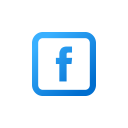


**ONEVOICEONECAUSE Campaign**

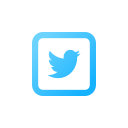
**Phase 2: July - Nov 2020**

**Editorial Calendar**

**Victim Support Europe channels:**



**victimsupporteurope**



**@VictimSupportEU**



**victim support Europe**

**victimsupport.eu**



**www.victimsupport.eu**

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| **Category of posts** | **Texts of visuals or posts** |
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| **1. Introductory campaign messages** | 1. Campaign definition visual (*find the visual on the campaign's website, section 'Campaign's Content’: https://onevoiceonecause.vse-campaign.eu/july-november-2020/)*  Accompanying post:  VSE is a community of people who take victims’ rights to heart.  We are campaigning for a world where victims’ rights are enjoyed by all.  We research and expose the problematic areas and locations, where victims rights are violated.  By sharing the voices of victims and the people we work with, we mobilize millions of supporters around the world to campaign for a safer society and to stand in defence of support workers on the frontline.  2. 4 victims' quotes produced by EC *(find the visuals on the campaign's website, section 'Campaign's Content)* |
| **2. Reflections on the Strategy by VSE experts** | *(Find the visuals on the campaign's website, section: https://onevoiceonecause.vse-campaign.eu/july-november-2020/)*  1. João Lázaro, President, Victim Support Europe: "There are many important topics covered in this first-ever EU Strategy on Victims' Rights, and I’m pleased to see a coordinated approach to the advancement of victims' rights being taken by the European Commission. We look forward to working with the Commission and with all the Member States, in particular, in implementing this Strategy, in order to ensure that every person enjoys all the rights enshrined in the EU Victims' Rights Directive. Changing laws is not enough. We need to make them work on the frontline!"  2. Levent Altan, Executive Director, Victim Support Europe: “The EU Victims Rights Strategy represents an important step in the EU for victims of all crimes. We hope that the European Commission will maximise the benefit and impact of the Strategy by establishing a consistent monitoring of the implementation of the strategy and active collaboration with the Victim Support community to improve the protection of victims’ rights.”  3. Aleksandra Ivanković, Deputy Director, Victim Support Europe: "It feels very rewarding that for the first time the European Commission is adopting a strategy on victims’ rights. Member States are unfortunately falling short of their obligations from the Victims’ Rights Directive and this strategy will help guide them towards better outcomes for all European victims, in particular the most vulnerable – victims of hate crimes, victims with disabilities, victims of gender-based or domestic violence and children. We from VSE will remain committed to work with the EU and Member States to ensure the full implementation of the Victims’ Rights Directive and creation of victim centered justice systems across the EU."  4. Ruth Shrimpling, Policy Officer, Victim Support Europe: "The EU takes important steps in addressing the major pitfalls for all victims of crime, with a specific regard to the needs and rights of the most vulnerable victims.  Addressing the greatest and most common obstacles victims face, including a lack of information, underreporting of crime, communication from professionals and a lack of trust in public authorities, is a welcome commitment from the EU towards victims. VSE looks forward to seeing concrete actions in the next five years, which work towards bridging the gap between victims’ rights and their reality."  5. Lea Meindre - Chautrand, Policy Officer, Victim Support Europe: "The EU Victims’ Rights Strategy represents an important achievement for victims of crime. Concrete actions from the European Commission and Member States will need to follow in order to have an effective Strategy. VSE will continue to support the different actors to improve victims’ access to support and information by supporting the implementation of different tools such as the 116 006 helpline, referral mechanisms, individual needs assessment and information campaigns. The rights and principles set up in the Victims’ Rights Directive and the Strategy should now be transformed into positive and impactful actions to make victims’ rights a reality."  6. Victor Jammers, Manager of Operations, EU Centre of Expertise For Victims of Terrorism: "The EU Strategy on victims' rights will benefit victims of terrorism. The EU Centre of Expertise for Victims of Terrorism (EUCVT) expects that the strategy will create synergy through actions of the European Commission, the EU Member States and international organisations. Facilitating the cooperation between Member States will help to provide cross-border victims of terrorism with the support they need (and are entitled to!). Fair and appropriate state compensation for victims of terrorism will help to prevent financial problems for victims of terrorism, and thus prevent secondary victimization. The EUCVT is ready to help the European Commission and the EU Member States to implement the new strategy in the upcoming years." |
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| **3. Reflections on the Strategy by EU NGO Partners** | *(Find the visuals on the campaign's website, section 'Campaign's Content in September 2020)* |
