



# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE VICTIMOLOGY SOCIETY OF SERBIA FOR 2025

Belgrade, 2026.



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SERBIA FOR YEAR 2025**

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## DIRECTOR'S OPENING REMARKS



At the very beginning, I would like to thank everybody involved in Victimology Society of Serbia (VDS), associates and members of the VDS who contributed to us having another year behind us in which the VDS consistently implemented its mission set out 28 years ago.

The year 2025 is behind us, which was very complex both in Serbia and globally. The previous year in Serbia was marked by student protests and expressions of hope related to political and other changes, but also dealing with divisions, hate speech, belittling victims and the creation of new victims through inadequate or non-reacting state authorities.

Despite the complexity of the political moment in 2025, our regular activities continued: Providing support to victims; Publishing activity, which includes publication of the magazine Temida; Celebrating the European Day of Victims and organizing the VDS Annual Conference. The four-year cooperation with the organization Kvinna till Kvinna and work on raising the capacity of VDS and more thorough work on planning and implementation of permanent activities continued. Long-term work on strengthening the position of VDS at the local level continued during 2025. Cooperation with the City Center for Social Work, New Belgrade Department, the RS Ministry of Internal Affairs, New Belgrade Department and the Center for the Care of the Elderly, Children and Persons with Disabilities "Novi Beograd", with school and preschool institutions from New Belgrade, and cooperation with the Gerontological Center Belgrade, was continued and strengthened. During 2025, we continued our work on prevention and response to violence at the Railway Technical School in Belgrade. We also participated in the implementation of the Week of Remembrance and Community. The week of remembrance and togetherness includes a series of school activities aimed at paying respect to the victims of the crimes that took place in 2023 at the "Vladislav Ribnikar" Model Elementary School in Belgrade, in Dubona, Malo Orašje and Niška Banja. On this occasion, we held three workshops for more than 160 students at two elementary schools and at the Railway Technical School in Belgrade.

I would like to emphasize my personal impressions related to two activities that we implemented in 2025.

First of all, I would like to mention the research aimed at mapping the needs of survivors, i.e. direct and indirect victims, as well as those who are the first line of response after mass

victimization and incidents of misuse of firearms in Serbia. This research was significant because it gave the opportunity to hear the voice of direct and indirect victims of mass victimization, as well as those who were on the front line of the response and representatives of the authorities and the local community. On the other hand, the realization of this research was very challenging both professionally and personally for me personally and the entire VDS team. Having that in mind, I would like to thank the entire research team for their empathy, sacrifice and great commitment during the realization of this research. Our great satisfaction, at the end of the process, is knowing that the words of our interviewees have been written down and that they have been preserved from oblivion. Also, the experiences of the respondents were incorporated into the recommendations, the implementation of which we will strive for this year and the following years, with the hope that such events will not be repeated.

I would like to mention the "Odvažna" project implemented by the Holistic Educational Center from Belgrade "Beauty Imagini" and the Victimological Society of Serbia. Namely, "Beauty Imagini" organized free training for the job of a holistic masseur and inclusion in therapeutic work for four people who were in contact with VDS, i.e. used the services of the VDS info and victim support service. This training provided practical knowledge and the possibility of financial support for these people, but also worked on raising their self-confidence, fostering empathy, solidarity and camaraderie. For me personally, attending the graduation ceremony after the training, where I saw a positive transformation and heard words of gratitude from these women, was the final event of this year and a great incentive for further work. Knowing that a person, after a great trauma, managed to push their limits and get an idea for the future, along with personal transformation, is the biggest incentive and indicator that what we are doing makes sense.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the donors and people who supported the work of VDS in different ways in the previous year.

Thank you for your trust,  
Jasmina Nikolić,  
Director of VDS

## MISSION, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Victimology Society of Serbia (VDS) is an independent and non-profit association of citizens, which was founded on November 12, 1997, with the aim of bringing together as many researchers, experts and activists as possible to work on the development of victimology as an academic discipline and the advancement of the rights and protection of victims of crime, war and human rights violations, regardless of their gender, religious affiliation, political affiliation or other characteristics.

The mission of VDS is to advocate for the improvement of the rights of all victims and creation of such social conditions in which victims will be able to exercise their rights and satisfy their needs without problems, as well as the establishment of a social structure that will enable all those whose rights have been violated to be able to recover and reintegrate into the social community.

VDS is a member of the European Movement in Serbia and the Alliance of Women's Non-Governmental Organizations "Women Against Violence Network"; the founder and member of the Association Joint Action for Truth and Reconciliation. VDS is a member of a number of international and European organizations: the World Victimology Society, Victim Support Europe, the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Program (ISPAC), the International Network of Organizations Fighting Firearm Violence (IANSA).

Main activities of VDS are:

- Proposing amendments and additions to laws and advocating for their implementation;
- Monitoring the position of the victim in criminal proceedings (monitoring);
- Assistance and support to victims of crime;
- Scientific research of various forms of victimization, their consequences and methods of prevention, as a basis for further creation of an appropriate policy regarding the improvement of the position of victims of crime and war and the protection of their rights;
- Advocacy for raising social awareness about the position of victims, their rights and problems;
- Truth and reconciliation;
- Publishing activity;
- Organizing scientific and professional gatherings i
- Education.

These activities reflect continuity of the work of VDS on achieving long-term goals in terms of improving the position of victims, creating new institutions, the rule of law and the prevention of crime and conflicts.

## ACTIVITIES OF VICTIMOLOGY SOCIETY OF SERBIA FOR PERIOD 1.1.-31.12.2025.

During 2025. activities of VDS were carried out in accordance with VDS Work Program adopted by the Assembly of the Victimology Society of Serbia at the session held on February 14th, 2025.

### General affairs

#### *VDS membership*

During the reporting period, six people joined VDS. Activities related to membership are self-financing, and Dr. Sanja Čopić and Milica Luković Radaković were in charge of these activities in 2025.

#### *Informing VDS members and public about projects and other activities*

During the reporting period, VDS members who are on the VDS info mailing list received regular information about ongoing projects, publications that came out of the press, gatherings organized by VDS, activities of European support for victims, victimological and other gatherings, and the like.

The website of the Society was regularly updated, where all the information about the work of the Society can be found – projects, publications, gatherings and the like. Information is available in Serbian and English. Milica Luković Radaković was responsible for maintaining the website during the reporting period, while Tatjana Oreļj was responsible for administering the website.

Apart from the website, VDS has accounts on social network platforms: Facebook, Instagram and X, which contributes to increasing the visibility of the Society and its activities. VDS also has a YouTube channel.

*Facebook (FB) page of VDS<sup>1</sup> on 31.12.2025. had 3192 profiles<sup>2</sup>. In the period from January 1 to December 31, 2025, the content published on the page was reproduced or displayed 75,857 times.*

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<sup>1</sup> The data was obtained based on insights into the Meta business suite, for the period 01.01.2025-31.12.2025. year. VDS does not have a paid reach, rather it is exclusively organic. Organic reach is people who see content on their feed when it's published, people who see pictures and albums, or users who see profile mentions in their feed.

<sup>2</sup> Compared to the year 2024, it is more for 16.45% of followers, that is, for 451 new professionals who followed the VDS FB page. Of the total number of profiles (3192) that follow our page, 85% are women, while 15% of them are men. Further measurements show that followers are predominantly from Belgrade, 35.8%, followed by Novi Sad, Niš, Pančevo, Kragujevac. In addition to followers from the Republic of Serbia, followers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Germany were recorded. It is necessary to emphasize that Meta business suite collects data based on information left by people when creating profiles and/or recorded signals

In 2025, statistics record 1307 visits to the VDS FB profile, which is an increase of 66% compared to 2024.<sup>3</sup> It was recorded that the highest number of visits to the VDS FB page was during October, November and December 2025. The increased number of visits to the profile during October and November can be attributed to the holding of the annual VDS conference. During the month of October, active work was done on presenting the plenary presenters and the works of the participants of the conference, and the announcements that were created during November 2025 related to the presentation of the conference.

*Instagram page of VDS* on 31.12.2025. had 903 followers.<sup>4</sup> The content posted via VDS Instagram page was reproduced 38,368 times. The largest number of visits is recorded during October, November and December. In the period from January 1 to December 31, 2025, the reach of the VDS Instagram profile is 4399. During 2025, 90 different posts (photos and videos) and 30 stories (a post that is available 24 hours) were published, while the content interactions are 849.

Web site VDS: [www.vds.rs](http://www.vds.rs)

Facebook: viktimoloskodrustvosrbije

Instagram: viktimolosko.drustvo

Youtube channel: @viktimoloskodrustvosrbije-5548

Posting information on social networks and presenting members of the Society in the media contributes to increasing the visibility of the Society and its activities. All activities related to informing members and the public about VDS projects and activities and updating the website and accounts on social networks are self-financed. Milica Luković Radaković and Mirela Osmanović were responsible for these activities in 2025.

### *The work of VDS boards*

During 2025, three sessions of the VDS Assembly were held (adopting the VDS work report for 2024, the financial report for 2024 and the work program for 2025; changes to the VDS Statute and the election of members of the VDS Board of Directors). The Director and the Board of Directors of the VDS performed their regular duties as stipulated by the VDS Statute. The management board had seven sessions. The new Management Board was constituted at the session held on December 29, 2025. At the same session of the new convocation of the Board of Directors, Jasmina Nikolić was elected as the director of VDS.

During 2025, amendments to the Rulebook on Prevention of Corruption were adopted. Also, the Rulebook on Safety and Health at Work was adopted with accompanying documentation in accordance with the provisions of the Law on Safety and Health at Work. Training on safety

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when turning on location on devices. This data cannot be taken as 100% relevant since such information may not be completely true.

<sup>3</sup> A profile visit is different from a reach, because a special visit to a profile means that the user has independently visited the profile of the FB profile either during a search or has specifically visited a profile inspired by a previous post that was noticed on their initial news feed. When logging in to the Facebook platform, the news feed represents the front page, where posts and activities of friends and pages you are fans are grouped.

<sup>4</sup> Compared to 2024, 79 new followers followed the page. The VDS Instagram page is followed in the largest percentage by women, 84.7%, while 15.3% are men. Instagram records that the followers are predominantly from Belgrade and Niš, then also from Kragujevac, Sremska Kamenica, Karlovac, Novi Sad. In addition to followers from Serbia, there are also those from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Germany, Austria and India.

and health at work was conducted for employees, i.e. those engaged in work, who passed the exam in this field. All provisions of the Rulebook and the Law relevant to ensuring safety and health at work were also followed.

