

It is our pleasure to invite you to the Sixth Annual Conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia *New trends in victimology theory and practice: Dilemmas and challenges in protecting victims*, which will be held in Palace Hotel in Belgrade on 26th and 27th November 2015

If you want to present your paper, poster presentation or propose a thematic session or a workshop, we invite you to submit an abstract not later than 1st October 2015.

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 emerging trends in the victimological theory and practice will be examined, as well as the dilemmas and challenges faced by practitioners.

This year's conference is organized in the year when we mark three decades since the adoption of the *United Nations' Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power*, which set forth the fundamental rights of victims of crime. It is a good moment to pause and re-consider whether and to what extent the rights of victims of crime were improved, what is the position of victims within and outside of the criminal proceedings, and whether and to what extent are the victim support programs available, effective and sufficient. During the conference, participants will share their experiences in implementing standards set forth in the UN Declaration and other international and European documents regarding the rights and position of victims of crime in different countries, and point out to directions of further reforms of legislation and practice in order to ensure adequate protection of victims. Exchange of experiences at the conference should also contribute to further work on the harmonization of national legislation and policy of the Republic of Serbia with the EU *acquis* and standards in the context of Serbia's accession negotiations with the European Union.

The conference work will be organized through:

- Plenary sessions
- Thematic sessions
- Workshops
- Poster presentations

The keynote speakers will be:

Prof. dr Sarah Ben-David: *Who are the victims? Different theoretical perspectives and their consequences for victim protection*

Prof. dr Sarah Ben-David is the Director of the Department of Criminology and professor of Criminology at the Ariel University in Israel. Prof. Ben-David was a Chair of the Advisory Council to the Minister of Justice and Minister of Public Security and Chair of the Professional Committee for the Day Center for Sex Offenders in the Community. Prof. Ben-David served for several years as a Head of Victimology Department in Bar-Ilan University. In 2009 Inter-University Center Dubrovnik awarded her a prize for her contribution to the field of victimology and for organizing and implementing the IUC Course on Victimology and Victim Assistance. She is an author of numerous books and academic papers in the field of criminology, victimology, family and sexual harassment. Her recent work was mainly concentrated on encouraging

research, awareness and therapy in the field of sexual harassment of men and women, and on raising awareness of the reciprocal nature of intimate partner violence and domestic violence.

Dr Albin Dearing: The victim's right to the conviction and punishment of the offender: A human rights-based approach to criminal justice

Dr Albin Dearing is a research Programme Manager in the area of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice at the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. Dr Dearing is a member of the Executive Committee of Weisser Ring (Victim Support) Austria and author of the Austrian Act on the Protection against Domestic Violence. He previously worked in various positions, including the Law Faculty at the University of Linz, and at the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law in Freiburg. He has also worked for the Austrian Ministries of the Interior and Justice, and for many years presided over the Austrian Crime Prevention Council. He was a legal assistant at the EU Court of Justice in Luxembourg. His areas of expertise include criminal law and criminal justice, law enforcement reform, crime prevention and victims' rights.

Prof. dr Basia Spalek: Trauma, Diversity and Victimisation: Exploring harms and responses

Prof. dr Basia Spalek is a professor of Conflict Transformation at the University of Derby and internationally renowned researcher. She is fully qualified psychotherapist and she is practising psychotherapy at a trauma clinic and is applying this learning to her forthcoming book: Trauma and Victimisation: theory, policy and practice. She is a member of the Judicial Panel of the People's Tribunal for Child Sexual Abuse, which seeks to raise awareness and discussion on the issue of institutional child sex abuse, and create a record of institutional child sex abuse cases. Prof. Spalek is a Nominated Expert on 'Compensation of victims, prevention of crime and related aspects relevant to the security of citizens' for the Human Rights Law Centre, University of Nottingham. Main fields of her research and teaching work and interests include crime victims, religion, terrorism, trauma and victimisation.

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

For any additional information about the Conference, please contact Bejan Saciri on the telephone +381 11 6303022 or via E-mail vdsconference@gmail.com or 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