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| **4. Victims' Rights** | **1. Poster victims' rights (***find the visual on the campaign's website, section 'Campaign's Content’: https://onevoiceonecause.vse-campaign.eu/july-november-2020/)*  Accompanying message:  Every victim of a crime has rights under the EU legislation. If people don't know their rights, they can't exercise them.  If your rights are violated, you can always file a complaint, get in touch with your local support service and find much needed help!  **2. Visual: National Framework for Comprehensive Victim Support** *(find the visual on the campaign's website, section 'Campaign's Content)*  Accompanying message:  A society where victims of crime are fully supported is simply a safer and healthier place to live.  Working on victims' issues across all sectors is essential. Many different aspects of the life of the individual is impacted after a victimisation. It is insufficient to only improve the way in which victims are supported in the justice system, all sectors of life should be addressed such as the health system, the education system, the work place, etc.  - Better recovery improves work and life results. Individuals with low incomes are amongst the most vulnerable to crime and to its impacts.  - Addressing the psychological impact of crime on victims (direct and indirect) will improve health outcomes. Direct action on resilience and recovery is relevant for the health of society in general.  - Victimisation has a significant impact on education outcomes. Education offers opportunities to address crime and its impacts and should be consider from primary school through to lifelong learning.  - Private sector has a critical role in developing solutions to help victims, including safety in the work place – harassment etc., victim oriented work place (identifying if staff are victims and responding correctly), private sector identifying criminality (e.g. hotels trained to identify trafficking).  - Formal and informal justice for victims, building communities, improving victim focused institutions. |
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| **5. VSE's calls to action** | **#EUVictimsRights Strategy introduction posts** *(find the visuals on the campaign's website, section 'Campaign's Content’: https://onevoiceonecause.vse-campaign.eu/july-november-2020/)***:**  **1. VOCIARE Reports explanation visual:**  The VOCIARE report from 26 EU countries tracks how EU Member States implement the Victims’ Rights Directive 7 years after it was established.  Ultimately, these findings should stand as a basis for an action plan, at national and EU-level, to collaboratively implement the Victims’ Rights Directive once and for all.  Learn more on: onevoiceonecause.vse-campaign.eu/about-vociare/  **Post 2.**   Ensure Full Implementation and Evaluation of Relevant EU laws  The European Commission should pursue legal action against 21 Member States for failing to implement in law and in practice the Victims Rights Directive.  Despite the progress, recent VOCIARE reports show that victims of crime still cannot fully rely on their rights in the EU.  It is essential that these 21 countries implement the Directive as soon as possible.  **Post 3.**   Victim Support Europe’s campaign is inspired by the first EU Victims' Rights Strategy, which was adopted in June 2020. This is a powerful pledge by the European Commission to advance the protection and promotion of victims’ rights.  These 5 key priorities of the Strategy are empowerment to act together:  1 - Effective communication with victims and a safe environment for victims to report crime  2 - Improving support and protection of the most vulnerable victims  3 - Facilitating victims’ access to compensation  4 - Strengthening cooperation and coordination among all relevant actors  5 - Strengthening the international dimension of victims’ rights  **Post 4.**  Victim Support Europe supports the EU Victims' Rights Strategy whilst highlighting some key priorities:  - All victims of crime benefit from EU actions and policies, this includes the most vulnerable, specific groups of victims who may not be regarded as vulnerable, and all victims as a whole. No victims should be forgotten in EU action;  - All existing EU legislation related to victims are fully implemented in practice and evaluated;  - A fully inclusive approach to ensure civil society and State actors are part of the solution and and cooperation between them is supported;  - Comprehensive systems of support: the EU must act to ensure that in every Member State victim support services exist across those countries, that they operate effectively and that the public and victims are informed of these services and have easy access to them;  - Access to safe justice and compensation: the EU must act to ensure that victims are supported in seeking justice, are properly protected in the system and that compensation  schemes are accessible and victim friendly.  - Victims issues are mainstreamed across all sectors of the EU such that EU policy areas such as education, health, foreign affairs, economic activities actively incorporate victims issues into their priorities;  - Funding mechanisms are adjusted to cover victims issues in all EU policies. This should be considered as a priority within the Multi-annual financial framework;  - Research and training better covers victim priorities to ensure better understanding of problems and gaps, evaluation activities, develop innovative solutions and carry out  longitudinal studies.  **Post 5**  Whilst recognising the efforts of the EU to enhance victims’ rights and service, there remain a number of fundamental gaps and problems. Amongst the most important ones are the following:  - A large proportion of victims never report the crime or never reach the services they need because they are not identified as victims or because of barriers to coming forward;  - For those who report the crime or seek help, many are subject to secondary victimisation by a wide variety of actors both inside and outside the justice system, and by society itself – due to lack of knowledge and understanding, lack of protection, poor treatment, and lack of co- ordinated efforts.  - For those who are identified as victims and require support, in many EU countries generic and specialise victim support services do not exist or are insufficient, are not accessible or are not of a high quality. The consequence being that many victims are not able to cope and recover from the trauma.  **Post 6**  EU Funding  VSE’s Call To Action: Having in mind the importance and cross cutting nature of victims issues, the European Commission should develop a strategic approach to victims funding that identifies areas most likely to benefit from EU funding and which co-ordinates incorporation of victims’ priorities across the various EU funding programmes including those operating at the national and international level.  