### *Strengthening capacities of VDS team*

During 2025, efforts were made to strengthen the capacity of the VDS team, which was directly involved in the implementation of the activities. Capacity building was done through the participation of VDS team members in a series of workshops organized by various organizations and foundations, about which there is more information in the part of the report on the participation of VDS members at scientific and professional gatherings. In addition, a team strengthening meeting was organized in mid-July 2025 on Fruška Gora.

### *VDS library*

During the reporting period, the book fund was increased. The VDS library currently has 1,883 titles in the fields of victimology, law, criminology, gender studies, truth and reconciliation, human rights, restorative justice and other fields. In addition, the VDS library also has a large number of magazines, of which 2 magazines VDS receives regularly, via exchange: *Revija za kriminologiju i kriminologiju* and *Law: theory and practice*. A number of magazines are a gift to VDS from members of VDS or institutions with which VDS cooperates: prof. Dr. Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović donates her copies of *The International Journal of Restorative Justice* to the VDS library. Finally, the VDS library also has a rich selection of audio and video materials.

The VDS library is available to all members of the Society. Since November 2007, the use of the library is included in the membership fee, while people who are not members of the VDS can join the library. Since 2007, 101 people have joined the VDS library. Information about the work of the library, as well as the content of the VDS library, is available at <https://vds.rs/vds-biblioteka/>.

The purchase of books for the library is mostly achieved through gifts and obtaining copies of books for display in the scientific journal *Temida*. Jobs related to the maintenance and use of the library are self-financed and voluntary. During the reporting period, Milica Luković Radaković was in charge of the VDS library.



### *Activities on securing project funds and sustainable development*

One of the permanent activities of VDS is to seek funds for projects and further develop a strategy of longer-term and more stable financing. During the reporting period, VDS applied for a total of 13 projects (independently or in partnership). From that number, in 2025, funds were obtained for the realization of two projects.

The office of the World Health Organization in Belgrade donated office furniture to the Victimology Society of Serbia, which made it possible to replace some older pieces of furniture with new ones, as well as to complete the furniture in the VDS premises.

## **Advocating for raising social awareness of the rights and position of victims**

### *Victimology Society of Serbia awards for year 2025*

In 2009, the Victimology Society of Serbia established three awards:

- Award for contribution to the advancement of victims' rights
- Award for contribution to the development of a non-conflict and comprehensive approach to dealing with war and war crimes "The Third Way"
- Award to a talented young researcher

**The award for contribution to the advancement of victims' rights** is awarded to individuals or organizations that, through their activities or efforts, have made a large and lasting contribution to the advancement of victims' rights and the achievement of the goals for which the Society was founded. This year, the award was given to **Veran Matić**.

**Veran Matić** is the founder and long editor of B92, a radio and television station that changed Serbia. He edits the portal javniservis.net, leads the Serbian Philanthropic Forum, the B92 Fund and the Association of Independent Electronic Media. As an envoy of the President of the Republic of Serbia, he was involved in solving the issue of missing persons in the wars with the Republic of Croatia, leads the Commission for Investigating Murders of Journalists, and coordinates activities related to the protection of journalists. He is the recipient of numerous international and domestic journalistic awards. He initiated a series of humanitarian and socially important actions, including a campaign to build safe houses in Serbia. After the May crimes of 2023, Veran contributed to the preservation of the culture of memory and laid the foundations for the memorialization of these events with a series of texts about the children who died in "Vladislav Ribnikar" Elementary School and the young people who died in Mali Orašje and Dubona. Through a series of personal initiatives together with the B92 Fund, he did work that the system did not do, mapped the needs of direct and indirect victims from Mali Orašje and Dubona, and with the use of personal and social resources, worked to satisfy them. He continued to support the victims in various ways even after the fall of the canopy in Novi Sad on November 1, 2024. With this award, we want to thank Veran for everything he has done, but also to point out the great importance and changes that can be made by public figures and individuals in the field of raising public awareness regarding the prevention and response to violence, which Veran has shown many times in his previous work.

**The "Third Way" award** is given to individuals or organizations that, through their activities or efforts, have made a special contribution to the development of a non-conflictual and

comprehensive approach to dealing with the consequences of war and building peace in Serbia. This year, the prize was awarded for the third time to the organization *Haver Serbia*.

*Haver Serbia* is an organization that for thirteen years has been dealing with the reparation of trauma and the consequences of the Holocaust and the prevention of the development of social dynamics of exclusion, discrimination, marginalization and anti-Semitism. Using non-formal education methods and fostering a culture of remembering the victims of the Holocaust, Haver Serbia opens safe spaces for mutual listening, understanding and dialogue, thereby directly contributing to the fight against polarization, conflict and hate speech. The intergenerational dialogue that the organization encourages is a valuable space for the exchange of knowledge and experiences that has a reparative effect - both on the Holocaust survivors themselves and their children, as well as on contemporary generations, contributing to their deeper understanding of the complexity of modern society. Through programs dedicated to the culture of memory, the organization introduces young people to the importance of preserving values such as mutual respect, appreciation of diversity, the principle of non-violence and the idea of an inclusive society. In other words, only by actively advocating for the understanding of the consequences of war (in this case the Second World War and the Holocaust) is it possible to cultivate the motivation to prevent the development of a society of intolerance in modern generations, and thus prevent a further increase in the number of victims as a result of exclusion, discrimination, marginalization and anti-Semitism.

**The talented young researcher award** is given to young people for particularly high-quality scientific research work in the field of victimology, and aims to encourage young people to engage in scientific research work in the field of victimology. This year, the prize was awarded to: *Svetlana Jovanović* and *Mirna Yousfi* for their well-made and successfully defended master's theses in the field of victimology at the University of Belgrade - Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation.

*Svetlana Jovanović* completed and successfully defended her master's thesis entitled "Obstetric violence in Serbia". Through this work, she demonstrated her talent for research work, as well as for the application of qualitative methodology. The topic of her master's thesis is very current. The paper is written in a clear language and style that is readable and accessible for both scientific and professional as well as the general public. A number of recommendations were given aimed at improving legal protection mechanisms, as well as the education of women and health workers, in order to prevent and raise awareness of the existence of this type of violence and the possibilities of protection. We believe that this award will be an incentive for Svetlana to continue doing scientific research, especially in the field of victimology.

*Mirna Yousfi* completed and successfully defended her master's thesis entitled "Victimization of girls in urban areas: risks and prevention strategies". Mirna showed research curiosity, good skills in applying qualitative analysis, as well as connecting theory and research findings. The work itself is well structured, written in clear language, and provides a good basis for further quantitative research, as well as the development of measures to prevent the victimization of women and girls in urban areas. We believe that this award will be an important incentive for Mirna to continue doing scientific research, especially in the field of victimology.

## *Commemoration of the European Day of Victims*

On the occasion of the European Day of Victims in 2025, the VDS wanted to remind that all victims and their needs must be recognized, and their rights fully respected. On this occasion, the VDS issued a [press release](#) in which it was pointed out that the European Day of Victims in 2025 is being celebrated at a time when we are facing numerous serious victimizations, of which, due to the consequences, the number of victims and the absence of adequate prevention, the mass murders in May 2023, the fall of the canopy at the railway station in Novi Sad in November 2024, and the fire in the Home for Adults and the Elderly in Barajevo in January 2025 stand out in particular. In addition, environmental crime, corruption, traffic delinquency and violence in public and private space are part of the daily life of people in Serbia and produce numerous victims, who need help and support in overcoming the consequences of victimization and finding ways to recovery. All these sufferings, in addition to direct ones, also leave a large number of indirect victims (from relatives, friends and acquaintances to the wider social community), who often remain invisible, and therefore their needs are neglected and they do not receive appropriate help and support.

In addition to the aforementioned activities, on the occasion of the European Day of Victims, representatives of the Victimological Society of Serbia-VDS visited two faculties of the University of Belgrade, namely: the Faculty of Philosophy and the Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, University of Belgrade. On that occasion, a lecture was held, i.e. an interactive discussion entitled THE POWER OF SUPPORT: The importance of supporting victims on their way to recovery. The aim of the interactive discussion was to inform the participants about the rights of victims, the challenges victims face and the support mechanisms available to them. On this occasion, the work of the VDS was presented to the students, with an emphasis on the work of the VDS Info Service and support for victims, and the importance of celebrating February 22 and all that the VDS has done in previous years related to the European Day of Victims was pointed out. Guest visits and lectures are organized in cooperation with students in the blockade of the aforementioned faculties.

At the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Belgrade, representatives of the VDS held a lecture for the students in the blockade about sexual violence against students at the faculties. On that occasion, the VDS representatives introduced the students to the basic terms related to sexual violence, the forms of sexual violence and the findings of the research conducted by the VDS in 2021 on the topic of sexual violence against students at faculties in Serbia. Special emphasis was placed on the presentation of research findings related to the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Belgrade.



Jasmina Nikolić, prof. dr Sanja Ćopić, Mirela Osmanović i Milica Luković Radaković participated in this activity.

### *Commemoration of the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Mass Murders in Serbia*

The Government of the Republic of Serbia, on the initiative of the VDS, in a decision dated September 19, 2024, established May 3 and 4 as Days of Remembrance for the Victims of Mass Murders in Serbia. On that occasion, the VDS issued [a press release](#) in which it sent a message to the public and the state that such tragic events must never be repeated, that we should all remember all the victims and provide strong support to the families of those who lost their lives. It was pointed out that remembering the victims and supporting their families, as well as other people indirectly affected by mass murders, are an important part of the recovery of the survivors and the prevention of similar tragedies in the future.

### *Campaign 16 days of activism against violence against women*

As part of the international campaign 16 days of activism against violence against women, VDS representatives conducted a street action of direct conversation with fellow citizens on the territory of the municipality of New Belgrade. The activities were carried out in three different locations: the counter hall of the Municipality of New Belgrade, the local community of Gazela, the local community of Stari Aerodrom. At these locations, citizens had the opportunity to talk with representatives of the VDS about the importance of celebrating 16 days of activism against violence against women, as well as about the activities and services carried out by the Victimology Society of Serbia. Special attention was paid to informing about available support services for victims of violence, as well as encouraging the community to recognize the early signs of violence and react responsibly. During the action, informative material with basic information about VDS services as well as contact information was distributed. More about it at the [link](#).



