection program, as well as for the review of the federal judicial police.





**Jochen Kopelke** | Jochen Kopelke is the Federal Chairman of Germany's Police Union (Gewerkschaft der Polizei – GdP). He first joined the police in 2005, and between 2008 – 2014 he worked first with the riot police and then with the protective police, in Bremen. In 2017, Jochen went to work at the State Office of Criminal Investigation, Bremen and by 2021, he was appointed head of office and personal instructor to the Bremen Senator of the Interior. Jochen became a member of the GdP when he started with the police in 2005, by 2013 he was made Chairman of the Bremen section of the GdP Youth. In September 2022, he was made Federal Chairman of the Union of Police and is Head of Bremen's International Police Association.



**John Letteney** | John Letteney was sworn in as Chief of Police for the Thomasville (GA) Police Department in January 2021. He previously served as Chief of Police for the Apex (NC) Police Department (2012 - 2021) and the Southern Pines (NC) Police Department (2005 - 2012). In 2005, Chief Letteney retired as a Captain/Zone Commander from the Monroe County Sheriff's Office in Rochester, New York, where he was responsible for a police substation as well as law enforcement services for an international airport. During his 40-year law enforcement career, he has served in patrol, investigations, training, accreditation, tactical operations, inspections and administration.

Chief Letteney currently serves as the President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), and is a Past General Chair for the Division of State Associations of Chiefs of Police (SACOP).



**Katarzyna Janicka-Pawlowska** | Katarzyna Janicka-Pawlowska is the European Commission's Coordinator for Victims' Rights. In this position, she heads the Victims' Rights team in DG Justice and leads on Victims' Rights policy, including the enforcement of EU rules, policy development, and mainstreaming Victims' Rights policy. Katarzyna has extensive expertise in EU decision-making and in the enforcement of EU law.



**Katharina Wall** | Katharina Wall holds a Master of Arts in Theology and Global Development. After working for a relief organization, she joined the Körber-Stiftung, a German foundation that promotes science, culture and social projects. Her focus is on programmes which strengthen municipal office holders and elected officials.



**Lauren Walker** | Lauren Walker is a journalist working for The Brussels Times, an English-language news platform based in Brussels. Her writing focuses on topics ranging from local issues on subjects such as mobility in Brussels and housing issues in Belgium, to more global topics such as human rights (abuses) and injustices. During the VSE 2023 conference, she will discuss the role of journalism as the fourth pillar in democracy and how it is tasked with giving the voiceless a voice, and how disinformation impedes this work.



**Lena Weilbacher** | Lena Weilbacher, born in Kassel in 1994, lives in Göttingen where she studied law and she became involved with WEISSER RING e. V. as a Victim Support Worker. More recently, she took on the additional role of Youth Coordinator for Lower Saxony. Currently, the law graduate is working as a criminal law research assistant at the Georg-August University. Her doctoral thesis focuses on the prevention of child abuse.



**Levent Altan** | Levent Altan has been Executive Director for VSE since 2014. In that role he is responsible for providing overall leadership, strategic direction and management of the organisation.

Levent has worked, trained and spoken extensively on victims' rights across Europe and globally, providing expertise to national governments as well as the UN, Council of Europe and European Union. He helped found VSE's sister organisation Victim Support Asia, as well as the International Network Supporting Victims of Terrorism and Mass Victimisation, and most recently is leading the consortium delivering the work of the European Commission's EU Centre of Expertise for Victims of Terrorism.



**Patrick Kroker** | Patrick Kroker is a lawyer and Senior Legal Advisor with the International Crimes Program at the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights e.V. (ECCHR) in Berlin, an organization demanding accountability for grave human rights abuses with legal means.

In his capacity as a lawyer, Kroker regularly represents victims of international crimes in several European jurisdictions.



**Petra Klein** | Petra Klein has been a member of the board of Weisser Ring Germany since 2010 and has been in charge of Weisser Ring Germany's branch office in Oldenburg, Lower Saxony since 2009. Since 2021, Petra is also the Vice-President of Victim Support Europe.

Petra Klein retired from her position as police detective chief superintendent in 2008 due to poor health resulting from an accident suffered while on duty. As the head of a police negotiation team until 2008, she resolved cases involving hostage taking, kidnapping, blackmail, and threat management in cooperation with international agencies. Until 2000, she worked in a special department of the police active in the field of sexual offenses. From 2000 - 2008, Petra Klein was the contact person on issues relating to domestic violence for the police in north-western Germany.