VSE’s Recommendations:  - Mainstream victims’ agenda into all EU funding programmes, including EU funds managed at the national and international level  - Specific funding should be allocated for the set up and running of 116006 victims’ helplines  - Improve access to EU funding programmes through 100% funding, reduce administrative burden and focus on high quality project implementation  - Improve knowledge of EU funded projects to better access results and make use of them  **Post 7**  Training and Education  VSE’s Call To Action: Success in the victims’ field requires a fundamental shift in attitudes particularly amongst law enforcement and justice officials but also across society as a whole. This means developing training and education at all levels from primary school up to university, vocational training and lifelong learning.  VSE’s Recommendations:  - Develop training Training at all levels (from primary school up to university, vocational training and lifelong learning)  - Provide training for general population, professionals working with the general population and professionals engaging with victims  - Focus training on knowledge and understanding on safety, impact of crime, victims’ needs and how to address them, and soft skills required to support victims  **Post 8**  Research and Innovation  VSE’s Call To Action: The EU must strengthen its ability to bring forward appropriate new legislation and policy innovation, by carrying out extensive research, consultations and evaluations. For example new approaches to helping victims be identified and to come forward, new systems within criminal proceedings that support victim centric practices in police stations, courts and other institutions, the acceptance of court facility dogs to help victims give best evidence.  VSE’s Recommendations:  -Carry out research, consultations, and evaluations to support the adoption of new laws and policies  Reduce the impact of or remove differences in the definitions of the most serious cross-border crimes and support actions on new and emerging crimes  Improve the collection of disaggregated data on victims of crime at EU and national level  Incorporate victims’ priorities into EU research and innovation actions  **#EUVictimsRights Strategy posts related to** Priority 1 - Effective communication with victims and a safe environment for victims to report crime  **Post 1**  VSE’s Call To Action:  We believe that the EU must focus on two aspects of empowerment over the coming years:  - Empowerment of victims: the empowerment of victims is essential for them to recover from  the crime;  - Empowerment of organisations and professionals which help victims to recover.  VSE’s Recommendations:  -Empowerment to cover both victims and those working with victims  -Improve safety, awareness and resilience in victims, professionals and the general population  Ensure full access to high quality generic and specialist victim support services  -Develop tools that help connect victims to the services they need  -Promote cooperation between State and civil society actors and reduce risk of exclusion of civil society in the delivery of victims’ right and services  **#EUVictimsRights Strategy posts related to** Priority 2 - Improving support and protection of the most vulnerable victims  **Post 1**  Victims and social support network  VSE’s Call To Action:  Victims and their social network should be assisted.  A critical factor in the harm that victims experience is disempowerment – the loss of control over their lives. That disempowerment is felt not only as a direct result of the crime (primary victimisation), but also, frequently, through other negative impacts that are secondary to the incident and that occur during contact with the criminal justice and other associated systems (secondary victimisation).  - As a starting point, victims and their social network should be assisted. Much can be done to increase resilience within individuals before and after crime, to help them cope better, and reduce the need for external support. The EU should actively support the development of personal resilience actions.  - Where victims do need help, they will usually turn first to their social support network – family, friends, colleagues, the local community or any combination of those. It is therefore essential to strengthen a victim’s network both in terms of those within the network but also their ability to support the victim. This entails helping them understand the impact of crime, the needs of victims as well as the most appropriate responses to help the victim.  - Building greater awareness in society of its role in helping victims and how it can help, can already have an important impact. For example, incorporating victim oriented themes into school education, into private sector training, into community centres and sports clubs can be a direct action to increase knowledge and awareness. The objective is develop a community wide self-resiliency and ability to provide basic, non-harmful assistance to people before professionals arrive at the scene and when helping victims within the social support network.  **Post 2**  Victim support professionals  VSE’s Call To Action:  Victim support organisations should also be provided with all the tools to better support victims. We call on the European Commission to ensure full access to high quality generic and specialist victim support services for all victims of crime.  Actions should focus in particular on:  - Supporting the establishment and development of support services in Member States to ensure such services are fully accessible;  - Ensuring high quality support services guaranteed by standards and evaluation schemes. Victim support services need to be of a satisfactory level of quality, with the introduction of a system of standards and accreditation to ensure that victims are well taken care of and to reinforce the trust between the national authorities, support services and the general public. These standards should be developed by experts in the field such as victim support organisations. Standards should not be developed in such a way as to impose undue administrative pressures on organisations, which could effectively force many smaller NGOs out of the field.  - Developing tools that help connect victims to the services they need, including through effective referral mechanisms between police and victim support services, improved coordination and networking between support organisations, awareness raising campaigns on victims’ rights and services, and online support (helplines, chat, emails...)  - Exploring new psychosocial support techniques and therapies and improving existing ones. Cutting edge technologies developed in other sectors could be adapted to the victims area, such as virtual and augmented reality. EU wide support for the development of state of the art therapies will ensure not only the best is available but that it is accessible to all.  **Post 3**  116006 victims helplines  VSE’s Call To Action:  116006 victims' helplines should be established in all EU Member States  Specific funding should be allocated to support organisations for the set up and running of 116006 victims helplines.  A European-wide helpline number designed to offer victims of crime direct access to professional support services has been already successfully implemented in 12 EU countries.  The establishment of the helpline in all Member States will ensure support services are fully accessible to all victims of crime in the EU.  **Post 4**  Restorative Justice  VSE’s Call To Action:  The EU should support the development of high-quality alternatives to formal justice whilst minimising the risks to victims, e.g. restorative justice such as mediation.  Research by VSE has shown that a number of States do not have such systems in place and where restorative justice systems are available, there is still a considerable lack of knowledge about the availability of such services.  **Post 5**  Restorative Justice  VSE’s Call to Action:  Support for restorative justice must include ensuring that such services are of a high quality providing a safe, neutral and confidential setting, attending the wellbeing of all participants.  - Practitioners should receive training and should also provide clear and honest information that allows involve parties to make an informed choice about participation.  - Good practices allow victims to use their victimisation to a constructive end, thus finding meaning in adversity.  - The EU must also support the evaluation of restorative justice practices, in particular those connected to formal justice systems, to reduce the risk that restorative justice is driven by the needs and demands of those working for offenders and defendants.  **Post 6**  Protection of Victims  VSE’s Call To Action:  Whilst we recognise the importance of European Protection Orders, which is a simple and rapid mechanism for the recognition of protection measures in all member states, the success of the legislation has been relatively limited. We call on the European Commission to examine reasons for the limited success and to develop policies to improve the protection of victims.  This should include examining minimum standards for protection orders to ensure a minimum equal level of protection no matter where in the EU the victim is. Such action must not however, result in a reduction of standards amongst the highest performing states.  **Post 7**  Ensure the Needs of Specific Groups of Victims  VSE’s Call To Action:  We call on the EU and Member States to develop procedures and processes which ensure that less obvious groups are not forgotten and that their particular needs are also addressed. An example is family members of a murdered victim. Whereas they do not enter in the commonly recognised vulnerable group, they still have particular needs that needs to be met. In some countries, for example, the role of the police family liaison officer has been recognised to better support families who have lost a loved one. Others have developed specialist units or established specialised support organisations.  **Post 8**  Ensure that professionals are able to identify and communicate with specific groups of victims in accordance with their needs  VSE’s Call To Action:  We call on the EU and Member States to develop procedures and processes which ensure that less obvious groups are not forgotten and that their particular needs are also addressed.  It is crucial to ensure that professionals who are contact with victims of specific groups understand their situation and know how to communicate with them. Specialised communication strategies and skills are particularly important for children victims, people with disabilities and learning difficulties and those speaking foreign languages.  **Post 9**  VSE’s Call To Action:  Ensure coordination between the Gender Equality Strategy and the EU Victims’ Rights Strategy  We fully support the EU Commission’s focus on gender-based violence and its commitment to ratify the Istanbul Convention, to encourage non-ratifying Member States to ratify and implement this important instrument in its entirety. Should ratification by the EU not be possible, VSE supports the development of a separate EU legislative act, rather than the adaptation of the Victims Directive.  **Post 10**  VSE’s Call To Action:  Collect data on specific groups to understand their experiences, challenges and best practices  Overcoming barriers in the accessibility of justice and support services is a major priority that the EU and Member States should look into. Actions and procedures should be put in place to ensure that victims of specific have access to justice according to their specific needs.  A number of these different groups will have a range of limitations which inhibit their ability to participate in proceedings. The EU needs to support Member States to put in place systems which overcome the different barriers (cultural barriers, language, disability etc.).  To support action for these different groups, sufficient data must be gathered on the experiences of victims from specific groups, the barriers and challenges they face and best practices to overcome those problems.  **Post 11**  VSE’s Call To Action:  It is essential that the EU supports effective and safe access to justice for all victims of crime in the EU irrespective of nationality or residence status.  - Support effective and safe access to justice for all victims irrespective of nationality or residence status  - Prioritise the problem of unreported crime  - Support a victim centric approach in all criminal, civil and administrative proceedings through accessibility, communication, respectful treatment, and protection  - Develop high quality alternatives to formal justice whilst minimising the risks to victims  - Examine minimum standards and evaluate EU legislation on protection orders  - Support better accessibility of national compensation schemes and compensation in cross-border cases  **#EUVictimsRights Strategy posts related to** Priority 3 - Facilitating victims’ access to compensation  **Post 1**  Compensation  VSE’s Call To Action:  The European Union and Member States should support better accessibility of national compensation schemes by:  - Ensuring that victims are supported and protected when claiming state compensation  - Promoting high quality, victim friendly compensation in criminal proceedings  - Promote high quality, victim friendly State compensation schemes.  **Post 2**  The Needs of Specific Groups of Victims  VSE’s Call To Action:  Based on our recent research, we call on the EU to support Member States to evaluate national compensation schemes, in particular:  - Ensure conformity with European legislation on victims’ rights.  - Examine the appropriateness and fairness of applied eligibility criteria, deadlines, scope of national scheme, and administrative and evidential requirements placed upon victims.  - Guarantee that compensation schemes are designed to provide a fair and appropriate compensation to all victims of crime, with safeguarding mechanisms in place for the most vulnerable victims.  **Post 3**  Compensation  VSE’s Call To Action:  We call on the European Union and the Member States to support better accessibility of national compensation schemes!  Any person subjected to a violation of their fundamental rights is entitled to a remedy. Offender and State compensation is one such remedy which can cover losses faced due to crime, support recovery and act as a form of recognition and helps hold the author of the crime responsible.  Unfortunately, research show that many victims never seek the compensation they are entitled to. Even those who seek compensation have to wait lengthy periods to receive it, go through burdensome administrative procedures, do not receive respectful treatment, and ultimately many are denied any compensation.  Post 4  Compensation  VSE’s Call To Action:  The EU must examine whether existing legislation is rigorous enough to guarantee victims’ rights to compensation, and whether Member States are dutiful in their obligation to implement said legislation. We need to act now.  colice officers were very clear when they told us: “because the offender is unknown, the financial problem is all yours.”- Interview with a victim, A Journey from Crime to Compensation, VSE 2019.  ***Please, see more visuals on compensation on the campaign's website in the section 'Campaign Content'.***  **#EUVictimsRights Strategy posts related to** Priority 4 - Strengthening cooperation and coordination among all relevant actors  **Post 1**  VSE’s Call To Action:  The EU should provide sufficient forums for discussion and knowledge exchange to guide institutional actors in developing policies and including victims’ issues.  Priorities involving victims’ issues should be discussed and coordinated between the different EU institutional structures as well as with external partners, such as international and European experts on victims, victim support organisations, victims’ associations and victims themselves.  **Post 2**  VSE’s Call To Action:  The EU should establish new coordinating groups within EU institutions and across stakeholder groups and practitioners focused specifically on victims’ issues.  At the EU level, many actors are working on victims’ rights policies such as EU Agencies, EUROJUST, DG Just, DG HOME, EU Anti-trafficking coordinator, the European Economic and Social Committee, LIBE Committee, ENVR, NGOs, and require a better coordinated and integrated approach.  They should be able to easily exchange information on their activities, and more importantly develop together co-ordinated actions on specific topics.  **Post 3**  VSE’s Call To Action:  Key action to achieving this coordination includes the appointment of an EU Victims' Coordinator at the same level as the The Human Trafficking Coordinator (working together with other relevant EU coordinators such as the EU Anti-trafficking Coordinator and EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator).  **Post 4**  VSE’s Call To Action:  Another key action to achieving this coordination:  specific Council and Parliament working groups on victims’ rights, as well as thematic committees on specific groups of victims or crimes, and on cross cutting topics e.g. resiliency, underreporting, cross border crimes, should be set up.  **Post 5**  VSE’s Call To Action:  The EU should support cross-border exchange of information and co-operation on individual cases by supporting referral and coordination of services both at a national and international level. With an increase in mobility, cross-border victimisation issues are also increasing, which requires recognition at a policy level, but also at the level of provision of services to all victims, regardless of where they were victimised or what their needs might be.  **Post 6**  VSE’s Call To Action:  The EU should encourage and support cooperation between State authorities and civil society to deliver services in unison.  While there are some needs of victims which can only be delivered by the state (e.g. justice or protection), there is a range of other needs that can be better catered through a collaboration between different actors for the benefit of all victims. Moreover, societal sector (social services, educational institutions, healthcare providers etc.) and private sector (employers, insurance companies etc.) need to be involved in the development of a comprehensive societal response to victimisation.  **Post 7**  VSE’s Call To Action:  To support more extensive cooperation, knowledge exchange and consultation, the EU should organise a regular EU Summit on issues relevant to all victims of crime (e.g. similar to the European Forum on the Rights of the Child). Such an event would bring together different stakeholders to talk about key priorities in the field of victims’ rights.  **#EUVictimsRights Strategy posts related to** Priority 5 - Strengthening the international dimension of victims’ rights  **Post 1**  Promote EU standards on victims’ rights outside the EU, and intensify cooperation with international institutions and national governments of third countries  VSE’s Call To Action:  We believe that the EU should operate as leader in the field of victims at the international level and within the United Nations. Promoting the victims’ agenda at the UN level also supports seven of the Sustainable Development Goals developed by the General Assembly and can benefit wide issues such as the rule of law.  **Post 2**  Promote EU standards on victims’ rights outside the EU, and intensify cooperation with international institutions and national governments of third countries  VSE’s Call To Action:  The EU should promote a strong response to support and protect victims of crime outside of the EU, in particular in developing countries and countries in conflict, in order to support the establishment of rule of law and democracies. The EU should intensify its cooperation with different parts of the UN such as UNODC, UNICEF, UN Women, as well as with the United Nations Victims’ Rights Advocate and the UN Human Rights commissioner to ensure that the needs of specific groups of victims are addressed and that the UN also strengthens its agenda for all victims of crime.  **Post 3**  Promote EU standards on victims’ rights outside the EU, and intensify cooperation with international institutions and national governments of third countries  VSE’s Call To Action:  The EU should work not only with international institutions but also with third country States to support the development of laws, policies and services, including through the funding on capacity building activities which covers all victims of crime.  **Post 4**  Supporting EU Victims Abroad  VSE’s Call To Action:  The EU needs to improve cross border cooperation mechanisms to assist with continued participation in criminal justice proceedings abroad. Embassies can play an important role in supporting victims as they are often the first point of contact of the victim after the crime. The EU should support the better incorporation of victims’ issues into the work of foreign offices and embassies, including by developing training on victims’ rights, guidance manual on how to communicate with victims, etc. |
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| **6. Victims ' Voices** | |
| When people hear the stories of others  who have been a victim of crime, they begin to see things differently. | *(Find the visuals on the campaign's website, section 'Campaign's Content’: https://onevoiceonecause.vse-campaign.eu/july-november-2020/)* |
| POST:  Sex workers in Europe face an epidemic of violence across the region, from various parties, including third parties, people posing as clients and their immediate environment as well as police.  Members of these communities when seeking access to justice, face requirements and restrictions to which other victims are not subjected. Such a differentiation may run counter the non-discrimination principle of Article 1 of the Victim’s directive. | ***Visual 1***  *“First, I was scared because I don’t have any documents. I thought if I go to the police they would detain me. Lots of things were on my mind, so I didn’t know what to do. So, when I came back from the attack, I told someone that was close to me, here’s what happened. She told me I should not go to the police because I don’t have documents. So I should just go home and treat myself...” (France, migrant sex worker victim of crime)* |
| VSE supports the demands of the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) and ICRSE and calls for the establishment of a firewall between immigration enforcement and access to justice. | ***Visual 2***  *“I managed to escape outside, met people who knew me and called the police. They arrived, spoke to me and defended me. They respected me, asked me where I came from. They asked me if I had any papers, (I said no), where I lived and if I work. They told me to be very careful because it was very dangerous, they understood the situation but they could not do more because as I had no documents, I couldn't complain. They explained that if I went to the police station with them, they could have detained me for being an undocumented migrant.” (France, migrant sex worker victim of crime)* |
| POST:  It has been made clear in several instances in EU policy-making that prostitution laws lie in the competence of the national governments within the EU. In many cases prostitution is regulated even at the municipal levels. Still, it is necessary to assess in which way such laws and ordinances empower or disempower victims of crime and in which way such laws may compromise the non-discrimination principle of the Victim’s directive. | ***Visual 3***  *“The police arrived when we have called them. They took us to the station for an interview, and as a result of reporting a crime the police wanted us to leave our apartment with the idea that we are victims of pimping. They consider it an offense committed by an owner to let us do sex work in her apartment. But those who are harmed are us. Because the landlord will be able to rent to someone else with a normal contract, and the police will have done their job. Eviction from our apartment was a result of reporting crime.” (France, migrant sex worker victim of crime)* |
|  | ***Visual 4***  *“I wanted to file a complaint, but I didn't know how to do it, I was afraid of putting the owner of my apartment in trouble. I was afraid of losing my apartment. That's it, you see, there are a lot of things to watch out for, and now many women who work on the Internet in cities outside of Paris are often victims of violence, assault and theft. I have heard an increase in violence against us women, sometimes we have the impression that they are targeting us.” (France, migrant sex worker victim of crime)* |
| POST:  Due to stigma sex workers face the evidence collected revealed that the most vulnerable sex worker victims are dealt with indifference and their rights to information, right to victim support service, right to interpretation and translation are not respected. | ***Visual 5***  *“I called the police to report the events, but they didn’t come. Also, because I don’t speak really French, police officers don’t understand what I explained to them. When I moved there to report directly, they just took my name but didn’t do anything else, so it is not an official complaint in Belgian system.” (Belgium, sex worker a victim of crime)* |
| POST:  Taking into account that it is not a mandate of the EU to regulate prostitution/sex work, we would like to suggest to promote meaningful inclusion of representatives of the most marginalised communities- sex workers and their organisations - into the cooperation and coordination mechanisms for victims of crime at national levels. | ***Visual 6***  *“Well, first their car comes. And they ask you to go to the station the next day to testify. The next day at the police station the officers looked bored of me. They told me these things happen regularly and they cannot solve them all. This is what usually happens... it didn't lead to court proceedings, and it didn't help either (the reporting).” (Italy, migrant sex worker victim of crime)* |