Also, as part of the campaign 16 days of activism against violence against women, VDS, as a member of the Alliance of Women's Non-Governmental Organizations "Women Against Violence Network", together with other organizations, members of the Alliance, issued a press release warning about the continuing problem of violence against women in Serbia, as well as the necessity of stronger action by the state and society in protecting women's human rights.

Also, during the duration of the campaign, "Workshops for the prevention and recognition of violence for children" were conducted<sup>5</sup>.

### *Campaign New Belgrade, a safe municipality*

As part of the project entitled "Standing for the rights of victims of gender-based violence in general, particularly of domestic violence, in the workplace and in educational institutions", which is realized in cooperation and with the financial support of the Kingdom of Sweden and the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, during the year 2025 VDS worked on advocating for the inclusion of local government in the municipality of New Belgrade in the campaign New Belgrade a safe municipality, as well as the inclusion of companies based in the municipality of New Belgrade in this campaign and fundraising for activities aimed at prevention and response to gender-based violence at the local level. The New Belgrade, a safe municipality campaign is based on strengthening cooperation with social actors, such as the City Municipality of New Belgrade, state institutions, civil society organizations and socially responsible companies. Through individual and joint activities, as well as the rational use of existing resources, the campaign aims to improve the safety of citizens and enable people who experience any form of violence or other types of crime to receive timely and adequate help, support and protection. During the reporting period, several meetings were organized with the president and representatives of the Municipality of New Belgrade in order to inform them about the campaign; VDS participated in joint public events to promote services aimed at different target groups, including victims of violence and other forms of crime.

At the ceremony marking the Day of the Municipality of New Belgrade, Victimology Society of Serbia (VDS) was presented with a certificate of appreciation for its contribution to the development of the local community. The certificate of appreciation was received, on behalf

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<sup>5</sup> See at the page 23.

of the VDS, by director Jasmina Nikolić. The news can be read in full at: <https://novibeograd.rs/opstina-novi-beograd-proslavila-77-rodjendan/>

Also, as part of the campaign, VDS mapped companies that have their headquarters in the territory of the City Municipality of New Belgrade, to which a letter was sent with the aim of encouraging their involvement in socially responsible business, while proposing possible ways of engagement. During the reporting period, 97 companies were contacted (banks, foundations, engineering and construction companies, private healthcare institutions, companies from the food industry, furniture manufacturers, insurance companies, etc.). Companies were contacted in several rounds, with new companies being included in each subsequent round. The results of this activity so far are as follows: the Coca-Cola Serbia company donated packages of its products (juices and water), which were used for New Year's gift packages prepared for the children of women victims of violence who are users of the services for victims of VDS info and support for victims. In addition, the Bank Intesa Foundation contacted VDS and a meeting was arranged for the beginning of 2026 in order to agree on possible forms of cooperation.

### *Annual conference of the Victimological Society of Serbia "Modern technology and victims: victimization risks and possibilities to improve social responses"*



The fifteenth annual conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia named „Modern technology and victims: victimization risks and possibilities to improve social responses“ was held in Belgrade, at Hotel Palace, on November 20 and 21, 2025. The conference brought together a large number of experts and researchers, who, from the perspective of different disciplines, theoretically and practically, deal with the care of victims

and providing assistance and protection to victims of crime, human rights violations and other types of suffering, which enabled a comprehensive exchange of experiences and knowledge.

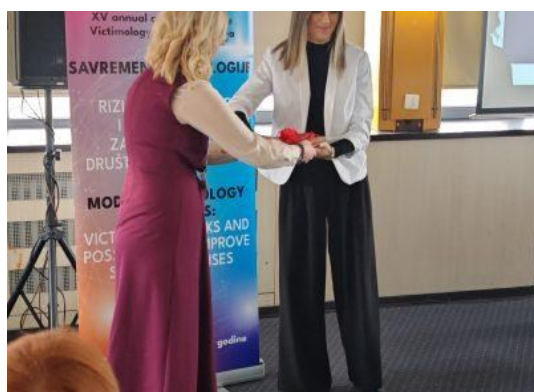
The conference brought together 64 participants from Serbia, Croatia, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Spain, India and Israel. The participants of the conference were scientists, researchers, representatives of the social protection system, the police, the judiciary, educational institutions, and civil society organizations.

The conference began with a ceremonial opening, with speeches held by:

- Brankica Janković, commissioner for the protection of equality
- Prof. dr Oliver Bačanović, Faculty of Security, University „Sv. Kliment Ohridski“, Republic of North Macedonia
- Jasmina Nikolić, director of Victimology Society of Serbia



During the ceremonial opening of the conference, the awards of the Victimology Society of Serbia were presented, which was mentioned in more detail in the previous part of the report.



This year's conference was focused on considering the key challenges and opportunities that modern technologies provide in the context of victimization and protection of victims, that is, how digital technologies, artificial intelligence and information and communication tools affect the experiences of victims, with a special emphasis on the advantages, challenges and risks associated with their use in providing support to victims and prevention of violence. Namely, although digitalization and accelerated technological progress bring numerous advantages, faster and more efficient exchange of information, access to support, as well as new tools for prevention and intervention in cases of violence and other forms of victimization, they simultaneously open up space for new forms of endangering the rights, freedoms and safety of individuals. It is clear that victims of crime and other forms of hurtful behavior are increasingly faced with digital dimensions of victimization, from cyber violence and harassment, through the dissemination of compromising content without consent, to deepfake technology and

identity abuse. As technologies that were originally developed to facilitate everyday life are increasingly used as means of control, exploitation and violence, understanding the complex relationship between modern technology and victimization becomes crucial to improving social responses.



The working part of the conference is organized in the form of six thematic sessions and one poster presentation. A total of 25 papers were presented in thematic sessions. Abstracts of presentations, information about conference participants, members of the program and organizing committee are available in the [book of abstracts](#).



In addition to the members of the organizing committee, Mina Jevtić and Tara Stojković, VDS volunteers, as well as Ljiljana Kos, participated in the realization of the conference.

The organization of the 15th annual conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia was partly financed by funds from paid registration fees for participants in the conference, and partly financially supported by: the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation of the Republic of Serbia, the Kingdom of Sweden and the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation within the project Advocating for the rights of victims of gender-based violence, especially violence in the family, violence at work and in educational and other institutions, the City of

Belgrade, the City Administration of the City of Belgrade, the Secretariat for Social Protection within the project „Inform, empower, support: For senior fellow citizens becoming winners, not victims!“ and the UN Development Agency (UNDP).

### *National Torture Prevention Mechanism*

VDS is one of the six civil society organizations with which the Ombudsman concluded an agreement on cooperation in carrying out the work of the National Torture Prevention Mechanism (NPM) on September 13, 2022, which was renewed in October 2024. The signed agreement more closely regulates the cooperation that the Ombudsman achieves with the selected associations in the performance of NPM duties. Cooperation is carried out through the participation of representatives and permanent professional associates of the association in visits to places where persons deprived of liberty are or may be, preparation of reports or parts of reports on the visits, preparation of recommendations for eliminating identified deficiencies in the work of institutions where persons deprived of liberty are or may be, providing expert findings and opinions on the state of health, especially physical injuries and psychological pain suffered as a result of any form of abuse. Also, cooperation is reflected in the preparation of reports or parts of thematic reports on the situation in the area of the position of persons deprived of liberty, the preparation of analyzes and/or opinions on regulations or draft regulations regulating the position, rights and obligations of persons deprived of liberty. During the reporting period, VDS members were not engaged in visits to places where persons were deprived of their liberty.

### *Advocacy for the rights of victims of gender-based violence in general, particularly of domestic violence, in the workplace and in educational institutions*

During 2025, activities continued on a four-year project called Advocating for the rights of victims of gender-based violence in general, particularly of domestic violence, in the workplace and in educational institutions, which is being implemented in cooperation and with the financial support of the Kingdom of Sweden and the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation. The project aims to act in the direction of changes in relevant policies, legislation and practice in order to improve the position of victims of gender-based violence in Serbia in general, and especially women victims of domestic violence, in the field of work and employment and in educational institutions.

During the reporting period, the following activities were carried out, mainly those that are permanent activities of VDS aimed at achieving the goals for which the Society exists, and about which there is more information in the appropriate sections of this report:

- Organization and realization of the 15th annual conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia-VDS entitled Modern technologies and victims: risks of victimization and opportunities for improving social responses, which was held in Belgrade on November 20 and 21, 2025.
- Commemoration of the European Day of Victims.
- Monitoring of court proceedings in cases of domestic violence and monitoring of court proceedings for damages in the case of the murder of nine children and one adult in the Elementary School "Vladislav Ribnikar" in Belgrade. During the reporting period, the VDS representative followed a court proceeding that was conducted before the First Basic Court in Belgrade related to domestic violence. The representative of VDS

attended a total of 5 hearings that were held in this court proceeding. The court proceedings were monitored by Milica Luković Radaković.

- VDS supported and joined the comments on the Draft Amendments to the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence, which was prepared by the Autonomous Women's Center on behalf of the Association of Women's Organizations "Women's Network Against Violence". VDS also joined the campaign initiated by the Autonomous Women's Center for the Prevention of Femicide and the initiative of the Autonomous Women's Center regarding changes to the Criminal Code.
- Organization and realization of trainings and workshops: Training for working with victims of violence;
- Distribution of informational material *Gender discrimination in the job market and abuse at work: how to recognize?*
- Organizing regular meetings with representatives of institutions and organizations at the local level and strengthening strategic cooperation important for the work of the VDS info service for victims and support for victims and improving the position of victims of domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence.
- Victim support within the *VDS info service and victim support*.
- Support to the families of those killed in mass murders in May 2023 and participation in the memorialization process
- Advocating for the inclusion of the local self-government of the Municipality of New Belgrade in advocacy for zero tolerance to violence in New Belgrade and involving companies to collect funds for the prevention and response to gender-based violence at the local level within the *New Belgrade – a safe municipality* campaign.
- Preparation and writing of the annual report on the work of the VDS.

