








SAFE JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS:
Transforming Justice Systems/Future Trends




VSE Autumn Conference 2021



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SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

	<p>Aleš Gião Hanek</p> <p>Aleš Gião Hanek serves as the Hate Crime Officer in ODIHR's Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department.</p> <p>Prior to joining ODIHR in 2013, Aleš dealt with hate crimes at the national level, working with targeted communities. With a background in security and diplomacy, he holds degrees in Political Science and Comparative Constitutional Law.</p> <p>In ODIHR, Aleš is responsible for monitoring hate crime, capacity building and policy work, and oversees the compilation of ODIHR's annual hate crime reports at hatecrime.osce.org. Aleš is an experienced trainer for diverse audiences, and he is experienced in customizing international hate crime approaches to varied national contexts.</p>
	<p>Aleksandra Anikina</p> <p>Aleksandra Anikina works as the Communications Officer at HeUNI, the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations. She is responsible for increasing the visibility of this research institution, dealing with evidence-based criminal justice and crime prevention practices in Europe.</p> <p>Previously, Aleksandra worked as a project manager for project Baltia in Russia. She holds a master's degree in Social and Public Policy from the University of Helsinki.</p>
	<p>Didier Reynders</p> <p>Didier Reynders has been EU Commissioner for Justice since 2019. Before which, he was Deputy Prime Minister for Belgium, having held the positions of Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Minister of Defence, and Minister of Finance.</p>

	<p>His current responsibilities include contributing to legislation for a coordinated approach on the human and ethical implications of artificial intelligence; leading on consumer empowerment and protection, and protecting citizens' rights; and maximising the potential of new digital technologies to improve the EU's justice systems, amongst other tasks.</p> <p>He is a graduate in Law from the University of Liège and a Lecturer/Visiting Professor (Liège, Leuven, Brussels).</p>
	<p>Dympna Kenny</p> <p>Dympna has led, motivated and managed teams of different sizes, in the private and charity sectors, for over 30 years. She brings this experience to her role as General Manager with Victim Support at Court (V-SAC), which provides free and confidential court accompaniment for all victims of crime.</p> <p>Since Dympna joined V-SAC in 2016, the organisation has expanded its service from Dublin into the East and South East of Ireland. V-SAC is a focused, volunteer led, charity. Due to the sensitive nature of the service, Dympna strongly emphasises the training and development of volunteers, to be able to sensitively and professionally support victims through what is a very difficult time in their lives. Although the pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges, Dympna has worked closely with staff and volunteers to ensure victims have continued to access the support they need. V-SAC will continue to expand its service over the next 2-3 years, into areas where little or no court accompaniment is in operation, so all victims, regardless of their location, will have access to support during their appearance in court.</p>
	<p>Elisabeth Zinschitz</p> <p>Elisabeth Zinschitz is currently working within CEPOL, where she is the Head of Sector, CEPOL Knowledge Centres. She is responsible for the portfolios on trafficking in Human Beings and Human Rights in the context of training for law enforcement.</p> <p>As a psychotherapist, for 16 years, she has worked in private practice focusing on victims of sexual abuse, persons with special needs, and refugees. Prior to this, she had four years' experience as a Clinical Manager in a centre offering support to child victims of sexual abuse and violence.</p> <p>She was also involved, as an expert, in a PHARE project on child protection in Romania in 2004 and 2005, where she gave</p>

	<p>workshops on children’s rights for professionals involved with childcare, and monitored the closure of large state-run children’s homes.</p>
	<p>Florian Jehin</p> <p>Florian Jehin is a twenty-two year old engineering student. In 2015, he lost his father in the terrorist attack at the Radisson Blu in Bamako. Because he was so young when his father died, he has been able to find resilience and strength; forced to fight not only for justice, for victims’ right, but also for his family. He has been an active member of V-Europe since its creation. His contribution helps shape him, while helping victims in Belgium and abroad.</p>
	<p>Frederico Moyano Marques</p> <p>Frederico Moyano Marques is a Lawyer and a Senior Adviser and Chief Operations Officer at the Portuguese Association for Victim Support (APAV). Additionally, Frederico is the Technical Manager of European projects related to the rights of victims of crime, such as Infovictims, which focuses on the right to information; Protasis which examines online identity theft; Victims and Mediation concentrates on the victim's participation in Restorative Justice Mechanisms; and With You looks at the accompaniment of victims during the criminal proceedings.</p>
	<p>Geraldine Hanna</p> <p>Geraldine Hanna is the current President of Victim Support Europe and has been the Chief Executive of Victim Support NI since February 2015. In February 2016, she was named Best Newcomer of the Year in the CO3 Leadership Awards. Geraldine has 16 years’ experience in the victims’ sector and has been the driving force in establishing the Witness Service in courts across Northern Ireland. She has been integral in the development of key initiatives to improve services for victims and witnesses of crime including the Victim’s Charter, Achievement of Best Practice Guidance, and Registered Intermediaries. She is passionate about the rights of victims and witnesses. Geraldine regularly volunteers with SOS BUS NI, helping vulnerable people on the streets of Belfast.</p>