| POST:  Taking into account that it is not a mandate of the EU to regulate prostitution/sex work, we would like to suggest to promote better responses of law enforcement officers to the most marginalised crime victims including (migrant) sex workers in order to recognise and treat all victims in a respectful, sensitive and professional manner without discrimination of any kind. | ***Visual 7***  *“The police insisted on asking me questions that had nothing to do with me reporting the crime. The questions were invasive, related to my gender identity, what kind of services I offer, if my clients are active or passive, and so on.” (Italy, migrant sex worker victim of crime)* |
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| **Victims ' Voices - quotes from the 1st phase of the campaign** | *Please, find the visuals on the campaign's website, section 'Campaign's Content - 1st Phase: https://onevoiceonecause.vse-campaign.eu/visuals/*  ***Visual 1***  “Journalists were at our home to interview, to film, to do everything for us in the aftermath of the assault. The television and the newspapers were very, very helpful!”  Gavina Goffaert, mother of victim of hate crime (Belgium) |
|  | ***Visual 2***  The moment a victim is reaching out for help is so fragile. We need to reassure the victim and tell them, whatever they decide, we will be there to support them."    Melanie Maria, Survivor Ambassador, domestic violence |
|  | ***Visual 3***  “The support service didn’t make an effort to speak with me in simple language. We need support workers who are trained to work with victims with disabilities, not just specialists who got a degree to work with victims of crime”.  Robby Simenon, Victim Survivor, hate crime (Belgium) |
|  | ***Visual 4***  "I would like to say to all the victims, to absolutely all victims, that they have rights and that their rights are real and true. The rights exist and they should be made real and a part of our daily life.”  Yasmine , Victim Survivor, hate crime (Brussels) |
|  | ***Visual 5***  "Victim Support workers should focus more on the everyday life of a victim in order to better understand him/her. If a victim sees a clock standing on the table of a support worker, ticking all the time, it is a barrier to a serious but relaxed conversation.”  Gavina Goffaert, mother of victim of hate crime (Belgium) |
|  | ***Visual 6***  ”The numbers of victims are increasing, actually. The numbers are increasing because people start to talk more about the problem. And for us it is a good thing because we can help them. What APAV is doing is saying to people that they can talk.”  Raquel, Psychologist who counsels victims of crime at APAV |
|  | ***Visual 7***  "It was then that I was happily surprised by the behavior of the police officer who received my complaint. In the Brussels police force, they established a cell, a department specialized in LGBTI issues. So that when an LGBTI victim makes a complaint, there is a specialized service for them. He didn’t say Sir to me, he said Madam. It was the first time I heard a police officer say 'Madame' because in my identity card it’s still indicated – sex- male.”  Yasmine, Victim Survivor, hate crime (Brussels) |
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| **7. 22 July: European Day for Victims of Crime** | **Post 1**  Today, the 22nd of July, is the  European Day for Victims of Hate Crime. Victim Support EU would therefore like to take this opportunity to recognise and highlight the continued and pervasive nature of hate speech and hate crimes perpetrated against various groups throughout Europe.  We must not forget that the  22nd of July was chosen as the date for the European Day for Victims of Hate Crime as it was on this day in 2011 that the Oslo attacks and Utøya massacre claimed a total of 77 lives in Norway.  9 years on, we seek to remember those who died in Norway, as well as those who have suffered or continue to suffer as a result of hate speech and hate crime in Europe.  Victim Support EU would also like to take this opportunity to highlight the incredible work our members and partners are doing to help victims of hate crimes.  Thank you!  **Post 2**  “I will always be willing to support and advocate against every form of hatred. Since my childhood, violence has been so much a part of my life, but I will always remain an activist for the promotion of respect and peace, against all forms of violence.  Fighting violence with violence only generates destruction, war and hatred. On the other hand, if we have an honest conversation, built upon experience – a conversation based on peace and respect - we can influence billions of people. I am convinced that the large majority of human beings, deep down, have a benevolent nature and wish to live in peace and security.  Thank you very much for the work you do.”  *Yasmine, LGBTI+, victim of hate crime*  **Posts-Visuals explaining hate crimes (***see the campaign’s website, section 'Campaign Content'***):**  - What is a Hate Crime?  - What is Hate Speech and Hate Crimes according to the European Union?  - Hate Speech And Hate Crime Under European Legislation  - Is Hate Crimes and Hate Speech penalized within the European Union?  - Which measures are taken by the European Union to prevent Hate Crimes and Hate Speech on the internet?  - Preventing Hate Crime - Staying Safe Tips  - Reporting  - Find Help in Your Country |
