Kyoto Declaration - Implementation
Advancing Criminal Justice - Victim Focus

Levent Altan, Executive Director
Victim Support Europe

Leading European umbrella organisation

Advocating for 30+ years for

- all victims of crime,
- of all crimes
- no matter who the victim is.

✓ 70 Members, 33 Countries
✓ 2.5+ million supported annually
✓ Policy, advocacy, capacity
✓ Support cross border victims

INTERACTIVE MAP OF SERVICES
TERRORISM RESPONSE NETWORK
CROSS-BORDER REFERRAL FOR VICTIMS
TRAINING ACADEMY
STANDARDS AND ACCREDITATION
CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR 116006 Helplines AND DISTANCE SUPPORT
PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES:
SUPPORT AND JUSTICE
SIZE OF THE PROBLEM

Population victimised annually

>15% victimised annually

>1 billion victims

<50% victimised annually

Report Crime
WE CONTINUE TO SEE STEADY PROGRESS

2023:
- New laws
- New policies
- Additional funding
- Criminal justice rights

Victim Specific national laws
- Helplines, specialist services, referrals, police victim units
- Accompaniment of victims, facility dogs, needs assessments, protection measures

Multi-agency support – maracs, safe houses
- Online reporting, information mechanisms

2022:
- Improve support

2021:
- Progress
PROGRESS IS SLOW - almost 40 years since Basic principles

- Local project based, lack of funds
- Start stop, short term
- Structured action
- Non-strategic, uncoordinated
- Some groups covered, many forgotten

TOGETHER WE ACT AS THE VOICE OF VICTIMS
### IMPACT OF THESE PROBLEMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implementation failures</th>
<th>TREATMENT OF VICTIMS BY INDIVIDUALS, STATE, SOCIETY:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support and psychological help – not exist/ inaccessible, quality questions</td>
<td>Further trauma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reporting of crime – extensive barriers exist</td>
<td>Secondary victimisation</td>
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<td>Participation in justice – difficult, minimised, harmful to victims: repetitive, victim blaming, lack of information...</td>
<td>Blames victims</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compensation: not exist, don’t get, harmed in process</td>
<td>Disrespects them</td>
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<td>Protection measures: limited, not adapted, poor timing, don’t work</td>
<td>Disempowers them</td>
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<td>Breaks their trust</td>
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**VICTIM OF RAPE:** “My experience with the police in the criminal proceedings was worse than the crime itself”
SOLUTIONS: 1) RIGHTS BASED, NEEDS DRIVEN

- Respect and Recognition
- Support and Information
- Access to Justice
- Protection
- Compensation and Restoration
SOLUTIONS: 2) STRATEGIC, CO-ORDINATED, STRUCTURED

- National Victims Strategy and action plan
- Minister responsible for victims policy
- Strategic and structured
- Multi-agency co-ordination committee
- Oversight body for implementation

Change victim policy from solely focused on individual rights and services to a system-oriented approach from good practices to common practices.
SOLUTIONS: 3) NATIONAL VICTIM SUPPORT FRAMEWORK

- Resilience
- Social support network
- Professional victim support
  - Generic and specialist
  - Across the country
  - Multi-channels of support
- Standards
- Long term, operational funding
- Mainstreaming support
SOLUTIONS: 3) JUSTICE REFORMS – VICTIM WELLBEING & TREATMENT

- Multiple reporting routes
- Needs assessment
- Support Accompaniment and information provisions
- Protection from Secondary victimisation
- Legal rights to participate and be heard
- Legal Assistance/representation

VICTIMS IN JUSTICE
SOLUTIONS: 5) COMPULSORY TRAINING

FOCUS ON SKILLS, UNDERSTANDING, TRUST

- EMPATHY
- EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION
- NEEDS OF VICTIMS
- TRAUMA
- VICTIM SENSITIVE INTERVIEWING

- TRAINING IS COMPULSORY – OVERCOME INDEPENDENCE ARGUMENT
- EXPERIENTIAL, INTERACTIVE, NEW TECH – VR ETC.
- BASIC TRAINING, LIFE LONG LEARNING, SUPERVISION
- ACCOMPANIED BY TOOLS AND PROCEDURES
SOLUTIONS: 6) FUNDING

VICTIM FUND

- VICTIM SURCHARGE
- TAX ON COMPULSORY INSURANCE
- CONFISCATION OF CRIMINAL ASSETS

NEVER IMPACT EXISTING TREASURY BUDGETS
FULLY COVER SUPPORT AND COMPENSATION COSTS

EVERY EURO INVESTED SAVES AT LEAST 5 EUROS IN COSTS
SOLUTIONS: 5) COMPENSATION

- EXISTS FOR ALL VICTIMS OF SERIOUS CRIMES
- REMOVE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDENS
- INCREASE AWARENESS
- SIMPLIFY ACCESS
- INCREASE TRANSPARENCY

AIM SHOULD NOT BE FOCUSED ON AVOIDING PAYMENTS

COMPENSATION IS ABOUT RECOGNITION AS MUCH AS MONEY
Victim centric, 21st century Justice

SAFE JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS:
INTEGRATED, SYSTEM BASED, LONG TERM SOLUTIONS

- Minimise harm to victims
- Support participation
- Maximise best evidence
- Help them on their path to recovery
THANK YOU!

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