

# The awards of the Victimology Society of Serbia for 2015

**Victimology Society of Serbia** established three awards in 2009:

- The award for the contribution to the promotion of victims' rights
- The award "Third way" awarded to individuals or organizations who have contributed to the development of a non-conflict and comprehensive approach to dealing with the consequences of war and promotion of peace in Serbia
- The award for a talented young researcher

**The award for the contribution to the promotion of victims' rights** is awarded to individuals or organizations who, through their activities and efforts, have contributed significantly to the promotion of victims' rights and the achievement of the main goals of the Victimology Society of Serbia. The Executive Committee of the Victimology Society of Serbia decided to give this award to both **Mr Rodoljub Sabic**, Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection and the **Autonomous Women's Center**.

**Mr Rodoljub Sabic** has given a huge contribution to the promotion and protection of victims' rights in very important and sensitive areas as the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection: the individual's right to information of public importance and the right of individuals to privacy. This contribution is reflected both in the system changes of the state and society towards a more responsible exercise and protection of these rights, and in particular in resolving individual cases.

Through his work, Rodoljub Sabic has greatly contributed to a more responsible and transparent work of the authorities in protecting the rights of victims as well as in the battle against the corruption of the system. His public speeches and the presentation of views and opinions, have given invaluable contribution to more responsible actions of government bodies and the overall state of awareness in society regarding protection of victims' rights.

At the system plan he proposed together with the working group of eminent public and professional workers the draft of the Law on the protection of whistleblowers whose concept, unfortunately, the Justice Department did not accept. Another concept was proposed to the National Assembly and adopted. Also in the field of protection of the rights of individuals to privacy he prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Justice a brand new version of the Law on the protection of personal data, the concept which the Ministry of Justice has also not accepted. This clearly points to the tremendous efforts of Mr. Sabic to promote the rights of victims on a system level, but also to the encountered enormous resistance by the competent authorities.

Rodoljub Sabic's contribution is huge in the protection of the individual rights of victims in areas of his work. Of particular importance is his contribution to improving the position of whistleblowers and public awareness of the consequences of whistleblowing on these brave individuals.

Because of all the above, the Board has decided that this year's award for contribution to the promotion of victims' rights goes to Mr. Rodoljub Sabic in order to support him to persevere in his endeavors and efforts, which are of great importance for improving the rights of victims in Serbia.

**Autonomous Women's Center (AWC)** is a women's non-governmental organization founded in 1993. AWC believes that life without violence is a basic human right and accordingly provides professional support to women and encourages individual and institutional response to male violence against women, and also contributes to the strengthening of women's "networks" and civil society in general. AWC services are aimed at empowering women to overcome their traumatic consequences of domestic violence, partner violence and / or sexual violence by providing psychosocial and legal assistance and support. Free psychosocial and legal assistance and support to women is provided by volunteers. Every year they organize trainings for new groups of volunteers, thereby contributing to the continuous strengthening of the capacity and the continuity of the work of the SOS phone.

In addition to providing direct assistance and support to women victims of violence, AWC conducted trainings for professionals from all relevant services, in the field of protection against violence against women. AWC also performs independent monitoring of implementation of public policies and evaluates interventions of public services. They also advocate and all that with the goal of continuous monitoring and proposing amendments on relevant laws, in order to make sure that the policies and practices are properly applied and to ensure the protection of women victims of violence. In this regard of special importance are the efforts related to advocacy aimed at the full implementation of Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence and the harmonization of national legislation with this international document , as well as the adoption of appropriate legislation relating to the free legal aid, compensation for victims of crime with elements of violence and the like.

Because of AWC's activism , enthusiasm and perseverance in supporting women victims of male violence and commitment and advocacy to improve their legal and overall position , which has lasted for more of 20 years, the Board has decided to award the Autonomous Women's Center with the award for the contribution to the promotion of victims' rights. Herewith we would like to acknowledge the previous work of this organization and all women who are today and in the previous years been involved in the work of the AWC. We hope that this award will be a little extra incentive to persevere in their mission, important for the further development of civil society.

**The award "Third way"** is given to individuals or organizations who have contributed to the development of a non-conflict and comprehensive approach to dealing with the consequences of war and promotion of peace in Serbia. This year the Executive Committee of the Victimology Society of Serbia decided that this award should go to Ms **Ljiljana Zizic**, a sociologist, who works in the Youth Club of Backa Palanka, a member of the NGO Society for tolerance and one of the founders of the Advisory Educational Center of Backa Palanka.

**Ljiljana Zizic** was for many years engaged in projects aimed at young people and involving cross-border cooperation of young people from Serbia and Croatia, as well as other projects related to encouraging dialogue, networking and finding new ways of conflict resolution at the local and regional level. In the last few years she has given an important contribution to the implementation of the subproject of VDS titled Fostering victim-oriented dialogue in the multiethnic society, within the activities carried out in Backa Palanka and Bac. She participated in the data collection during the empirical part of the research, the organization and realization of seminars From conflict to a peaceful community life, as well as the development of the Manual on best practices of application of restorative approaches in intercultural context. She initiated the development of a local restorative team in Backa Palanka and Bac, which should work to promote restorative approaches in the prevention and resolution of conflicts in this area.

Bearing in mind the important contribution Ljiljana Zizic's previous activities and efforts gave to the development of non-conflict and a comprehensive approach to dealing with the consequences of war and building of peace in Serbia, the Executive Board of VDS decided to award this year's award "Third Way" to her, believing this would be an additional incentive for her to persevere in her work and to achieve even more significant results in the future.

**The award for talented young researcher** is to be awarded to young people for the special quality of their scientific research in the field of victimology. This award aims to encourage young people to engage in scientific research in the field of victimology. This year the Board has decided to award **Natalija Cecelja**.

Natalija is a master defectologist, employed as a special education teacher educator in the preschool institution "House of Imagination" . She was a volunteer at the National Office of the President of the Republic and Victimology Society of Serbia. During the school year 2011/2012, she has worked as a demonstrator at the Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation on subjects Criminology, Juvenile delinquency, Victimology and Violence against children in family.

Bearing in mind Natalija's previous work and research in the field of victimology, which is especially shown in her work on her master thesis titled "Domestic Violence: Characteristics of legislation and jurisprudence" which she defended at the Faculty of Special Education and rehabilitation, University of Belgrade under the mentorship of prof. dr. Vesna Nikolic-Ristanovic, the Board has decided that she should get the award for the talented young researcher for especially high-quality scientific research in

the field of victimology. We believe it will empower and encourage her to continue to engage in research relevant for victimology.