Jasmina Nikolić, Milica Luković-Radaković, Mirela Osmanović, prof. Dr. Sanja Čopić and Prof. Dr. Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović are involved in the realisation of the program. The project started on September 1, 2022. year and will last until May 30, 2026. year.

## Advocating for changes in law and practice

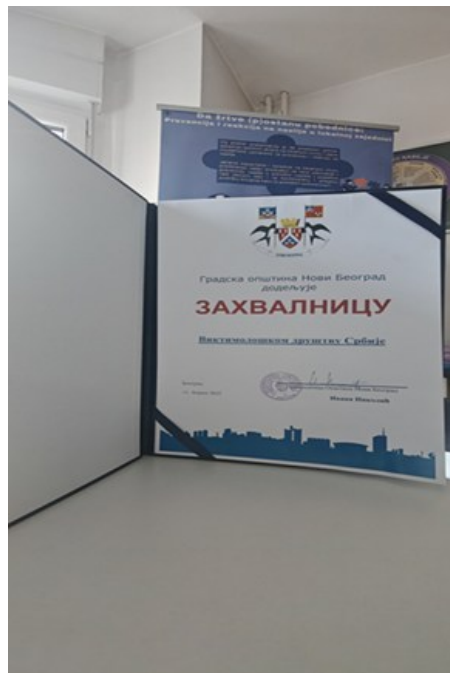
### *Participation in working groups of the National Convention on the European Union (NCEU)*

VDS is an active member of two working groups within the National Convention on the European Union (NCEU): the Working Group responsible for monitoring the negotiations in Chapter 23 and the Working Group responsible for monitoring the negotiations in Chapter 24. During the reporting period, the VDS, through regular information, followed the work of the NKEU Working Groups for Chapters 23 and 24. During the reporting period, the VDS followed and joined the activities of the NKEU.

### *Preparing comments for legal text drafts*

VDS joined the comments on the draft law on amendments to the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence, which was drafted by the Autonomous Women's Center on behalf of the Union of Women's Organizations "Women Against Violence Network". VDS also joined the

campaign initiated by the Autonomous Women's Center for the Prevention of Femicide and the initiative of the Autonomous Women's Center regarding changes to the Criminal Code.



## Research

### *Developing evidence-based recommendations for effective prevention and reduction of the risk of gender-based violence with the use of firearms*

In order to develop recommendations for more effective prevention and reduction of the risk of violence in the family-partner context with the use of weapons, and the possible reduction of femicide, which will be based on evidence, research was conducted as part of this activity. The goal of the research was to obtain data on the response of competent authorities, institutions and institutions in cases of violence in the family-partner context with the use of weapons that resulted in the murder of a woman (femicide), in order to: assess whether and which measures provided by the positive regulations of the Republic of Serbia can result in more effective and long-term protection of victims and in the event that the legislative framework and existing institutional mechanisms that could ensure this do not exist or are not adequate enough, identify what needs to be done.

During the reporting period, data were collected using a qualitative method, through focus group interviews. Focus group interviews were organized in Belgrade (January 29, 2025), Novi Sad (February 5, 2025), Kragujevac (February 6, 2025) and Niš (February 7, 2025). The participants of the focus group interviews were representatives of the police (8), primary and higher public prosecutor's offices (8), primary and higher courts (5) and centers for social work (3). The data was analyzed, a research report was prepared, and part of the findings of this

research was presented during the XV annual conference of the Victimological Society of Serbia in the paper: Jovanović, S., Čopić, S. (2025). Protection from domestic violence through the misuse of firearms and prevention of femicide: challenges and perspectives, In: XV annual conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia "Modern technologies and victims: Risks of victimization and opportunities for improving social responses", book of abstracts (pp. 68-70), Belgrade: Victimology Society of Serbia.

The activity was carried out within the UNDP project called Reduce Risk-Increase Safety III, which lasted from October 2024 to March 2025. Prof. Dr. Sanja Čopić, prof. Dr. Slađana Jovanović and Jasmina Nikolić were involved in realisation of the activity.

### *An integrated response to mass victimization and firearm misuse incidents*

During the year 2025, the VDS conducted a study called Integrated Response to Mass Victimization and Firearm Misuse Incidents. The aim of the research was to map the needs of direct and indirect victims of firearm abuse incidents in Serbia and those who are the first line of response after such incidents, as well as mapping existing resources for responding in crisis situations and supporting victims. Special attention was focused on finding data on resources to support victims. During the reporting period, the following activities were carried out: research methodology was developed, analysis of available literature was carried out, empirical research was carried out, data were analyzed and a research report was prepared.

The empirical research was conducted in May and June 2025. The data were collected through surveys, using interviews, which were conducted with a total of 36 respondents. The collected data were analyzed using qualitative methodology. Part of the findings of this research was presented at the XV annual conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia in the paper: Nikolić, J., Čopić, S. (2025). The voice of those who are not heard: Mapping the needs of victims after mass victimization and firearm abuse incidents in Serbia and support resources, In: 15th Annual Conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia "Modern Technologies and Victims: Risks of Victimization and Opportunities for Improving Social Responses", book of abstracts (pp. 52-54), Belgrade: Victimology Society of Serbia.

The activity was carried out as part of the UNDP project called Reduce Risk-Increase Safety III, which lasted from March to November 2025. Prof. Dr. Sanja Čopić, Jasmina Nikolić, Milica Luković Radaković and Mirela Osmanović, and prof. Dr. Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović were involved in realisation of the activity.

### *Rapid assessment of the implementation of the national strategy for the realization of the rights of victims and witnesses of criminal acts in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2020-2025.*

The Victimology Society of Serbia-VDS conducted a rapid assessment of the level of implementation of the National Strategy for the realization of the rights of victims and witnesses of criminal acts in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2020-2025. (hereinafter referred to as the Strategy) and the accompanying Action Plan for the period 2020-2022. and 2023-2025. (hereinafter referred to as AP). In order to quickly assess the implementation of the Strategy, a survey was conducted, which aimed to assess whether and which measures defined by the Strategy and the accompanying AP have been realized, that is, implemented in the

legislative and institutional framework and practice of protection and support for victims and witnesses of criminal acts in Serbia. The data was collected in two ways: through the analysis of the existing literature and through examination using surveys and interviews. The analysis of the existing literature included the collection, sorting, processing and analysis of written material, available in printed or electronic form, about the combined measures defined by the Strategy and AP, namely: at the legislative level, at the institutional level and at the level of practical application of the measures. In order to collect additional data on the implementation of the measures defined in the Strategy and AP, a survey was conducted using a survey and interviews. Data were collected from: Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs, Coordinating Body for Support to Victims of Crimes and Witnesses in Criminal Proceedings, Judicial Academy and Commission for Missing Persons. Also, four in-depth interviews were conducted with representatives of the OSCE Mission in Serbia, the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office, the NGO Astra and the Service for Aid and Support to Witnesses and Victims in the High Court in Belgrade. Finally, through a survey, data was collected on the work of support services for victims and witnesses of criminal acts at the higher courts in Serbia. Based on the findings of the rapid assessment of the implementation of the Strategy, a research report was prepared that contains recommendations for a wider evaluation of the Strategy's effects and further steps for the preparation of a new strategic framework, which are an integral part of this report.

The activity was carried out as part of the UNDP project called Reduce Risk-Increase Safety III, which lasted from August to the end of October 2025. Prof. Dr. Sanja Čopić, Dr. Mirjana Dokmanović, Jasmina Nikolić, Milica Luković Radaković and Mirela Osmanović were involved in realisation of the activity.

## Education

### *Training for working with victims of violence*

The training for working with victims of violence, accredited by the Republic Institute for Social Protection, was realized in 2025 for two groups of participants, with a total of 19 participants. The trainings lasted for four days and were carried out within the framework of the projects "Standing for the rights of victims of gender-based violence in general, and especially violence in the family, in the workplace and in educational institutions", which is carried out in cooperation and with the financial support of the Kingdom of Sweden and the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, then the project "Inform, empower, support: so that older fellow citizens become winners, not victims!", financed by the City of Belgrade, the City Administration of the City of Belgrade and the Secretariat for Social Protection, as well as of the project "Institutionalization of quality services for the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of violence II", which is implemented with the financial support of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) through the Austrian Development Cooperation. The first training was held in March 2025 and brought together three participants who, after completing the training, were qualified for volunteer work in the service for victims of the Victimology Society of Serbia VDS info and support for victims. The second training was held in October

2025 and was intended for representatives of the City Center for Social Work - New Belgrade, Surčin, Obrenovac and Grocka departments, with a total of 16 participants. The aim of the training was to improve the capacity of participants to prevent and respond to violence, with a special focus on working with the elderly. During the training, participants acquired key knowledge and skills for recognizing victims of violence, understanding their needs, providing appropriate information, emotional support and other forms of assistance, as well as for referring victims to competent institutions and organizations in accordance with identified needs. The following participated in the implementation of the training: Jasmina Nikolić, prof. Dr. Sanja Čopić and Milica Luković Radaković.



### *Round table "Recognition and reaction to violence against the elderly"*

In November 2025, the Victimology Society of Serbia - VDS organized a round table on the topic "Recognition and reaction to violence against the elderly". The event was intended for employees of the Gerontological Center Belgrade, and a total of 24 professionals attended. The round table was realized within the project "Inform, empower, support: that older fellow citizens become winners, not victims!", which VDS implements with the financial support of the City of Belgrade - the City Administration of the City of Belgrade and the Secretariat for Social Protection. The aim of the round table was to improve the capacity of professionals in the field of social protection to recognize, prevent and respond to various forms of violence, with a special focus on the elderly as direct and indirect victims. In addition, the event contributed to the strengthening of cross-sectoral networking of actors involved in the protection and support of older victims of violence. Jasmina Nikolić and Milica Luković Radaković participated in the implementation of the training.