**Richard Sonnenschein** | Richard Sonnenschein has been Director in charge of Justice Policies in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST) since March 2023. He holds a law degree from the University of Freiburg, Germany.

Richard started his career as Head of Staff at the Mayor's Office in Stuttgart, this placement followed several appointments in the fields of justice (district court Offenburg, Germany) and public administration (focusing on German environmental and media law). In 2003, Richard joined the European Commission, working first as a policy officer and then as assistant to the Director of Resources within the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology where his focus was on Digital Commerce, Security and Digital Law.

From 2008 until 2016 he held several middle management functions in the area of Human Resources and Security, notably in Protection and Crisis Management. From 2016 to 2020, Richard was Principal Security Adviser in the EU's Directorate-General for Human Resources and Security in charge of Crisis Management. Between 2020 and 2021, he worked as Administrative Director ad interim at the European Public Prosecutor's Office, Luxembourg. Richard then moved to DG JUST in 2021 when he was appointed Acting Director and later Director for Criminal Justice in DG JUST from March 2021 until February 2023.



**Rosa Jansen** | Rosa Jansen studied Dutch law at Leiden University with a major in business law. She also followed a MPA (Master of Public Administration) - study at the Dutch School of Public Administration in The Hague, The Netherlands and at the Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada.

After starting her career at the Dutch Broadcasting Union in Hilversum, she was appointed as judicial trainee. She worked later as lawyer in Amsterdam and as a judge /vice-president in the courts of Arnhem, The Hague, Amsterdam and Utrecht, respectively civil court, administrative court, family court and criminal court. From 2002 to 2008 she was president of the criminal division and board member in the rank of coordinating vice-president and acting president in the court in Utrecht. From 2008 till 2017 she has been appointed as President of the Board of Directors of SSR, the Dutch Training Institute for the Judiciary in Utrecht. Since 2017 she is on special leave as judge and is appointed as President of the Board of Directors of Victim Support The Netherlands and the Foundation Restorative Justice. She is also member of the Board of Directors of the Dutch Council for Personal Injury. Rosa Jansen also operated internationally. She was between 2012 -2017 president of the Steering Committee of the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) in Brussels. Also she was involved in the development of the rule of law in several European countries, including Indonesia, Mongolia and Morocco. Rosa Jansen has several publications on her name in the field of the judiciary, innovation, leadership and criminal law.

Between 2015 and 2017 she was appointed as president of the Dutch Association for the Judiciary. Since June 2021 she is member of INVICTM (International Network Supporting Victims of Terrorism and Mass Violence). Rosa Jansen is the current President of Victim Support Europe.



**Staci A. Beers** | Staci has been a victim advocate in the US criminal justice system for the past 30 years. She joined the FBI's Victim Services Division (VSD) in 2010 and works with domestic and international victims of terrorism.

Staci's responsibilities include immediate liaison with the next of kin of deceased victims and support to victims and families following a terrorist attack, the coordination of medical evacuation and repatriation of remains, providing crisis intervention to victims and family, and serving as a liaison between the victim and FBI throughout the course of the investigation. She also leads the death notification training ("We Regret to Inform You...") development and management for the FBI's VSD.

In addition, Staci is a Crisis Response Canine (CRC) handler for Wally. Wally is an eight-year-old yellow Labrador who is trained in providing animal assistance crisis response to crime victims. Wally reduces stress and anxiety brought about by exposure as a result of violent crime, tragedy, and/or critical incidents. The CRC program aims to use the canine-human bond to promote resilience and connection between victims and responders. Staci and Wally responded in the aftermath of the IRC shooting in San Bernardino, the personal effects return to the victims of the Boston Marathon Bombing, the police shootings in Dallas, TX, the Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando, FL, the Route 91 Harvest Festival shooting and the Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, TX.



**Svetlana Shaytanova** | Svetlana Shaytanova was born and raised in Omsk, Russia. In 2015, she moved to Germany where she was awarded an MA in English Philology. After completing her studies, she was hired as coordinator for a project between the Akademie Waldschlösschen Foundation and Quarteera. The project's main goal was to raise awareness and sensitivity towards LGBTQ\* individuals in Germany's Russian-speaking communities.