	<p>Helen Williams</p> <p>Helen Williams is Family Liaison Coordinator at UK Policing and has over 30 years’ experience, in both urban and rural crime, as a police detective. She is a career detective specialising in the field of family liaison, child abuse, historical investigations, victim support, and mass disaster fatalities.</p> <p>As a police Family Liaison Officer, she has worked on time critical murder investigations and multiple fatality investigations, which involved disaster victim identification and family support abroad, notably with the authorities in Vietnam.</p> <p>Helen is engaged as a Family Liaison Coordinator, supporting families affected by the historical atrocities and managing family contact officers.</p>
	<p>Jérôme Moreau</p> <p>Jérôme Moreau has been President of the victim support association "Association Nivernaise d'Aide aux Victimes d'Infractions" since 2003 and is the Vice-President of both France Victimes and Victim Support Europe. He obtained a master’s degree in Public Law in 1998; Jérôme’s additional training covers supporting victims of crimes abroad and victims of violence at work, and managing conflicts to avoid institutional violence. Between 2002 and 2017, he worked as a Parliamentary Officer for a Member of Parliament representing the First District of Nièvre (France), who was also President of the National Consultative Council for People with Disabilities.</p> <p>In 2020, after working as an Executive Assistant for three years, he became director of three departments of the “Association des Paralysés de France-France handicap”. He therefore works for the most important French association defending and representing people with disabilities and their families.</p>
	<p>Levent Altan</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Levent began his career in 2001, in the UK Ministry of Justice, he then moved to the Home Office and the Cabinet Office under Prime Ministers Blair and Brown. Having previously worked in the European Commission for three years, Levent returned to Brussels in 2009, to work as a national expert tasked with writing an EU Directive on victims’ rights. Over the next three</p>

	<p>years, he developed the European Union’s policy on victims’ rights, leading the development and negotiation of the EU Directive which establishes minimum rights for victims of crime in 26 Countries across the European Union. Subsequently, Levent worked as Principal Legal Advisor at Milieu Ltd, a multi-disciplinary consultancy, where he led a team running various multi-country projects on justice and home affairs.</p> <p>Levent has worked, and spoken, extensively on victims’ rights across Europe, and globally, providing expertise to national governments as well as to the UN, Council of Europe and European Union. He helped found VSE’s sister organisation Victim Support Asia, and most recently has lead the consortium delivering the European Commission’s EU Centre of Expertise for Victims of Terrorism.</p>
	<p>Mónica Martí García</p> <p>Mónica Martí García is responsible for Criminal Justice Training Activities within the European Judicial Training Network’s (EJTN) Secretariat, specifically judicial training in the European Investigation Order, Economic Crimes, Asset recovery and Confiscation, Procedural rights, Victims’ rights, and European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) trainings.</p> <p>She is the Activity Coordinator and contact point for joint CEPOL and EJTN (Joint Investigation Teams (JITs), Financial investigations, Asset recovery, Corruption) events and is the contact point for EUROJUST, European Judicial Network (EJN) and the JITs Network Secretariat on judicial training.</p> <p>Mónica Martí García is a former lawyer and, in the past, she worked at the European Institutions and international law firms in Brussels, Madrid and Boston. She has an MA and LLM in European Law and Fundamental Rights.</p>
	<p>Nikolett Szelei</p> <p>Nikolett Szelei is postdoctoral researcher at the Centre for the Social Study of Migration and Refugees at Ghent University. Her main interests are diversity and inclusion in migration, multilingualism, and education. She has recently been working on understanding policies and practices on safe reporting for migrant victims of sexual violence in the INHeRE project.</p>



Nina Fuchs

Nina Fuchs was born in 1983, in the south of Germany, and is a translator of English, Dutch and German. In 2020, she founded the NGO “Kein Opfer e.V.” and sees her task, as the chairwoman and as a rape survivor, to raise awareness of sexual violence, rape drugs, and consent.



