

**It is our pleasure to invite you to the Fifth Annual Conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia *Victims' protection: International law, national legislations and practice*, which will be held in Hotel Park in Belgrade on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

The conference aims to bring together experts and researchers, who deal both theoretically and practically and from the perspective of different disciplines with victims' rights and provide assistance to victims of violence and other forms of crime, and to enable a comprehensive exchange of experience and knowledge. Within the main Conference topic, the legal framework at international and European level, as well as current legislations, policies and practices of different countries will be critically reconsidered from the point of view of providing effective protection to victims and improving their overall position.

The main Conference topic seems to be particularly important in the context of the accession negotiations of Serbia to the European Union, especially in terms of opening chapters 23 and 24, which are dealing with judiciary and fundamental rights, freedom, security and justice, and further work on harmonization of national legislation and policies with the EU *acquis* and standards that contribute to better protection of victims. During the conference, special attention will be paid to the *EU Directive on establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime*, *Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention)* and the *European Convention on the compensation of victims of violent crimes*. The Conference will also focus on the experiences of different countries, including those that have recently accessed the EU, on the development of legislation and practice, particularly on the examples of good practices related to the rights, status and protection of victims in criminal proceedings and independently of it. Finally, the importance and the role of civil society organizations in providing protection and support to victims will be pointed out.

**The conference work will be organized through:**

- Plenary sessions
- Thematic sessions
- Workshops
- Poster presentations

**Among the plenary speakers, there will be:**

**Prof. dr Marc Groenhuijsen: *Protection of crime victims: international and European law and policy***

Prof. dr Marc Groenhuijsen is the director of International Victimology Institute INTERVICT in Tilburg, professor of criminal law, criminal prosecution and victimology at the Department for Criminal Law at the Law Faculty, University of Tilburg (The Netherlands) and president of the World Society of Victimology. Prof. dr Groenhuijsen is a member of the Dutch Royal Academy of Science and honorary member of the Victimology Society of Serbia. He has received numerous awards and recognitions for his contribution to the development of victimology and victim services. Prof. Groenhuijsen is one of the leading world experts in the field of victims' rights and victims' issues in the context of international and European law and policies.

**Prof. dr Momcilo Grubac: *Crime victim in the legislation and practice of the Republic of Serbia***

Prof. dr Momcilo Grubac is Professor Emeritus at the Law Faculty and Faculty of Law and Business Studies "Dr Lazar Vrketic", Union University, Belgrade (Serbia). Until 2004 he was

professor at the Law Faculty at the University of Novi Sad (Serbia). Prof. dr Grubac was Federal Minister for human rights (1992- 1993) and Federal Minister of justice (2000- 2001). From 2001 to 2003 he was a judge and the president of the Federal Constitutional Court. He was a member of the government's professional bodies for drafting certain laws, particularly for drafting the Criminal Procedure Code. He is an author of numerous books, discussions, academic papers, reviews and newspaper articles in the field of criminal procedure law, judicial organization, psychology of criminal procedure and constitutional law.

***Dr Katrien Lauwaert: EU policies on victims of crime and restorative justice***

Dr Katrien Lauwaert is a research-coordinator at the European Forum for Restorative Justice and a senior researcher at the Leuven Institute of Criminology (Belgium). Dr Lauwaert is a chair of the non-profit organization, which organizes victim-offender mediation for adult offenders and their victims and which acts as a Forum on restorative justice developments in Belgium. Main fields of her research and teaching work and interests include restorative justice, victimology, youth delinquency, criminology and criminal procedure. Currently her work focuses on EU policies on victims and restorative justice and on the link between desistance and restorative justice.

***Dr Pam Alldred: Gender, gender-based violence, LGBT rights and hate crimes: the experience of the EU countries***

Dr Pam Alldred is Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Health Sciences and Social Care, Brunel University, London (United Kingdom) and director of the Centre of the Youth Work Studies. Dr Alldred is Principal Investigator on a large EU co-funded project "GAP Work: Improving gender-related violence intervention and referral through youth practitioner training", devising innovative anti-homophobia and relationship violence training for teachers and 'youth practitioners' in four countries. Dr Alldred's research and teaching interests are in gender and sexuality, identities and inequalities, particularly in relation to children and young people.

***Mr Suncana Rokсандić Vidlička: Compensation for victims of serious crimes and victims of sexual violence in war: the experience of Croatia***

Mr Suncana Rokсандić Vidlička is assistant at the Department of Criminal Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb (Croatia) and PhD candidate at the Faculty of Law, Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg and the Department of Criminology at Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law in Freiburg (Germany). Mr Rokсандić Vidlička is one of the co-directors of the international course "EU Substantive Criminal law and protection of victims" (Dubrovnik, Croatia). The areas of her scientific and research work are, among other issues, transitional justice, EU criminal law and protection of victims and in particular the right on compensation for victims of serious crimes and victims of sexual violence in war.

Please find attached **the call for submission of abstracts and information regarding the registration fee and registration proces.**

For any additional information about the Conference, please contact VDS on the telephone +381 11 6303022 or via E-mail [infovds@eunet.rs](mailto:infovds@eunet.rs) or [vdsrbija@gmail.com](mailto:vdsrbija@gmail.com) .

**We would kindly ask you to forward this message to anyone who might be interested in participating at the Conference.**

Sincerely yours,

Prof. dr Vesna Nikolic-Ristanovic

Director of the Victimology Society of Serbia