Its other goal was to ensure Quarteera's organisational development. In her role, Svetlana was responsible for fundraising, project management, event management and PR. For a short period of time, she was on the board of Quarteera.



**Tetiana Rudenko** | Tetiana Rudenko serves as Senior Co-ordination Adviser at the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. She focuses, among other things, on the risks of trafficking in the context of the war against Ukraine.



**Tom De Bruyne** | Tom De Bruyne is founder of SUE | Behavioural Design, an international behavioural science consultancy and academy based in Amsterdam.



**Yong Woo Lee** | Mr. Yong Woo Lee (Republic of Korea) is CEO of Buyhearts Co. Ltd and Founder & President of Victim Support Asia.



Mr. Yong Woo Lee became Chairman of Seoul's Han Ga-ram Rotary Club in 1992. He was then appointed Chairman of Gimpo Chamber of Commerce and Industry and has been a member of the Board of Victim Protection Committee of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea, a Member of National Police Agency Investigation Policy Committee, and a member of the Board of the National Assembly Human Rights Commission.

He also worked in human rights, support, and protection of victims, and served as director of the Smile Center, a victim healing facility. In 2014, he was awarded the Korea Industrial Merit, and in 2022, he was awarded the Korea National Medal of Merit (Dong Baek-Jang) for contributing to the development of national society by improving legal culture. In addition, in 2015, he published "Who will wipe their tears (Report on the Status of Victims of Crime)." Currently, he is chairman of the Korea Crime Victim Support Center (KCVC) and president of the Korea Terrorism Victim Support Association (KTVSA).

# VSE SUPPORTS ORGANISATIONS WORKING IN THE FIELD OF VICTIMS' RIGHTS & SERVICES



## INFLUENCING

legislation at the UN, the EU, the Council of Europe and at national levels.



## PARTNERING

with the judiciary, law enforcement agencies, victim support organisations, NGOs, policy makers, health services, victim advocates and many others.



## IMPACTING

victims' lives by delivering training, improving standards, developing information systems, responding to terrorist attacks and connecting victims with support services.

## VSE IN NUMBERS



**142**

### PUBLICATIONS

- 26 reports p.a
- 116 web-articles p.a



### 50+ ANNUAL VSE EVENTS

- Annual Conference
- EU NGO Roundtables
- Victims' Rights Communicators' Network Webinars
- Staff Exchange
- Advocacy Meetings
- Centre of Excellence Workshops
- National Meetings



### SOCIAL MEDIA REACH

- 3,200,000+ accounts reached p.a



### SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

Averaging 50K impressions per campaign

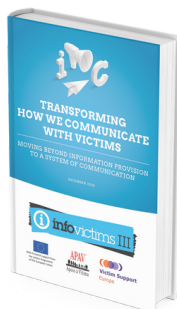


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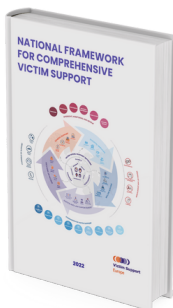
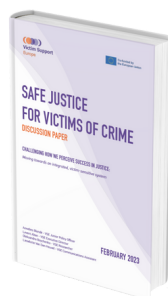


## TRANSFORMING HOW WE COMMUNICATE WITH VICTIMS

Victims of crime are often left feeling stressed or traumatised. However, while still suffering from the emotional, psychological, physical, and social consequences of a crime, victims are required to undertake many tasks, which range from filing a complaint to navigating complex criminal proceedings. In this context, the appropriate provision of relevant information may enable their access to justice and support, help prevent secondary victimisation, and empower their participation in proceedings.

## SAFE JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

After forty years of the same statements, of rights that are not implemented, of rights that cannot be exercised, of victims being marginalised, a change in approach is required. The commitments made by governments and international organisations must become a reality for victims.



## NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR COMPREHENSIVE VICTIM SUPPORT

Every year, an estimated 75 million people in the European Union, 15% of the population, fall victim to serious crimes. The impact can devastate individuals psychologically, physically, financially, and with respect to their work, social and family life. Crime weakens our societies, economies, security and the rule of law

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# **PROTECTING FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, A VICTIM'S PERSPECTIVE**

Victim Support Europe Annual Conference 2023

7th to 9th June | Berlin

**#VSEAC2023**



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