Paloma Perez Cortijo

Paloma Perez Cortijo is the Deputy General Director of Support Victims of Terrorism within the Ministry of the Interior (Spain) since January 2014. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Law from the University Complutense of Madrid and has worked as a public servant since 1990.

Her expertise on victims of terrorism comes from her role as leader of the Crisis Response Team for terrorist attacks in Spain, and also as supervisor of the group of social workers that provide permanent psycho-social support to the victims. She also coordinates the Spanish National Network of Psychologists to Support Victims of Terrorism and the Program “Victims’ testimonies in the classrooms”, in addition to other memorialization activities for victims of terrorism. Finally, she is the EU’s Spanish single contact point for the EU’s victims of terrorism; she participates, as expert, in the European Network of Victims’ Rights and the Radicalization Awareness Network, within the EU, and has participated as lecturer and speaker at multiple meetings on victims of terrorism and the prevention of radicalization.



Pauline Okroglic

Pauline Okroglic is a Legal Officer at the Federation France Victimes and is dedicated to victim support and European affairs. She obtained her master’s degree in International and European Criminal Law from the University of Limoges (France) in 2015 and spent a year studying Law at the University of Oklahoma College of Law, in the United States.

Pauline interned for over ten months at the United Nation’s International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague, within the Office of the Prosecutor, and for two months at the European agency Eurojust, within its Legal Service. She joined the Federation France Victimes in 2018, and is specifically in charge of European affairs, providing legal support to France Victimes’ network of victim support associations, and managing collective events (such as terrorist attacks, large-scale accidents, natural disasters, etc.).



Peter Crory

Peter Crory is Head of Service for the court support programme working with a team of 15 staff and 60 volunteers to provide this service across 17 courts each year. Peter has been working for four years with VS NI, where he also leads on restorative justice and on after court support for victims. Prior to that he worked for 25 years in the voluntary sector in the UK.



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's branch office in Oldenburg, Lower Saxony since 2009.

Petra Klein retired from her position as a detective chief superintendent in 2008, due to poor health resulting from an accident suffered while on duty. As head of a police negotiation's 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 police department specialising in sexual offenses. From 2000 until 2008, Petra was the contact person on issues relating to domestic violence for the police in north-western Germany.






Philippe Vandenberghe


Philippe Vandenberghe was born in 1970 and is a computer geographer, diving instructor, first-aid attendant and amateur pilot.

Phillipe initially worked as a computer scientist in the field of cartographic applications and satellite images. He then became a consultant and now has 20 years of work experience with Brussels airport. Philippe is a survivor of the March 22, 2016, terrorist attacks in Brussels.

"Before the attacks, I was working as a computer scientist in cartographic applications and satellite images. First in a start-up and then in the space industry. I was then a consultant, and then worked for 20 years at Brussels airport. My hobbies were scuba diving: between diving in Belgian quarries, the inlets of Zeeland (Netherlands), and vacations in the Mediterranean (Cavalaire-sur*Mer) or in the Red Sea, I was very involved in the life of the club. I passed all the qualifications and was an

	<p>instructor for more than 10 years, until the terrorists destroyed my life on March 22, 2016 at 7:58 am.</p> <p>I had just arrived at the airport when the two explosions occurred. I knew immediately that it was a terrorist attack. I rushed to the departure hall to help the victims. I knew that it would take a long time for help to arrive so I immediately set to work. In the middle of this scene of war, next to the crater and the charred corpse of the terrorist, there were dead people, but there were also people still alive... Many...</p> <p>I spent almost an hour on the spot, first carrying out first aid, then, when the rescue team arrived, on the transportation of survivors to the advanced medical post. These events have completely destroyed me. My life deteriorated over the following 2 years, psychologically and socially. I was then treated in a specialist clinic for post-traumatic stress disorder. Today, like many victims, there are still many administrative and insurance problems.”</p>
	<p>Richard Sonnenschein</p> <p>Richard Sonnenschein is the Acting Director of Criminal Justice in the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers.</p> <p>From June 2020 until February 2021, he was Administrative Director, ad interim, for the European Public Prosecutor's Office. Between 2016 and 2020, he worked as the Principal Security Adviser in the European Commission at the Directorate-General for Human Resources and Security, in charge of Crisis Management. From 2007 until 2016, Richard carried out several management functions in human resources and security, notably in Protection and Crisis Management.</p> <p>Richard Sonnenschein joined the European Commission in 2003 as a policy officer and then was assistant to the Director of Resources within the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology. His focus is on Digital Commerce, Security and Law.</p>
	<p>Robin Fontijne</p> <p>Robin Fontijne is a national legal policy advisor at Victim Support Netherlands (VSN). He started his career within the organisation as a paralegal four years ago, to support victims during legal proceedings, transferring from a career in medical liability law. His main task was going to court, to support victims</p>