### Workshops on prevention and recognition of violence for children

During November and December 2025, the Victimology Society of Serbia-VDS conducted workshops for the prevention and recognition of violence for children. The workshops were held for male and female students of the 3rd grade at the Secondary Railway Technical School in Belgrade. The workshops were organized with the financial support of the British Serbian Charitable Fund. VDS received a recommendation from the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Serbia for conducting workshops. The workshops aimed to inform the participants about the causes and forms of violence in general and gender-based violence in particular and methods of prevention, as well as to raise their capacities for prevention and support through the acquisition of knowledge and skills, and changing attitudes about gender roles. A total of four workshops were conducted in the duration of one school hour and they were realized in the Head of Department class with Professor Dušica Đorđević. The implementation of the workshops was supported by professional workers of the pedagogical and psychological service of the Railway Technical School, pedagogue Milena Rakita and psychologist Jelena Milić. After the workshops, the students were given 10 tickets for the play *Prima Facie*<sup>6</sup> at the Bitef Theater, which was provided by VDS. The workshops were realized by Milica Luković Radaković and Mirela Osmanović.

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<sup>6</sup> The play “Prima Facie“ talks about court proceedings in cases of sexual abuse of women, raises questions that are of essential importance and sheds light on a problem that is very present in our judiciary, calling for the reform of the law on sexual violence. The performance is performed by actress Maša Dakić, this year's winner of the "Miloš Žutić" 2024 award for the best acting performance awarded by the Association of Dramatic Artists of Serbia. The play *Prima Facie* was based on the text by Suzy Miller, directed by Anja Suša.



### *Workshops on the occasion of commemorating the "Week of Remembrance and Unity"*

During the months of May and June, representatives of the Victimology Society of Serbia - VDS held three workshops for more than 160 students on the occasion of the Week of Remembrance and Unity<sup>7</sup>. The workshops were held in two elementary schools (Jefimija Elementary School in Obrenovac and Jovan Dučić Elementary School in New Belgrade) and in one high school - the Railway Technical School in Belgrade. The main goal of the workshops is to preserve the memory of the children, young people and guards who died in the mass murders on May 3 and 4, 2023; encouraging empathy, solidarity and togetherness among students, recognizing and nurturing virtues, as well as strengthening the sense of belonging and mutual respect in school communities. During the workshops, the students watched the films "Endless Threads" and "Immortals" filmed in memory of the people who died in the mass shootings on May 3 and 4, 2023, after which they discussed the virtues, talents and interests of the victims, as well as the positive qualities of the students and their personal values. In the practical part, students in groups decorated specially shaped birds that had been prepared beforehand. Their task was to paint or write their visions that symbolize virtues, community and memory, writing on them the symbols of beauty and goodness that they recognize in others. The decorated birds made up a whole called "Very Flock" and are kept as an archive for the future Memorial Center in memory of the victims of the mass murder in Vladislav Ribnikar Primary School. All three workshops took place in an atmosphere of attention, respect and creative expression. The students showed a high level of sensitivity and willingness to participate in the conversation. Teachers and representatives of the school expressed their gratitude for the implementation of the workshops and emphasized their emotional and educational importance. The workshops were realized by: Jasmina Nikolić, Milica Luković Radaković and Mirela Osmanović

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<sup>7</sup> The Week of Remembrance and Community includes a series of school activities aimed at honoring the victims of crimes that occurred in 2023. Years at the Vladislav Ribnikar Elementary School in Belgrade, Mali Orašje and Dubona, as well as raising awareness in the school and wider social community about the importance of preventing violence among young people, developing humanity, empathy, tolerance, respect and dialogue among young people. From the 2024/2025 school year, marking Weeks of remembrance and togetherness are foreseen in the educational work calendar and are a mandatory activity in all primary and secondary schools in the Republic of Serbia.



## Providing support to victims of crime

### *VDS info and victim support service*



The VDS info and victim support service is the first general service for crime victims, which was founded in 2003 within the Victimology Society of Serbia. The target group of the service for victims consists of all victims of crime, women and men, members of all ethnic groups, regardless of any personal characteristics (LGBT, ill, people with disabilities, etc.). Help and support are provided both to direct and indirect victims (family members

of direct victims and other persons indirectly injured by criminal behavior). Also, the target group includes victims of crime who appear in court as witnesses or in some other role, as well as victims of violence who are in prison, former, future and current prisoners and that is related to their rights and victimization.

Services provided to victims within the Service are:

- Emotional support;
- Information (on psychological reactions and the dynamics of recovery, practical information for re-establishing life courses after a traumatic event, information on the rights of victims and the ways in which they can exercise them, on the possibilities of using restorative approaches, especially mediation and other ways of peaceful problem solving, etc.);
- Referral to specialized (state and civil) services and organizations or individuals in Belgrade and Serbia, depending on specific needs;
- Support in court, in contacts with state institutions and in the mediation process.

All types of help and support for victims are free of charge. The basic working principles of the Service, which are also the working principles of all organizations of this type gathered around the organization Victim Support Europe, are trust, respect for the victim, her rights, needs and feelings, confidentiality of information and the autonomy of the victim's will. The

help and support provided within the VDS info and victim support service is based on an empowering and supportive attitude towards the victims, which can be significant for their recovery, but also for activation in the search for a solution to the problem they are facing.

The working hours of the Service were every working day from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

During the reporting period, the following activities were realised:

*Providing support to victims* - during 2025, 119 victims of various forms of victimization contacted the VDS info and victim support service. A total of 457 contacts were made, which means that a certain number of victims contacted the Service more than once. Of the total number of victims, 95 were female, and 24 of them were male. The most common forms of victimization for which the victims turned to the Service were: domestic violence (55.4%), violence outside the workplace and family (15.9%), violence at the workplace (11.7%). The most common form of domestic violence was psychological violence - in 39 cases (59%), while physical violence was recorded in 4 cases (6%). Combined psychological and physical violence was present in 17 cases (25%). In addition, two cases of sexual violence (3%) and three cases of combined psychological, physical and economic violence (4%) were recorded. The second most common reason why people contacted the Service in 2025 was violence outside the workplace and family, which is why a total of 19 people (19.9%) contacted the Service. When it comes to this form of violence, the most prevalent was psychological violence - in 15 cases (79%), in one case physical violence (5.3%), while in two cases both psychological and physical violence were present (10.3%). Also, one person came forward because of physical and sexual violence, which happened outside the workplace and family. Due to violence at the workplace, 14 persons (11.7%) contacted the Service, namely: psychological violence - 12 (86%), physical violence - one person (7%), and sexual violence - also one person (7%). Other forms of victimization due to which people turned to the Service are: persecution, dissatisfaction with the work of institutions, violation of labor rights, violations of civil rights, misuse of personal data, robbery, post-criminal admission, a total of 16.8%. During the reporting period, 12 people were referred to the VDS info and victim support service by the City Center for Social Work: New Belgrade Department (10); Palilula Department (1) and Barajevo Department (1); four persons were referred by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia: Police Station Novi Beograd (2) and Police Station Lazarevac (2). The largest number of contacts with persons who contacted the Service were made by telephone (92), while 18 persons contacted the Service by e-mail. A smaller number of people contacted via social networks, through Facebook (3) and Instagram (3), while Viber was used by two people. Also, one person sent a letter. A total of 30 interviews were conducted in the premises of the Victimology Society of Serbia.

In 2022, VDS piloted the program *"From victim to winner: Using one's own capacities to get out of violence"*. In 2025, 13 women, victims of domestic violence, were successfully worked with according to this program, which involves the provision of individualized continuous psychosocial support. Support was provided through individual conversations in the VDS office (total of 19 conversations), as well as through telephone consultations (total of 31 telephone consultations). Work with victims according to this The program involves the provision of individualized continuous psychosocial support. Based on the needs of each individual victim, a program was designed to strengthen their own competences for getting out of violence. Victims were worked on recognizing violence, strengthening self-confidence, developing the ability to resolve conflicts peacefully, recognizing emotions, overcoming

anxiety, and anger, etc. The victims were also informed about the criminal legal procedure and ways to exercise their rights in court and other organizations and institutions at the local level.

As part of the VDS info and victim support service during 2025, 13 victims of various crimes were continuously worked on with the aim of providing support during court proceedings. Support during court proceedings included informing victims about court proceedings, their rights and ways to exercise them, as well as empowering victims to go to court, testify and meet the abuser, and support during the trial itself (support in court).

The VDS info and victim support service was on duty according to a predetermined schedule (once to twice a month) on the common telephone line for women with experience of domestic and/or partner violence of the Association of Women's NGOs "Women's Network Against Violence", 0800 300 339 from 12:00 to 16:00. Support was provided for four women who reached out via a common telephone line during the VDS duty. About the work of the joint telephone line for women with experience of domestic and/or partner violence, see the section Establishing a national telephone SOS line for women with experience of gender-based violence, which will work according to feminist principles.

In order to increase the visibility of the Service, a report on the work of the Service VDS info and support for victims is posted every month on the social networks Facebook and Instagram and on the VDS website. The reports are available at the [link](#). Also, examples of addressing the Service, as well as other materials intended for victims and potential victims, were regularly posted. You can see more about the activities and visibility of VDS social networks in the section of the Statistics on Social Networks report.

The work of the Service and the services provided were also promoted through information materials (leaflets) that were designed, printed and distributed, which will be discussed more in the part of the report related to the project "Inform, empower, support: so that older citizens remain winners, not victims!".

During the reporting period, victims were supported by: Milica Luković Radaković, Mirela Osmanović, volunteers Mina Jevtić, Tara Stojković and Tamara Stojković, while supervision was provided by Jasmina Nikolić.

Support for victims was provided within the project "Inform, empower, support: so that older citizens remain winners, not victims!", which was financed by the City of Belgrade, the City Administration of the City of Belgrade, the Secretariat for Social Protection, the project "Standing for the rights of victims of gender-based violence in general and especially violence in the family, at the workplace and in educational institutions" (Kingdom of Sweden and Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation) within which the emphasis was on providing support to victims of domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence, the projects "Establishment of a national telephone SOS line for women with experience of gender-based violence that will work according to feminist principles" and "Institutionalization of quality services for the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of violence II" funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) through Austrian Development Cooperation.

### *Forming of national SOS telephone for women experiencing gender-based violence based on feminist principals*

During the year 2025, VDS continued to coordinate the Belgrade region for the seventh year in a row within the Association of Women's Non-Governmental Organizations "Women Against Violence Network" (MŽPN)<sup>8</sup> and the activities planned in the Belgrade region within the project "Formation of a national SOS telephone for women experiencing gender-based violence based on feminist principles". The project aims to reduce violence against women and girls in Serbia by establishing support services, raising public awareness and education, monitoring and improving policies and public administration, and advocating policies and laws. The specific goals of the project are: to increase the influence of the Ministry of Education and Culture on the public, national and local policies through participation in decision-making, access to funds and implementation of activities; better position of the members of the Ministry of Education and Culture as service providers; establishment of a common SOS line (national SOS phone) coordinated by the Ministry of Education and Culture as a leading service for women with experience of violence in Serbia. Financial support is provided by KAC through the Trag Foundation.

