

Awards of the Victimology Society of Serbia for 2023

Victimology Society of Serbia established three awards in 2009:

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

The award for contribution to the promotion of victims' rights is awarded to individuals or organizations who have significantly contributed through their activities and efforts to the promotion of victims' rights and to achieving main aims of the Victimology Society of Serbia. This year, the award for the contribution to the promotion of victims' rights is given to Brankica Janković, Commissioner for Equality.

Brankica Janković graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, master studies finished at the Faculty of Law, University of Novi Sad, currently on Phd studies at the Faculty of Security studies in Belgrade. People's Assembly of the Republic of Serbia chose Brankica Janković as the Commissioner for Equality in 2015. (first mandate), and again in 2020., which is her second mandate. For many years, especially after being named as a Commissioner for Equality, Brankica Janković has been consistently arguing for respect for all citizens, male or female, for recognition of discrimination and for timely and efficiently reacting in cases in which discrimination appears.

With special attention she has been arguing for respecting childrens', womens' rights and also rights for elderly people and people with disabilities. Her activities, from the beginning of the first mandate at the position of Commissioner for Gender Equality to today, marked a large number of reports, submitted complaints and addresses to the public. Brankica Janković reacts regularly, both to cases of violation of the rights of certain groups and preventively, in order to prevent them from happening. She gave a great deal with her work and efforts and a permanent contribution to the improvement of victims' rights and the achievement of the goals for which the VDS exists founded, so the Board of Directors of VDS made a decision to give this award to Brankica.

The Talented Researcher Award is given to young people for particularly high-quality scientific-research work in the field of victimology, with the aim of encouraging young people to engage in scientific research work in the field of victimology. This year the award was given to: Sanja Kalajdžić, Tamari Trajković and Aleksandra Stojanović for quality work and successfully defended Master theses in the field of victimology.

Sanja Kalajdžić defended her master's thesis on the topic "Refugees as victims and survivors", with the mentorship of prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović, at the University of Belgrade – Faculty for special education and rehabilitation. The topic of her master's thesis is already very current for decades, and has been updated in recent years with numerous political and social issues changes around the world. The special value of the work is in its empirical part. Qualitative research was conducted, which was a real challenge for Sanja, especially if we have in mind that she talked about the experience of war and refugees with people of different ages and after almost three decades, thus returning them to the past, especially if they don't talk about it often and they don't want to remember. Through all her work, she successfully tried to take a step forward in treating refugees, not only as victims, but as survivors, because, as she stated in conclusion: "refugees are victims, but they don't have to be victims all their lives". We believe that this award will be an incentive for further engaging in scientific and research work, especially in the domain of victimology.

Tamara Trajković defended her master's thesis on the topic "Prejudices and stereotypes about sexuality and their influence on the occurrence of sexual violence", under the mentorship of prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović, at the University of Belgrade - Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation. The topic of Tamara's master's thesis is current and very important, but it was neglected for a long time, even and in research. Movements like #metoo or #nisamprijavila, as well as individual cases of sexual violence that occurred in Serbia. Nevertheless, we continue to witness how far they come in public discourse and everyday communication to the expression of prejudices and stereotypes related to sexual violence and sexuality. That's exactly why the research done by Tamara is significant. It provides a good basis for further work on prevention, first of all through raising awareness of stereotypes and prejudices and then through work on their reduction and elimination, which is also important for the prevention of sexual victimization, but also for committing sexual violence against others. We believe that this award will be an important incentive for Tamara to continue doing scientific research, especially in the domain of victimology.

Aleksandra Stojanović defended her master's thesis on the topic "Attitudes about violence against women in rural areas" at the University of Niš - Faculty of Philosophy, under mentorship dr Ivana Janković, within which she conducted research on a sample of 250 women, aged from 18 to 70 years old in ten villages of the Rasin district. This research provides valuable data on the attitudes of women in rural areas regarding partner violence against women, as well as their personal experiences with this form of violence, which represents a kind of contribution towards understanding of this problem. In her work, she combines quantitative and qualitative approach to research, which provides her work with a wealth of different data and quality of the work itself. Her motivation for researching this topic stands out. To prevent and prevention of violence exactly what we need are engaged individuals, male and female, who recognize the need for change in their environment and are ready to participate in those changes. Such individuals, male and female, among them Aleksandra, should be supported, and one way of support is this award of the Victimology Society of Serbia, which was awarded to her.

Award "Third Way" which is given to individuals or organizations for the contribution to the development of a non-conflict and a comprehensive approach to dealing with the consequences of the war and building peace in Serbia was not assigned this year.