



**Victim Support**  
Europe



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# **ADVANCING VICTIMS' RIGHTS** **IN THE EU** **AN MEP'S BRIEFING**



Victim Support Europe (VSE) is the leading European umbrella organisation advocating for all victims of all crimes; no matter what the crime, no matter who the victim is.

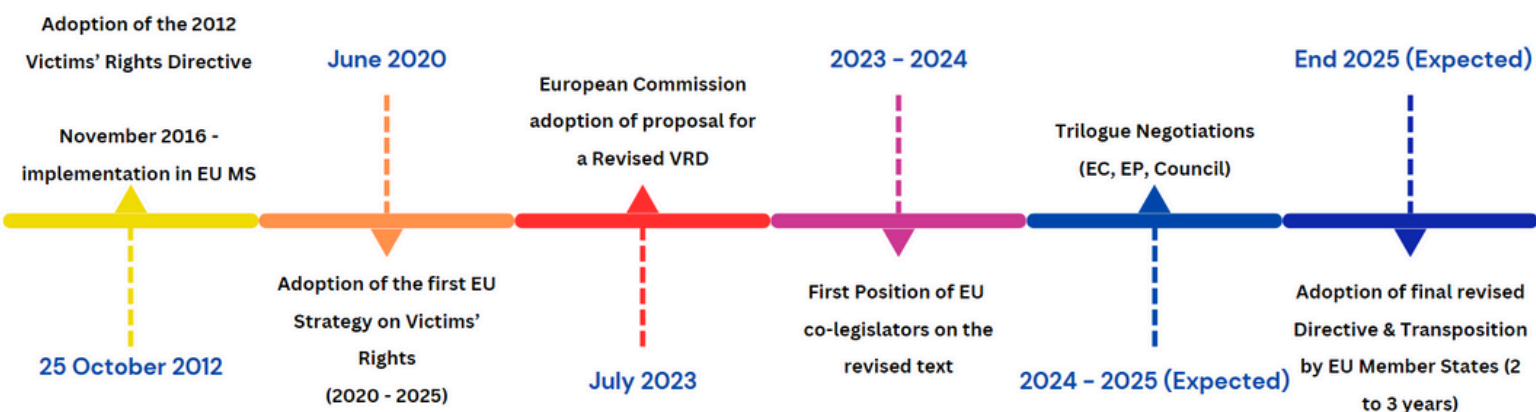
**As the newly elected MEPs, you have a responsibility to all EU citizens, including victims of crime.**

Every year **15%** of the population fall victim to serious crime (an estimated **75 million people**). The effects of crime can include psychological, physical, or financial distress, among others. Crime leads to more dangerous societies and weaker economies.

These figures show that the EU needs to step up and continue the efforts to protect and promote victims' rights, for all victims of crime to feel protected and fulfill their full potential. Be the change and contribute to creating a safer and more resilient society for everyone.

For victims to be protected, their rights respected, and EU laws to include all crime victims, policy makers should ensure that the five needs of victims are met: **(1) respect and recognition; (2) support; (3) protection; (4) access to justice, and (5) compensation.**

The Victims' Rights Directive (VRD) was originally adopted in 2012 (Directive 2012/29/EU), establishing minimum standards on the rights, support, and protection of victims of crime in the EU. As of July 2023, the Directive is undergoing a revision by EU co-legislators.



As newly elected MEPs, there is still time for you to grab the opportunity and **impact the lives of victims across the EU.**

To learn more about Victims' Rights in the European Union, [we encourage you to look at the following video on victims' rights.](#)



## DID YOU KNOW?

**33%**

1 in 3 women in the EU have experienced physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime

**37%**

Only 37% of professionals believe that victims receive adequate emotional and psychological protection

**1/5**

1 in 5 children in Europe are subject to sexual violence and abuse, both online and offline, with girls being particularly vulnerable

**19**

Only 19 EU Member States publish data on recorded hate crimes, only 15 disaggregate these data by different bias motivations.

**58%**

About 58% of LGBTQI+ people in the EU avoid holding hands in public with a same-sex partner for fear of assault, threat, or harassment, as per FRA's 2020 LGBTI Survey.

**98.25%**

An overwhelming majority of professionals (98.25%) believe that further funding for victim support services is needed to be made available in their countries.

**75  
MILLION**

75 million people become victim of serious crime in the EU every year

**1/3**

1 in 3 women report being sexually or physically abused in their lifetime

**2  
MILLION**

2 million children are trafficked every year



In many EU countries, victims face significant challenges in accessing information about their rights and available support services. The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) highlights that this is especially problematic for non-native speakers, migrants, and refugees.



Millions are being defrauded, robbed or physically assaulted

You have the opportunity to make sure that victims' rights become a priority, let us ensure **No Victim is Left Behind!** Become a part of our Network and [sign our pledge here](#). Learn more about our position in the VSE Manifesto [here](#). Join us in rewriting the narrative of victim support!

Other EU legislative files in relation to victims' rights:

- Directive 2022/0426 on [Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Protecting its Victims](#)
- Directive on [Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence](#), 2024
- Directive on [Combating the Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Child Pornography](#) – under revision
- Regulation on Child Sexual Abuse Material – under revision: EP amendments available [here](#)

## Contact Information



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