The key activities during the reporting period were:

- Jasmina Nikolić, a member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Women's Non-Governmental Organizations "Women Against Violence Network" (MŽPN), attended the meetings of the Board of Directors and participated in the decision-making of this Association.
- The representative of VDS, Milica Luković Radaković, participated in several meetings of the working group for the formation of the national SOS telephone of the MŽPN, which were held online.
- According to a predefined schedule, the Victimology Society of Serbia was regularly on duty at the joint telephone line for women with experience of family and/or partner violence of the Association of Women's Non-Governmental Organizations "Women Against Violence Network". The line 0800 300 339 is free for calls from all mobile and landline operators. Organizations that participate in the operation of the common line (14) are on duty for four hours in the period from 12:00 to 16:00.
- Mirela Osmanović attended the Assembly of the Association of Women's Non-Governmental Organizations "Women Against Violence Network", which was held in the period from May 15 to 17, 2025 in Leskovac.
- Union of women's non-governmental organizations "Women Against Violence Network" presented the results of the project "Firearms in the home are not a trophy, but a danger", supported by UNDP Serbia through the program "Reduce risk - increase safety". The director of VDS, Jasmina Nikolić, attended the conference held on March 27, 2025 in the Media Center.

Jasmina Nikolić, Mirela Osmanović and Milica Luković Radaković were directly involved in the implementation of the project.

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<sup>8</sup> VDS coordinates the Belgrade region, which consists of the following organizations: ASTRA, Atina, Autonomous Women's Center, Roma Center for Women and Children Daje, ...Iz kruga-Belgrade and VDS.

### *Inform, empower, support: for older fellow citizens to become winners, not victims!*

During the reporting period, the Victimology Society of Serbia-VDS implemented a project called "Inform, empower, support: for older fellow citizens to become winners, not victims!" which is financed by the City of Belgrade, the City Administration of the City of Belgrade, the Secretariat for Social Protection. The general goal of the project is the prevention of victimization and re-victimization by domestic violence through information, education and support activities for potential victims and victims of domestic violence, with a special emphasis on the elderly.

The specific objectives of the projects are:

- Strengthening the capacity of employees in the local community (including gerontological centers and associations of pensioners) for prevention, intervention and prevention of re-victimization in cases of domestic violence.
- Rational use of existing resources for prevention and intervention in cases of domestic violence at the local level in general and especially related to vulnerable groups such as the elderly, children and people with disabilities.
- Raising the capacity of victims and their children to recognize, respond and use their own capacities to respond to domestic violence and other types of violence.

The main activities within the project were:

- Providing support and legal assistance to victims of violence; realisation of the program „From victim to winner“; providing support in the neighbourhood for fellow elderly citizens, as well as conducting individual workshops for children of women included in „From victim to winner“ program.<sup>9</sup>
- Meetings with representatives of the Municipality of New Belgrade, the Municipal Council, the Center for the Care of Old Children and Persons with Disabilities "New Belgrade", the Gerontological Center Belgrade, the City Organization of Pensioners Belgrade, the City Center for Social Work, the Department of New Belgrade, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, the Police Station New Belgrade.
- Realization of training of social service providers to work with victims of violence with special emphasis on the support system, recognition and practical guidelines for working with elderly victims.<sup>10</sup>
- Organizing a round table for employees of the Gerontological Center Belgrade, which aimed to increase the capacity of the participants to prevent and respond to violence with a special focus on working with older people, direct and indirect victims of violence, as well as networking with other actors dealing with this topic.
- Raising the capacity of employees in the CSR, MUP RS, Gerontological Center and Association of Pensioners through participation in the 15th annual VDS conference;
- Organizing the first fair of services and projects in the field of prevention and protection from violence "New Belgrade a safe municipality", where institutions and organizations from the territory of New Belgrade that actively contribute to community safety and violence prevention presented their work. Citizens had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the work and to talk with representatives of the following institutions/organizations: GCSR of the New Belgrade Department, the Family

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<sup>9</sup> See at the pages 23-24.

<sup>10</sup> See at the page 22.

Violence Suppression Group at the Criminal Police Department of the New Belgrade Police Station, the Center for the Care of the Elderly, Children and Persons with Disabilities, the Gerontological Center Belgrade, the April 11 Preschool, the City Organization of Belgrade Pensioners, the National Employment Service and the Victimology Society of Serbia-VDS.

- Designing, printing and distribution of information leaflets. The aim of the informative material (leaflet) is to inform victims about the support provided by the VDS, that is, the VDS info and victim support service, but also to make it easier for experts to refer victims to the Service. The leaflet contains information related to the help and support that people who contact the VDS info and victim support service can get. Info-material was distributed to the participants during the training, round table, conference, fair.



**VDS**  
**Viktimološko društvo Srbije**

**DO INFORMACIJE ILI PODRŠKE DELI VAS JEDAN TELEFONSKI POZIV!**

Čuvajte naše kontakte! Ponekad podrška znači samo jedan poziv - za vas ili za nekog vama dragog.

**O nama...**  
Viktimološko društvo Srbije-VDS je nezavisno i neprofitno udruženje građana osnovano 1997. godine sa ciljem da okupi što veći broj stručnjaka koji su zainteresovani da rade na razvoju viktimologije (znanje o žrtvama) i unapređenju zaštite žrtava krivičnih dela.

U okviru VDS funkcioniše  
**Služba VDS info i podrška žrtvama:**  
Služba je namenjena svim osobama koje su bile izložene nasilju ili nekom drugom povređujućem ponašanju.

Nasle usluge su namenjene:  
• svim žrtvama kriminaliteta, žrtvama i muškarcima, bez obzira na lična svojstva  
• kao i porodicama i bliskim osobama žrtava.

**Ukoliko ste doživeli:**

- Nasilje u porodici
- Nasilje na radnom mestu
- Krađu ili razbojništvo
- Proganjanje
- Nasilje van porodice i radnog mesta
- Bilo koji drugi oblik negativnog ponašanja

Obratite nam se za podršku!

**Služba VDS info i podrška žrtvama**  
Služba pokušava da odgovori na najčešće potrebe osoba koje joj se obraćaju i pružiti:

- Informacije o pravima žrtava
- Informacije o procesu oporavka i uslugama u zajednici
- Podršku i osnaživanje
- Poverenje i razumevanje
- Upućivanje na nadležne institucije i/ili specijalizovane organizacije

**Sve usluge su besplatne!**

**Možete nas kontaktirati putem:**

- 011 2288 040  
065 548 6421  
063 356 613
- vdsrbija@gmail.com
- www.vds.rs
- viktimoloskodrustvosrbije
- viktimolosko.srbije

Informacioni materijal je nastao u okviru projekta, informisani smo da ovaj sadržaj može biti korišćen u drugim projektima. Sadržaj ovog materijala nije namenjen za promenu politika. Sadržaj ovog materijala je namenjen za informisanje i ne treba ga koristiti kao osnovu za donošenje odluka. Sadržaj ovog materijala je namenjen za informisanje i ne treba ga koristiti kao osnovu za donošenje odluka.

**VDS**  
**НОВИ БЕОГРАД**

вас позивају на  
**САЈАМ УСЛУГА И ПРОЈЕКТА  
У ОБЛАСТИ ПРЕВЕНЦИЈЕ И ЗАШТИТЕ ОД  
НАСИЉА  
"НОВИ БЕОГРАД СИГУРНА ОПШТИНА"**

**02. ОКТОБАР 2025.  
10-14 ЧАСОВА**

**ПЛАТО ИСПРЕД ГРАДСКЕ  
ОПШТИНЕ НОВИ БЕОГРАД  
(БУЛЕВАР МИХАЈЛА ПУПИНА 167)**

ЗА ВИШЕ ИНФОРМАЦИЈА МОЖЕТЕ НАС КОНТАКТИРАТИ ПУТЕМ:

0112288040  
0655486421  
063356613

VDSRBIA@GMAIL.COM WWW.VDS.RS VIKTIMOLOSKO.SRBIE VIKTIMOLOSKODRUSTVOSRBIE

The following were directly involved in the implementation of the project: Jasmina Nikolić, Milica Luković Radaković and Mirela Osmanović. The project was implemented in the period from June 1, 2025. until 30.11.2025. year.

### Brave

In the period from June to October 2025, the Victimology Society of Serbia-VDS participated as a partner organization in the Brave project, which was implemented by the Holistic Center "Beauty Imagini" with the financial support of the Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation. The project aimed to improve the social and economic position of women from vulnerable social groups (women victims of violence, people with disabilities, Romani women, as well as other

women in a vulnerable position), strengthening self-confidence, gaining economic independence, increasing the chance of employment and facilitating integration into society. Through educational activities, the participants had the opportunity to acquire practical knowledge and skills in the field of holistic massage, which will contribute to their competitiveness on the labor market and increase their chances of employment. All the time, the services of the VDS info service and support for victims were available to women and they were worked with according to the program "From victim to winner: Using one's own capacities to get out of violence". A total of 16 women were trained as a holistic masseur within the project, of which 3 women were the ones who contacted the VDS info and victim support service and the daughter of one of them.

One of the activities within the project was a forum entitled Economic empowerment of women in the local community, which was held on June 18, 2025 in the local community of Gazela in New Belgrade. Free training for the job of a holistic masseur and involvement in therapeutic work was presented at the forum. In addition to representatives of the Holistic Educational Center from Belgrade "Beauty Imagini", VDS, Center for the Care of the Elderly, Children and Persons with Disabilities "New Belgrade", the panel was attended by persons interested in training from sensitive groups, representatives of the Association of Pensioners New Belgrade and the Association of the Blind and Visually Impaired "Gledamo srcem". You can read more about the forum at the [link](#).

The graduation ceremony, which took place on October 29, 2025, marked the successful completion of this important program. More about it at the [link](#).

You can listen to the experiences of the women who participated in the project at the [link](#).