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| **8. 22 August: The 3rd International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to Victims of Terrorism**  #21August  #OneVoiceOneCause  #TogetherWeStand  #VictimsOfTerrorism | **Post 1** *(find the visual on the campaign's website, section 'Campaign's Content in August 2020)*  21 August is the International Day of Remembrance of, and Tribute to, the victims of terrorism.  The day was designated by the United Nations to stand in solidarity with the victims of terrorism worldwide. Since the year 2000, more than 20,000 people in Europe have died or been injured by terrorist activity. That means that every year some 1,180 families are the victims of terrorism.  Today we show our respect for all those families affected by terrorism, and also for the first responders – those who were suddenly confronted by horrific scenes, resembling a war zone. No life fallen to the acts of terrorism is forgotten.  #21August  #TogetherWeStand  #VictimsOfTerrorism  **Post 2**  Taking care of the needs of victims is a major challenge in the fight against terrorism. When we listen to the victims and survivors of terrorism, when we respect their rights and provide them with support and justice, we are honouring our common bonds, and reducing the lasting damage done by terrorists to individuals, families and communities.  #21August  #TogetherWeStand  #VictimsOfTerrorism  **Post 3**  On this day, two years ago, Victim Support Europe presented a video-poem in honour of all those affected by terrorist attacks.  The poem “In the Light and the Dark”, written by an ambulance technician who responded to the 22nd of March 2016 attacks at Zaventem airport in Belgium, was an expression of concern for those still dealing with their experiences and a plea for the necessary preparation, recognition and support. It reflects the attentive and supportive environment she had. She was fine, but many others continue to suffer. The poem holds true today as much as it did then. Recovery comes at its own pace and no-one should be alone along the way.  This video-poem is dedicated to those who have suffered and lost, and to the family, friends and others who were there to support them.  Watch the poem: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tb4sC4PBD8A  #21August  #TogetherWeStand  #VictimsOfTerrorism  **Post 4**  In 2019, Victim Support Europe has produced the document that provides guidelines to support the organisation of remembrance events for victims and thus anticipate challenges that may arise for the organisers.  #21August  #TogetherWeStand  #VictimsOfTerrorism  https://victimsupport.eu/activeapp/wp-content/files\_mf/1553332194Guidancedocumentmemorials.pdf  **Post 5**  In 2019, INVICTM - International Network Supporting  Victims of Terrorism and Mass Violence - produced an important report on supporting victims of terrorism. Experts recommend a flexible approach to responding to each unique terrorist attack.  Years of experience allowed them to identify some common predictable challenges and the practical solutions for supporting victims of terrorism.  Read the report online: https://victimsupport.eu/activeapp/wp-content/files\_mf/1553847245INVICTMSymposiumReport2018.pdf  #21August  #TogetherWeStand  #VictimsOfTerrorism  **Post 6**  Physical memorials are among the most common ways to commemorate victims of terrorism. Statues, sculptures, engraved plaques, fountains, buildings and gardens are among the various monuments created to remember, honour and pay respect to victims.  Victim Support Europe has published the Guidance on preparing a memorial event in the aftermath of a terrorist attack:  https://victimsupport.eu/activeapp/wp-content/files\_mf/1550835357Honouringvictims1.pdf  #21August  #TogetherWeStand  #VictimsOfTerrorism  **Post 7 - Visual Quote** *(see the visual on the campaign's website, section 'Campaign's Content)*  Victor Jammers, Manager of Operations, EU Centre of Expertise for Victims of Terrorism: "The EU Strategy on victims' rights will benefit victims of terrorism. The EU Centre of Expertise for Victims of Terrorism (EUCVT) expects that the strategy will create synergy through actions of the European Commission, the EU Member States and international organisations. Facilitating the cooperation between Member States will help to provide cross-border victims of terrorism with the support they need (and are entitled to!). Fair and appropriate state compensation for victims of terrorism will help to prevent financial problems for victims of terrorism, and thus prevent secondary victimization. The EUCVT is ready to help the European Commission and the EU Member States to implement the new strategy in the upcoming years." |
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| **9. 25 November: The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women** | *(Find the visuals on the campaign's website, section 'Campaign's Content in November 2020)*  **Post 1**  25 November: The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women  "Sexual violence against women and girls is rooted in centuries of male domination. Let us not forget that the gender inequalities that fuel rape culture are essentially a question of power imbalances." — UN Secretary-General António Guterres  **Post 2**  25 November: The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women  Why we must eliminate violence against women  Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is one of the most widespread, persistent and devastating human rights violations in our world today remains largely unreported due to the impunity, silence, stigma and shame surrounding it.  In general terms, it manifests itself in physical, sexual and psychological forms, encompassing:  - intimate partner violence (battering, psychological abuse, marital rape, femicide);  - sexual violence and harassment (rape, forced sexual acts, unwanted - sexual advances, child sexual abuse, forced marriage, street harassment, stalking, cyber- harassment);  - human trafficking (slavery, sexual exploitation);  - female genital mutilation; and  - child marriage.  **Post 3**  25 November: The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women  Alarming Figures  Only 52% of women married or in a union freely make their own decisions about sexual relations, contraceptive use and health care  **Post 4**  25 November: The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women  Alarming Figures  Worldwide, almost 750 million women and girls alive today were married before their 18th birthday; while 200 million women and girls have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM)  **Post 5**  25 November: The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women  Alarming Figures  1 in 2 women killed worldwide were killed by their partners or family in 2017; while only 1 out of 20 men were killed under similar circumstances  **Post 6**  25 November: The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women  Alarming Figures  71% of all human trafficking victims worldwide are women and girls, and 3 out of 4 of these women and girls are sexually exploited  Violence against women is as serious a cause of death and incapacity among women of reproductive age as cancer, and a greater cause of ill health than traffic accidents and malaria combined. |