
ANNUAL PLAN OF THE VICTIMOLOGY SOCIETY OF SERBIA

FOR 2025



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During 2025, it is planned to continue and further work on the activities that the Victimology Society of Serbia-VDS has been engaged in until now, as well as the start and initiation of new activities. In this sense, the planned activities are:

I General

1. Further development of the organizational and personnel structure of the VDS.
2. Drafting of new and amending existing legal acts and strategic documents of VDS.
3. Continued inclusion of experts and young people in the membership and activities of the VDS and the development of stronger professional cooperation among the members of the VDS.
4. Continuation and further development of cooperation with faculties, state institutions, independent bodies and civil society organizations in the country and international cooperation.
5. Promotion, expansion and finding new ways for volunteer work.
6. Regular notification of members via the VDS info mailing list
7. Regular updating of the website, Facebook, Instagram, X.
8. Searching for funds for projects and further developing a strategy for longer-term and more stable financing of ongoing activities

II Help and support for victims of crime

1. Further development of the Victim Assistance Service VDS info and support for victims through:
 - a. Providing information and other types of assistance and support to victims of crime, including preparation and support in court and related to participation in court proceedings. Special focus will be on providing support to women victims of gender-based violence, within the framework of the projects: Advocating for the rights of victims of gender-based violence, especially domestic violence, violence at work and in educational and other institutions, (Kvinna till Kvinna) and Inform, empower, support: That older fellow citizens become winners, not victims! (City of Belgrade, City Administration of the City of Belgrade, Secretariat for Social Protection). The emphasis will be on providing psychosocial support to women victims of all forms of partner violence, primarily psychological, with the aim of strengthening their own competences for getting out of violence (continuation of the implementation of the program From victim to winner: Using one's own capacities to get out of violence). It will also continue with activities focused on mapping the needs of women's children who are supported and developing a personalized plan, based on the needs and age of each child, to work with them when they come with their mothers to VDS (a program developed during 2024 as part of the project That children to become winners: prevent, empower, support!). Also, work will be done on providing support to the families of victims of mass victimization, murders, traffic accidents.
 - b. Licensing of support services and professionals working with victims.
 - c. Updating the database of state institutions and institutions and civil society organizations that provide assistance and support to victims, which is available on the VDS website.
 - d. Monitoring and analysis of the Service's work (on a monthly and annual basis)
 - e. Strengthening the position of the Service at the local level, continuing cooperation with local partners (police, center for social work, Center for care of the elderly, children and persons with disabilities, municipality, etc.), expanding cooperation by including schools (psychological-pedagogical services), gerontological institutions

- and associations of pensioners, and work on developing a local model of prevention and protection from violence, especially domestic violence and especially related to vulnerable categories (children, the elderly, people with disabilities, etc.).
- f. Strengthening the capacity of the Service to provide support to families of victims of mass victimization, murder, traffic accidents.
 - g. Increasing the visibility and promotion of the work of the Service on the VDS website and social networks (Facebook and Instagram page), by organizing open doors, as well as through service fairs at the local level and etc.
 - h. Strengthening the capacity of the Service through:
 - i. Cooperation with European support for victims;
 - ii. Cooperation with organizations and institutions that provide help and support to victims, especially victims of gender-based violence in Serbia
 - iii. Strengthening regional cooperation;
 - iv. Continuous education of persons involved in the work of the Service.
 - v. Empowerment of employees and volunteers in the Service (supervision workshops, workshops to prevent burnout)
2. Support in the prevention of burnout at work, balancing professional and unpaid work, self-care and early detection of mental health problems (within the project Advocating for the rights of victims of gender-based violence, especially domestic violence, violence at work and in educational and other institutions, The Kingdom of Sweden and the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation)

III III Advocating for the implementation of existing legal solutions and further changes in law and practice, especially in terms of harmonization with international and European standards

1. Advocating for the improvement of the position of victims and the establishment of a national system of support for victims (through participation in the work of the National Convention on the European Union (NCEU) in the working groups for monitoring negotiations in chapters 23 Justice and fundamental rights and 24 Justice, freedom and security and the like) (continuation of activities).Zalaganje za poboljšanje položaja žrtava i uspostavljanje nacionalnog sistema podrške žrtvama (kroz učešće u radu Nacionalnog konventa o Evropskoj uniji (NKEU) u radnim grupama za praćenje pregovora u poglavljima 23 *Pravosuđe i osnovna prava* i 24 *Pravda, sloboda i bezbednost* i slično) (nastavak aktivnosti).
2. Developing evidence-based recommendations for more effective prevention and reduction of the risk of gender-based violence through the use of firearms.
3. Continuation of efforts to improve the services and position of women who survived male violence within the framework of the Women Against Violence Network and the project Establishing a national telephone SOS line for women with experience of gender-based violence that will work according to feminist principles
4. Continuation of cooperation with the Protector of Citizens in performing the duties of the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture.Nastavak saradnje sa Zaštitnikom građana u obavljanju poslova Nacionalnog mehanizma za prevenciju torture.
5. Advocating for the establishment and improvement of support mechanisms for victims of sexual violence at colleges.
6. Monitoring court proceedings in cases of femicide, domestic violence, discrimination and abuse at work with the aim of further advocating for the improvement of practice, as well as proceedings for compensation and other court proceedings in the case of mass victimization at the "Vladislav Ribnikar" Elementary School in Belgrade (within the

- project Advocating for the rights of victims of gender-based violence, especially domestic violence, violence at work and in educational and other institutions, the Kingdom of Sweden and the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation).
7. Commitment and active participation in the memorialization process of two mass murders that took place in May 2023.
 8. Advocating for the formation of a fund for urgent support for victims.

IV Advocacy for raising social awareness about the position of victims and their rights

1. Marking the European Day of Victims, 22 February.
2. Marking the Day of Remembrance of the killed women victims of violence, May 18.
3. Marking 16 days of activism against violence against women.
4. Initiation of commemoration of the Day of Remembrance of Victims of Mass Victimization, 3-4. May
5. Distribution of the annual report on the work of the VDS in Serbian and English.
6. Representation of members of the VDS in the media in order to raise public awareness of the victims, their needs, rights and problems.
7. Raising social awareness of the needs of indirect victims with special emphasis on the families of those killed/victims in other ways.

V Research

1. Continuation of the activities of the research group on femicide to collect data for the European Observatory on Femicide.
2. Encouraging new victimology research (for example, in the field of green victimology, traffic delinquency, etc.)

VI Education

1. Implementation of accredited training programs (training for working with victims of gender-based violence and training for working with victims of violence).
2. Conducting workshops for female convicts (workshops to raise the awareness of female convicts about the impact of a criminal offense on victims and about restorative justice and workshops for preparation for release).
3. Implementation of training to strengthen capacities for responding to sexual violence at faculties in Serbia.
4. Developing training for providing support to the families of those killed/victims in other ways.

VII Conferences, round tables and meetings

1. Organizing the annual conference of VDS.
2. Promotion of the scientific journal Themida.
3. Organizing other gatherings, tribunes, open doors as needed and possible.

VIII Publishing activity

1. Journal Themida
 - a. Improving the quality of journals, especially in terms of progress through categorization of the Republic of Serbia, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development.
 - b. Inclusion in other relevant databases of scientific journals in order to increase visibility and citations.
2. Publication of other publications according to possibilities and needs.