### *Institutionalization of quality services for the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of violence II*

During the reporting period, on July 1, 2025, the Victimological Society of Serbia started a project entitled "Institutionalization of quality services for the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of violence II" financed by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) through the Austrian Development Cooperation. The general goal of the project is prevention and reaction to gender-based violence through information, education and support activities for potential victims and victims. The specific goals of the project are:

- Strengthening the capacity of employees in the local community for prevention, intervention and prevention of re-victimization in cases of gender-based violence.
- Rational use of existing resources for prevention and intervention in cases of gender-based violence at the local level in general and especially related to sensitive groups such as the elderly, children and persons with disabilities.
- Spreading the good practice of using existing resources for prevention and intervention in cases of gender-based violence at the local level to other city municipalities.
- Raising the capacity of victims and their children to recognize, respond and use their own capacities to respond to domestic violence and other types of violence.

- Advocating for the recognition, financing and giving space for organizations to provide support to RBN at the local level and greater engagement of city municipalities related to RBN.

The main activities within the project are:

1. Rational use of existing resources for prevention and intervention in cases of domestic violence at the local level. As part of this activity, we will work on the continuity of cooperation at the local level in the territory of the municipality of New Belgrade. CSW New Belgrade, PS New Belgrade, Center for Support of the Elderly, Children and Persons with Disabilities "New Belgrade", City Municipality of New Belgrade, pedagogical/psychological services in schools and gerontological institutions will be involved in this cooperation.
2. Advocating for the spread of good networking practices at the local level in order to prevent and react to violence in other local communities (Obrenovac and Surčin).
3. Raising the capacity of employees to work with victims of gender-based violence.
4. Support for victims and implementation of the program „From victim to winner“. During the entire duration of the project, VDS will provide support to victims who contact the VDS info and victim support service, individually or referred by CSW and the Police.
5. Informing citizens about support services in local communities through organizing street actions within the campaign of 16 days of activism against violence against women, which was discussed more in the previous part of the report.

The project is being implemented in the period from July 1, 2025. until July 1, 2026. year.

### *Increasing the availability of free legal support for victims of gender-based violence*

Based on the contract on business and technical cooperation between the VDS and the Fenomena Association from Kraljevo, during the reporting period, the VDS was involved in the piloting of the system of referral of free legal aid beneficiaries between the municipal services for free legal aid and non-governmental organizations within the annual work plan of the Fenomena Association and the Program "Increasing the availability of free legal aid for victims of gender-based violence". As part of this activity, the services for victims of the Victimology Society of Serbia VDS info and support for victims referred two women from the municipal services of free legal aid, and the VDS referred three women to the municipal services of free legal aid.

The activities were carried out during the contractual period of 13.6.2025. until 30.9.2025. Jasmina Nikolić, Milica Luković Radaković, Mirela Osmanović and VDS info and victim support volunteers Mina Jevtić and Tara Stojković were directly involved in the implementation.

*Support to the families of those killed in mass murders in May 2023 and participation in the process of establishing a memorial center and developing a culture of remembrance*

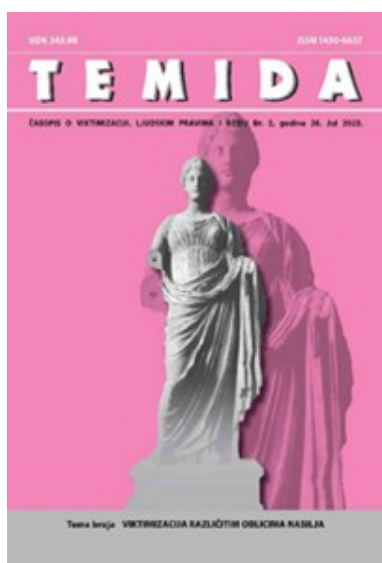
During the year 2023, on May 3 and 4 to be exact, two mass murders took place in Serbia - one at the "Vladislav Ribnikar" Experimental Elementary School in Belgrade, in which a student (13) killed nine children and one adult, and on the same occasion wounded five children and one adult, and in the villages of Malo Orašje and Dubona in the municipalities of Smederevo and Mladenovac, where nine young people were killed and twelve were injured. In relation to these events, VDS conducted the following activities during 2025:

- Marking May 3 and 4 as the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Mass Murders in Serbia, which was discussed more in the previous part of the report.
- Two members of the VDS (Jasmina Nikolić and Prof. dr Sanja Čopić) participated in the work of the Multidisciplinary Team for the establishment of the Memorial Center in memory of the victims of mass murder at the "Vladislav Ribnikar" Experimental Elementary School in Belgrade (hereinafter: MD Team). During the reporting period, they participated in regular meetings of the MD team related to the planning of marking the second anniversary of the mass murder in "Vladislav Ribnikar" Elementary School; as well as in organizing and conducting meetings with the families of the murdered.
- Prof. dr Sanja Čopić was appointed as a member of the Working Group for the establishment of a Memorial Center in memory of the victims of the mass murder at the "Vladislav Ribnikar" Demonstration Elementary School in Belgrade on May 3, 2023 (Decision of the Government of the RS 05 No. 02-2049/2024 of March 8, 2024). She and Jasmina Nikolić participated in the work of the Working Group; a total of 14 sessions were held during 2025. The sessions discussed issues related to the second commemoration and the process of establishing the Memorial Center; organizing the Week of Solidarity and Unity in schools in Serbia (which is included in the school calendar); preparatory activities undertaken by the Association of Architects of Serbia for the purpose of announcing a tender for the conceptual design of the Memorial Center and others.
- Facilitating the participation of the parents of the two girls killed on May 3 at the XV annual conference of the VDS, held on 20-21. November 2025, which gave them the opportunity to meet experts in the field of victim support.

Jasmina Nikolić and prof. dr Sanja Čopić were directly involved in this activity.

## Publishing activity

### *Journal on victimization, human rights and gender Temida*



Immediately after its foundation, in 1998, the Victimological Society of Serbia launched a magazine on victimization, human rights and gender, named after the Greek goddess of justice, Themis. The first sample edition of the magazine was published in May 1997. This is the first and still the only magazine with this issue in Serbia, which is recognized as such not only in the region of the former Yugoslavia, but also beyond. Since 1998, *Temida* has been published regularly. Journal *Temida* is in open access mode. *Temida* publishes works in Serbian and English. From 2023, the co-creator of journal *Temida* is the University of Belgrade - Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation.

According to the categorization of scientific journals of the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation for the year 2025, the scientific journal *Temida* is categorized as an international journal in the category M23 in the field of social and humanistic sciences, namely in the category of scientific journals for sociology and demography.

*Temida* has been in the international DOI number system since 2007. *Temida* has been referenced in the DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) since 2010, in the EBSCO research database since 2013, and in 2015 it was included in the citation index in the Web of Science - Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), which enables searching, finding and citing journals included in this edition.

During 2025, three issues of *Temida* were published:

- Volume 1: Gender-based violence and protection of victims
- Volume 2: Care of victims and ways of recovery
- Volume 3: Groups of especially vulnerable victims and support

Activities related to journal *Temida* were:

- Regular communication between the members of the Editorial Board of journal *Temida*.
- Regular meetings of the editor-in-chief, deputy editor-in-chief and secretary of journal *Temida* were held.
- Participation of the editor-in-chief, deputy editor-in-chief and secretary of journal *Temida* in webinars for editors and publishers of scientific journals in open access within the Horizon Europe project DIAMAS.
- Regular promotion of *Temida* on social networks and by sending calls for papers to the mailing lists of scientific institutions and universities in the country and abroad, as well as to prominent scientists and professionals dealing with victimological topics, human rights and gender issues.
- The *Temida* page on the VDS website is regularly updated, where you can find all the key information about the journal, its history, editorial policy, instructions for authors, as well as whole issues in pdf format.
- The *Temida* page on the Wikipedia website is regularly updated.

During 2025, two legal entities and two persons subscribed to the journal. The exchange of *Temida* with two journals from the country and abroad continued.

For issuing numbers in 2025, VDS received financial support from the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation of the RS.



## Other activities



During 2025, VDS organized a book collection campaign for the day clubs of the Gerontology Center Belgrade and handed them 180 books for their libraries.



Thanks to a donation from Lidl Srbija<sup>11</sup>, VDS provided and distributed hygiene packages for women victims of violence who contacted the VDS Info and Victim Support Service.



On the occasion of the New Year's holidays, the VDS employees organized and distributed packages for the children of women victims of domestic violence who continuously contacted the VDS info and victim support service during the year. This year, the packets were enriched with products donated to the Victimology Society of Serbia by Coca Cola Serbia.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> The Lidl Serbia company donated hygiene products to the Women Against Violence Network, which were distributed to member organizations in the Belgrade region.

<sup>12</sup> The Coca Cola Serbia company donated packages of its products (juices and water) to the Victimology Society of Serbia and thus supported the New Belgrade - Safe Municipality campaign. The New Belgrade - Safe Municipality campaign relies on strengthening cooperation with social actors, such as the City Municipality of New Belgrade, state institutions, civil society organizations and socially responsible companies, so that, through individual and joint actions and the rational use of existing resources, we work to improve the safety of citizens and enable those who experience some form of violence or other types of crime to receive timely and adequate help, support and protection.

