



Final Campaign Event

# **MORE THAN WORDS:**

## **TURNING COMMITMENT INTO REAL CHANGE FOR VICTIMS**

Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power

**Residence Palace,  
Brussels**  
28 November 2025



Cofunded by  
the European Union



**United Nations**  
Office on Drugs and Crime



Hosted by:



Amplified by:



**09:00-09:30 Welcome Coffee**



**09:30-10:15 Opening**

- **UNODC** | TBC
- **Michael McGrath** | EU Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law, and Consumer Protection (recorded opening speech)
- **Roxana Mînzatu** | European Commissioner for Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness (recorded opening speech)
- **Alessandra Giraldi** | Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union
- **Rosa Jansen** | President of Victim Support Europe



**10:15-11:15 Panel Session: Voices That Turn Words Into Reality – The Power of Victims' Advocates to Reform**

**Introduction by: Levent Altan** | Executive Director, Victim Support Europe

**Moderator: Larisa Spahic** | Victim Support Europe

- **Melanie Maria** | VSE Victims' Advocates Platform. Artist, advocate and survivor ambassador for domestic-violence.

- **Cath Hill** | VSE Victims' Advocates Platform. Project lead for the Bee the Difference research project with the UK National Emergencies Trust and trustee for UK charity Survivors Against Terror.
- **Moubajel Lehmann** | VSE Victims' Advocates Platform. Advocate for victims of forced marriage, human trafficking, cults and honour-based violence.
- **Ruth Maxwell** | VSE Victims' Advocates Platform, Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal Consultant & Victims' Representative. Founder of the 'Not Consent' Exhibition.



**11:15-11:45      Coffee Break**



**11:45-12:00      Pro Bono for Impact**

- **Niels De Waele** | A&O Sherman



**12:00-12:45      Panel Session: From Declaration to Delivery: Institutional Voices on Victim Support**

**Moderator: Anna Giudice** | UNODC

- **Irvin Waller** | University of Ottawa, Emeritus Professor, Criminology (Video Message)
- **Katarzyna Janicka-Pawlowska** | Coordinator for Victims' Rights, European Commission
- **Michaela Moua** | EC Coordinator on combating racism
- **Maria R. MOLLICA, LL.M.** | Team leader – Stop violence against women, European Commission Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, Gender Equality Unit
- **Marie-Cécile Rouillon** | Commission Coordinator for the Rights of the Child.
- **Bartjan Wegter** | EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator



**12:45-13:00      Voice Under Threat: Advocating for Journalists' Safety and Justice**

- **Pamela Morinière** | International Federation of Journalists, Head of Campaigns and Communications department and Gender expert.



13:00-13:45

## Panel Session: From Words to Support: Frontline Best Practices

**Moderator: Levent Altan | UNODC**

- **James McCulloch |** Chief Executive of Manaaki Tāngata | Victim Support
- **Bart Claes |** General Director of General Welfare Work (CAW)
- **Arastalis Chouldry |** Founder of NECX
- **Sandra Demeester |** Director of Hachiko



13:45-15:30

## Lunch, Inspiration Speech & Raffle

**“Leading Through Crisis: A Story from New Zealand”: James McCulloch |** Chief Executive of Manaaki Tāngata | Victim Support

