

VICTIM SUPPORT MALTA

Malta's support and information centre for victims of crime

A brief introduction to Victim Support Malta

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VICTIMSUPPORTMALTA

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The Context Of Victim Support Malta

- The Republic of Malta. Sister Island Gozo.
- Population 2013 of 424,600.
- Includes 3,100 net inflows from migration.*
- Inbound Tourists in 2013 totalled 1,582,153.**
- Malta Increasingly Becoming a Multicultural Society.

*Eurostat Special Release Report on European Demography Eurostat Press Office 2013

**Malta Tourism Authority Research Unit 2014

Primary Aim

To provide victims of crime with free, professional, confidential information and services.

What is Victim Support?

- Non-Profit: Registered Voluntary Organization
- Free
- Confidential
- Professional
- Victim Centered Approach

How Does Victim Support Work?

- Employed Staff
- Volunteers, Interns and Student placements
- Cooperation with 3rd party entities

What Services Does Victim Support Offer?

1. Direct
2. Indirect
3. Specialized Services

Direct Services

- **Emotional Support**

Victim support offers services of emotional support to any victim of crime. Presently, these services are provided by University students on placement for a Master's in counseling. This enables victim support to offer free, highly supervised counseling services..

- **Practical Support**

Victim support offers more practical support to victims of crime who require assistance in returning to their day to day routine, or in acquiring skills which they were unable to acquire at an earlier stage. This type of support may include court accompaniment, assistance and empowerment in looking for work, etc. This service is offered through our volunteers

Direct Services

- **Legal Counseling**

Victim Support strives to provide victims of crime with access to information. Legal interns and lawyers provide legal counseling to our clients on a voluntary basis. Clients are also aided in applications for legal aid whenever possible.

- **Witness Support Programme**

Victims of crime rarely experience trauma in solitude. Quite often their families, friends, and significant others are also traumatized by the experience. Victim Support also opens its doors to assist witnesses of crime.

Direct Services

- **Liaison With External Services**

Often, victims of crime need to access other services in relation to their experience of crime. These may include contact with the police, court, and national agency for welfare. Victim Support liaises with these entities so as to ensure that clients are kept well informed of how their case is being dealt with. Clients are also assisted to access services which victim support is unable to provide. This may include mental health or residential services.

In the case where our clients are not of Maltese nationality and wish to return to their country of origin, or our clients are of Maltese nationality residing abroad, we also liaise with foreign victim support entities in order to ensure access to services for our clients abroad.

Indirect Services

- **Awareness Raising**

As part of its work, Victim Support engages in a number of awareness raising activities in relation to crime and victimization in Malta. In 2014 Victim Support coordinated the activity '*One Billion Rising*' and currently we are rolling out an awareness raising campaign with reference to youth victims of crime in relation to our project *VS4Y*.

- **Research**

Research in order to grasp the local situation is ongoing. In 2014 Victim Support conducted research in relation to youth victims of crime as well as sexual assault in the context of intimate partner violence.

Indirect Services

- **Lobbying**

Victim Support lobbies for victims' rights constantly, in the forms of media, position papers and so on. Victim Support also involves itself in the drafting of national legislation in relation to victim's rights.

Specialized Services

The Sexual Assault Response Team

In March 2014, the first Sexual Assault Response Team was launched in Malta. The service was launched as a public social partnership between the Ministry for Family and Social Solidarity, the Ministry for Health, the Ministry for Home affairs, and coordination by Victim Support Malta.

Specialized Services

The Sexual Assault Response Team

The Sexual Assault Response Team offers the following crisis intervention services on a 24 hour basis:

- i. Medical Intervention
- ii. Social Work Services
- iii. Police and forensic services at the victims discretion

Specialized Services

The Sexual Assault Response Team

The following services are offered to all victims of sexual assault as free follow-up services, following the initial crisis intervention services detailed in the previous slide:

- i. Psychological / Counseling Services
- ii. Full legal Representation
- iii. Legal Counseling
- iv. Witness Support

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- **Active Service Users
January – June 2014**

- Victim Support Malta Evaluation
Report January – June 2014

Financial Crimes (including Fraud & Usury)	05
Theft, Robbery & Burglary	10
Domestic Violence (including sibling violence, Adult Children Violence & Elder Abuse)	19
Sexual Assault (including SART cases)	15
Harassment & Discrimination	04
Other	05

How can we be reached?



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www.victimsupport.org.mt



Victim Support Malta



**Thank you for your time and
attention**