	<p>during trials, and to defend their request for compensation and other victim rights (such as protection measures).</p> <p>A year later, he became a trainer at the Victim Support Netherlands Academy. He trains colleagues and legal professionals on victims' rights. This November, he became a national legal policy advisor, after a year of being a national legal advisor.</p>
	<p>Saar Baert</p> <p>Saar Baert is a researcher and trainer at the International Centre for Reproductive Health at Ghent University. Her field of expertise is the holistic care for victims of sexual violence, both in Belgium and in the Global South.</p> <p>Together with Prof. Keygnaert, she set up the Belgian Sexual Assault Care Centres. Through her work, she looked at the reasons why victims of sexual violence report their abuse to the police, and their experience with the criminal justice system in Belgium. She also provides training to lawyers and victim support services on the care and support given to victims of sexual violence.</p>
	<p>Sigal Haimov</p> <p>Throughout her career, Dr. Sigal Haimov has been an advocate for victims, vulnerable individuals and communities, and for developing and enhancing services which provide long-term mental-health support to victims. Sigal worked in ELI - Israel Association for Child Protection, where she managed the Hotline and its volunteers for 4 years. Later, she also served 4 more years as Program Director, developing educational materials and workshops, and delivering training, guidance and supervision to mental-health professionals and supporting victims of domestic violence.</p> <p>In 1997, her childhood best friend was murdered in a terrorist attack. Since that tragic day, she has dedicated herself to supporting trauma and loss survivors, victims of terrorism, promoting a victim-centered approach. Sigal became a founding member of NATAL - Israel Trauma and Resiliency Center. She is the founder and former Director of NATAL's Helpline and developed its unique model. For that work, in 2003, she received the WCJCS Distinguished Service Award. Later, she developed a special helpline supporting traumatized children, which became part of CHI (Child Helpline International).</p>

	<p>As NATAL's Director of Professional Programs and Models Development, Sigal led the global collaboration of NATAL with the Wounded Warriors Project, in the US, and training in Chicago's inner city, which included cultural adaption, model designing, recruitment, training and ongoing supervision of staff and volunteers.</p> <p>Sigal holds a Ph.D. for her thesis "Phone Interventions to Help Trauma and Loss Survivors" from Tilburg University (Netherlands). She is an experienced trauma and resilience expert, who is currently working as a consultant for Victim Support Europe, and V-Europe. Furthermore, Sigal is a member of the International Network for Victims of Terrorism and Mass Violence (INVICTM), and a member of the Advisory Panel of the EU Centre of Expertise for Victims of Terrorism.</p>
	<p>Suzan van der Aa</p> <p>Suzan van der Aa is a full professor of Criminal law and Criminal Procedure in the department Criminal Law and Criminology at Maastricht University. In June 2010, she defended her multidisciplinary PhD thesis on stalking in the Netherlands: she combined legal research with social-scientific (empirical) research methods. Thereafter, Suzan continued working for the International Victimology Institute Tilburg (INTERVICT, Tilburg University), first as an assistant professor, later as an associate professor. In 2017-2018 she became the vice-dean of education of the Law Faculty of Tilburg University.</p> <p>Her research focuses on victims of crime and victims' rights within the context of criminal proceedings. She has ample research experience in stalking and other forms of gender-based violence. She has led various national and international research projects, involving victims of road traffic offences, victims of intimate partner violence, protection orders, qualified victims, and property crimes within marriage. She is currently working on a project on the special needs of victims of hate crime within the criminal procedure.</p>