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# ANNUAL PLAN OF THE VICTIMOLOGY SOCIETY OF SERBIA

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FOR 2026.

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## **ANNUAL PLAN THE VICTIMOLOGY SOCIETY OF SERBIA FOR 2026.**

During 2026, it is planned to continue and further develop the activities that the Victimology Society of Serbia (VDS) has been engaged in so far, as well as to initiate and launch new activities. In this regard, the planned activities are as follows:

### **I General**

- 1) Further development of the organizational and staffing structure of VDS.
- 2) Drafting new and amending existing legal acts and strategic documents of VDS.
- 3) Continuing the involvement of experts and young people in VDS membership and activities, and fostering stronger professional collaboration among VDS members.
- 4) Continuing and further developing cooperation with universities, state institutions, independent bodies, and civil society organizations in the country, as well as international cooperation.
- 5) Regularly informing members via the VDS Info mailing list.
- 6) Regularly updating the website, Facebook, Instagram, and X.
- 7) Seeking funding for projects and further developing a strategy for long-term and stable financing of ongoing and new activities.
- 8) Working on engaging socially responsible companies to finance specific VDS activities.

### **II Help and support for victims of crime**

1. Building the capacity and visibility of the *VDS Info and Victim Support Service* and supporting victims through:

- a. Licensing support services and professionals working with victims.
- b. Updating the database of state institutions, facilities, and civil society organizations that provide help and support to victims, which is available on the VDS website.
- c. Reporting on the Service's work on a monthly and annual basis.
- d. Strengthening the Service's presence at the local level, continuing cooperation with local partners (police, social work centers, centers for care of the elderly, children, and persons with disabilities, the Novi Beograd municipal school system (psychological-pedagogical services), gerontology centers, pensioners' associations) and involving new partners such as the Red Cross and others.
- e. Strengthening the Service's capacity to provide support to families of victims of mass victimization, homicide, and traffic accidents.
- f. Expanding good practice in local-level cooperation to other city municipalities (Obrenovac and Surčin).
- g. Raising public awareness of possible pathways out of violence through collecting and sharing examples of good practice.
- h. Increasing the visibility and promotion of the Service's work on the VDS website and social media (Facebook and Instagram), as well as through open-door events, panels, and similar activities.
- i. Organizing a Project and Services Fair in Novi Beograd.
- j. Cooperating with the European Victim Support.
- k. Cooperating with organizations and institutions that provide help and support to victims, especially victims of gender-based violence in Serbia and the region.

1. Continuous education of persons involved in the Service's work and their empowerment (supervision workshops, burnout prevention workshops).

### **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 victims' status and the establishment of a national victim support system, including advocating for the creation of a national network of victim support services and the establishment of a fund for urgent victim assistance.
2. Advocating for the enhancement of responses to crisis situations, particularly mass victimization and firearm-related incidents, based on recommendations developed from the research findings entitled *Integrated Response to Mass Victimization and Firearm Incidents*, conducted in 2025 under the UNDP project *Reduce Risk – Increase Safety III*.
3. Continuing advocacy for improving services and the position of women who have survived male violence within the Alliance of Women's NGOs *Network Women Against Violence* and through the operation of the national SOS telephone line for women with experience of gender-based violence, which operates on feminist principles.
4. Continuing cooperation with the Ombudsman in performing tasks of the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture.
5. Advocating for the establishment and improvement of support mechanisms for victims of sexual violence at universities.
6. Monitoring court proceedings in domestic violence cases to further advocate for improved practice, as well as court proceedings in the case of the mass murder at the "Vladislav Ribnikar" primary school in Belgrade.
7. Advocating for and actively participating in the memorialization process of the two mass murders that occurred in May 2023 in Belgrade, Mali Orašje, and Dubona.

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

1. Commemoration of the European Day for Victims, February 22.
2. Commemoration of the Day of Remembrance for Victims of Mass Murders, May 3–4.
3. Commemoration of the Day of Remembrance for Women Killed as Victims of Violence, May 18.
4. Commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.
5. Distribution of the VDS Annual Report in Serbian and English.
6. Participation of VDS members in the media to raise public awareness about victims, their needs, rights, and problems.

### **V Research**

1. Study *A Look into the Future*: evaluation of the effects of VDS activities implemented within the four-year project *Advocating for the Rights of Victims of Gender-Based Violence*, particularly domestic violence, workplace violence, and violence in educational and other institutions. The

project focused on strengthening VDS's capacity to conduct ongoing activities and developing recommendations for future initiatives aimed at improving the status of women victims of gender-based violence in various contexts (family, workplace, educational institutions, etc.) (Kingdom of Sweden and the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation).

2. Encouraging new victimology research (for example, in the field of gender-related violence, particularly in digital environments, green victimology, and similar areas).

## **VI Education**

1. Implementing accredited training programs (training for working with victims of gender-based violence and training for working with victims of violence).
2. Conducting workshops for children related to violence prevention and response.
3. Conducting training to enhance victims' own capacities to exit situations of violence.
4. Conducting training to strengthen capacity for responding to sexual violence at universities in Serbia.
5. Developing training for providing support to families of those who have been killed or otherwise harmed.

## **VII Conferences, round tables and meetings**

1. Organizing the annual VDS conference.
2. Promoting the scientific journal Temida.
3. Organizing other gatherings, panels, and open-door events as needed and as resources allow.

## **VIII Publishing activity**

1. Journal Temida
  - a. Improving the quality of the journal, particularly in terms of advancing its classification by the Ministry of Science, Technological Development, and Innovation of the Republic of Serbia.
  - b. Inclusion in scientific journal reference databases to increase visibility and citation rates.
2. Publishing a book based on the research findings entitled *Integrated Response to Mass Victimization and Firearm Incidents*, conducted in 2025 under the UNDP project *Reduce Risk – Increase Safety III*.
3. Publishing other publications according to available resources and needs.