## THEY SAID ABOUT US...

*In the following, the impressions and experiences of VDS associates, participants in conferences and trainings, as well as persons who used the support services of the VDS info and victim support service are highlighted. Their words testify to the importance of our work and the impact we achieve through providing support, informing and advocating the rights of victims.*



*"A ball of wool in a metaphorical sense represents complex situations that need to be unraveled like a complex problem. Thank you for making us better, more professional and for giving a positive example of how to solve complex problems. Thank you for accepting me from the first contact and the opportunity to cooperate with VDS!" (Jovana Krstić, social worker at the Šabac Center for Social Work)*

*"The pumpkin as a symbol in a global sense can be interpreted as enormous prosperity, knowledge, abundance and business success. Thank you for the extensive knowledge you provide during the meeting and for the selfless support from the first meeting!" (Jovana Krstić, social worker at the Šabac Center for Social Work)*



*"Dear everyone, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend another great conference. Every time I am delighted again and again with the choice of topics, presenters, as well as the organization of it. I thank you for the presentations delivered. Good luck in your future work." (Slavica Peković, coordinator of the Service for Aid and Support to Victims and Witnesses of the High Court in Belgrade, Special Department for Organized Crime and War Crimes, Belgrade).*

*"Dear team of the Victimology Society of Serbia, thank you for the excellent organization of the conference and for the warm welcome throughout the event. It was a pleasure to participate and to exchange ideas with colleagues." (Nikolina Janjić from Rovira and Virgili University from Spain, one of the presenters at the 15th annual conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia)*

*"Dear colleagues, Thank you for another excellent conference! I found the topics very interesting and relevant, kudos to you! I hope you are proud of yourself and that you had some time to rest and recover, because it is not a small thing after all!" (Sofija Vrbaški, representative of Kvinna till Kvinna)*

*"Thank you very much for everything! And this time, like every one before, it was highly professional, instructive, practical, brilliantly organized, with a wonderful positive atmosphere in which every participant feels welcome. Warm greetings to all the wonderful colleagues in*

*the Victimology Society"* (Vesna Petrović, social worker at the Center for Social Work Kragujevac)

*"Thank you for your understanding, support and strength, without you two I don't know what I would do..."* (T.M., 43, victim of domestic violence)

*"Thank you for supporting me for two years. I need to share both the good and the bad with you, without your support I would not have been able to survive everything that happened to me. Thank you for every word, support... When I talk to you, it becomes easier for me, I think differently and realize that there is always a solution!"* (M.B., 42, victim of domestic violence)

*"When I reached out to the Victimology Society of Serbia, I felt like a victim and it took me a long time to get out of it. I am grateful to the Victimology Society for supporting me throughout this journey and at the end of it all, it brought me an invitation to participate in all this, which launched me into a completely different dimension of life. I would recommend cooperation with the Victimology Society of Serbia to everyone, with them we felt extremely supported. It was, I can say, a house where I could return and to convert when I had a very difficult time in my life."* (J.B., 38, a victim of domestic violence, who went through the program "From victim to winner: Using your own capacities to get out of violence" and training as a holistic masseuse within the project "Odvažna")

*"I like that we all took part. The information will help us. I don't know how you managed to get us all interested in attending." "Keep your attention. The topics are difficult. Maybe someone is currently going through a similar situation or has been going through it, we don't know... We thank you for your work and effort."* (students of the 3rd grade of the Railway Technical School in Belgrade who were participants in the Workshops for recognition and prevention of violence for children)

*"To the respected editors of the international scientific journal Temida, I would like to congratulate you on your outstanding success and advancement in the list of scientific journals of the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation in 2025. This success is the result of decades of dedicated work by scientists and scientific teams gathered in the Victimology Society of Serbia. I hope that in the future my works will find their way and place in Temida and that I will have the opportunity to make my modest contribution to the further development of Temida and VDS."* (Ph.D. Filip Mirić, research associate, expert-technical associate for doctoral studies, Faculty of Law, University of Niš, and member of the VDS)

## **COOPERATION WITH HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, ASSOCIATIONS AND INDEPENDENT BOARDS, PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS**

The Victimology Society of Serbia is the scientific base of the University of Belgrade - Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation (FASPER). During the 2023/2024 school year and 2024/2025. members of VDS, prof. dr Slobodan Savić, assistant professor dr Nikola Petrović and Milica Luković Radaković, were guests at lectures at FASPER on the subjects Victimology and Violence against Children.

On December 20, 2025, Jasmina Nikolić, director of VDS, gave a lecture at the master's studies at the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Belgrade. The topic of the lecture was Development of services for victims in the world and in Serbia.

## **PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS OF VDS IN THE WORK OF BOARDS OF INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC ORGANIZATIONS AND NETWORKS**

Jasmina Nikolić, director of VDS, participated in the work of the Steering Committee of the Association of Women's Non-Governmental Organizations "Women Against Violence Network", as a member.

Jasmina Nikolić participated in the work of the Multidisciplinary Team for the establishment of the Memorial Center in memory of the victims of the mass murder at the "Vladislav Ribnikar" Model Elementary School in Belgrade on May 3, 2023, as a member.

Prof. dr Sanja Čopić participated in the work of the Working Group for the establishment of a Memorial Center in memory of the victims of the mass murder at the "Vladislav Ribnikar" Demonstration Elementary School in Belgrade on May 3, 2023 (Decision of the RS Government 05 No. 02-2049/2024 of March 8, 2024), as a member.

## **PEOPLE INVOLVED IN REALISATION OF ACTIVITIES OF VDS IN 2025**

During the reporting period, VDS was engaged in the implementation of projects and ongoing activities:

- 3 persons in permanent employment - Jasmina Nikolić, VDS director, Milica Luković Radaković, assistant and head of the VDS info and victim support service, Mirela Osmanović, assistant.
- 4 people under the copyright contract - prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović, prof. dr Sanja Čopić, dr Mirjana Dokmanović and MSc Ljiljana Stevković.
- 4 volunteers – Mina Jevtić, Tara Stojković, Biljana Mihić i Tamara Stojković.
- 1 accountant – Petra Dragišić, agency Orenda d.o.o.
- 1 VDS website administrator – Tatjana Orelj.

Also, we would like to highlight the involvement in certain project and other activities of VDS member Nada Banjanin Đuričić, for which we thank her.

## **PARTICIPATION OF VDS MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS AT PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS AND SEMINARS IN THE COUNTRY AND ABROAD (On behalf of VDS or with presentations of VDS activities and related victimology topics)**

### Prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović

- Participation in the international conference Facing the world of high-risk criminal networks, organized by the CEPOL-EU Center for Police Education. The conference was held from March 25 to 27, 2025 in Lido di Ostia, Rome (Italy). Prof. Nikolić-Ristanović moderated the plenary session, the topic of which was Witnesses and victims of high-risk criminal networks.
- European House, Awarding of the "Dobriša" award, the winner of which was Radmila Gujaničić, member of the VDS, March 10, 2025, Belgrade.
- Annual conference and celebration of 15 years of the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality of the RS, Hotel Metropol, November 17, 2025, Belgrade.
- Promotion of the book "I am Alen", by Alen Muhić, November 26, 2025, Belgrade.
- Follow up online conference on high-risk criminal networks organized by CEPOL - EU Center for Police Education, November 27, 2025.

### Jasmina Nikolić

- Improving the protection of child victims and witnesses of crimes, March 2025, (UNICEF) Belgrade.
- Conference of the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality and the Embassy of Israel: Israel-Serbia Women Leaders Networking Session on the Occasion of the International Month of Woman Solidarity, March 2025, Belgrade.
- Kvinna till Kvinna, networking meeting, April 2025, Bar, Montenegro.
- Embassy of Sweden, in cooperation with the Swedish-Serbian police cooperation program, seminar dedicated to the topic of men's violence against women and violence in intimate relationships. Presentation of Operation Beta, a national initiative of the Swedish police launched in 2023, and today part of regular police work, December 2025, Belgrade.
- Presentation of the Special Report of the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality on Discrimination against Women 2015-2025, November 2025, Belgrade.
- Team building, Association of Women's Non-Governmental Organizations "Women Against Violence Network", September 2025, Palić.
- Webinar "Building a Lifeline for Victims Across Europe – The 116 006 Helpline", december 2025.
- Festival of healthy food and products "Truly healthy", Municipality of New Belgrade, June 14, 2025, Belgrade.

### Prof. dr Sanja Čopić

- Promotion of the book "I am Alen", by Alen Muhić, November 26, 2025, Belgrade.
- Workshop: Application of Creative Commons licenses in publications: workshop for publishers of magazines and anthologies, online, February 11, 2025.

- The Grand Opening of Remembering Through Art Online Exhibition – A trumpet to memory, resilience and justice, online, March 27, 2025.
- Workshop: New recommendations for editors and publishers of scientific journals: regional workshop, online, April 22, 2025.
- Workshop: DIAMAS Conversation Series: Applying DOAS - insights from early adopters, online, April 24, 2025.
- NO-OBLIVION Remembering Through Art Documentary Screening Session 1, online, July 22, 2025.

#### Milica Luković Radaković

- Once Upon a Support: A 35-Year Story of the European Day for Victims of Crime, European day for victims of crime 2025, Victim Support Service (Victim Support Europe), online, 21. februar 2025. godine
- Third Forum on Gender Equality for the Western Balkans, AIRE Center, March 7, 2025, Skopje.
- Final conference of the CHAT for Victims Project – Changing the Accessibility of Tools for Victims, Association for Support of Victims and Witnesses and VSE, online, April 28, 2025.
- Annual Conference of European Victim Support (VSE) 2025 " - "35 Years of Victim Support in Europe - Transforming Lives Today, Inspiring a Brighter Tomorrow", May 22-23, 2025, Lisbon.
- Festival of healthy food and products "Truly healthy", Municipality of New Belgrade, June 14, 2025, Belgrade.
- Training "Writing a project proposal", EU Resource Center for Civil Society in Serbia, online, October 6 and 7, 2025.
- Workshop "You have the right and the system is there because of you", Association of Lawyers AEPA, online, October 29, 2025.
- Tribune "Report the abuser, stop violence against women", December 5, 2025, Lazarevac.

#### Mirela Osmanović

- Forum "Psychological support for victims of sexual violence - an approach to support based on information about trauma", Women's Support Center, February 11, 2025, Novi Sad.
- Basic training for service providers to work with victims of sexual violence, Women's Support Center, 20-22. February 2025, Ruma.
- Child witnesses and victims of domestic violence: the best interest of the child, March 8 and 9, 2025, Belgrade.
- Assembly of the Union of Women's Non-Governmental Organizations "Women Against Violence Network", 15-17 May 2025, Leskovac.
- Training "Writing a project proposal", EU Resource Center for Civil Society in Serbia, online, October 6 and 7, 2025.

### Mina Jevtić

- Basic training for service providers to work with victims of sexual violence, Women's Support Center, June 4-6, 2025, Ruma.

## **MEDIA PRESENTATION OF VDS MEMBERS**

### Prof. dr Sanja Čopić

Radio Belgrade II, Topic: Victims - recognition and help, 25.03.2025.

Radio Belgrade I, Topic: Days of Remembrance for Victims of Mass Murders, 05/03/2025.

Nedeljnik Vreme, Topic: May 3 and 4 - Days of remembrance for victims of mass murders, May 3, 2025.

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### Jasmina Nikolić

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