



# REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE VICTIMOLOGY SOCIETY OF SERBIA FOR THE YEAR 2023

Belgrade, 2024.



**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE VICTIMOLOGY SOCIETY OF  
SERBIA 2023**

**Belgrade, 2024.**

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## **Introductory speech by the Director of the Victimology Society of Serbia**

At the very beginning, I would like to thank all the people involved in the Victimological 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 26 years ago.

Although I am involved in the work of VDS on a daily basis, when I read the annual work report, I am once again impressed when I see how much has been done by the small VDS team, of which I am extremely proud.

The previous year was challenging in many ways. The two mass murders in May 2023 certainly left an indelible mark on all citizens of Serbia and the entire society. These events showed how far Serbia is from a systemic approach to support for victims. Also, these events, personally and professionally, affected all members of the VDS team and put new challenges before them related to support for the families of those killed and support in developing a culture of remembrance. In addition, they showed that we need to work on raising the capacity of persons engaged in VDS to support victims of murder and increasing the visibility of VDS to support victims in crisis situations.

Last year was the year of a return to the organization of live events, which brought back the pleasure of in person meetings and the exchange of experiences and knowledge. On the other hand, the experience of organizing events online has shown us that they are also very important in terms of education and meetings, so we continued the combination of organizing events online and live.

In 2023, our ongoing activities continued: providing support to victims, as our priority activity; publishing activity, which includes publishing the journal Temida; commemorating the European Day of Victims and organizing the VDS Annual Conference. We are especially proud that after the corona virus epidemic, we returned to the concept of a two-day conference with participants from abroad.

In addition, we started a four-year cooperation with the organization Kvinna till Kvinna, which opened up new opportunities for us to work on increasing the capacity of the VDS and more thorough work on planning and implementation of ongoing activities. Long-term work on strengthening the position of VDS at the local level in the previous year resulted in the signing of an agreement on cooperation with the Center for the Care of the Elderly, Children and Persons with Disabilities "New Belgrade". This cooperation, among other things, brought us the possibility of free use of space for the organization of forums and similar events in the territory of the municipality of New Belgrade. Cooperation with the City Center for Social Work – New Belgrade Department and the RS MUP, New Belgrade Police Station was continued and strengthened.

After these significant successes in 2023, we look forward to new challenges in 2024. In our 27th year of the existence of the VDS, we will firmly stand up for the rights of all victims and work dedicatedly on the prevention of victimization.

Finally, I would like to thank all donors and individuals who have supported our work in previous years.

I look forward to the challenges ahead and expect that in the next annual report we will be able to express our satisfaction with what we have achieved.

Thank you for your trust!

Jasmina Nikolić,  
Director of the VDS

### **Mission, aims and tasks**

Victimology Society of Serbia - VDS was established on 12 November 1997 as an independent and non-profit association of citizens. The purpose of founding VDS was to get together as many humanistic oriented professionals as possible, who contribute with their scientific, professional and personal authority, as well as inter-disciplinary research, education and victim support to the development of victimology and improving rights of victims of crime, war and human rights violation, regardless of their gender, religious beliefs, political views or other personal features.

VDS's mission is to advocate for the improvement of rights of all victims and providing favorable social conditions in which victims would be in a position to realize their rights and satisfy their needs, as well as for establishing social structure that would enable all those whose rights are violated, to heal and reintegrate into the community.

The Victimology Society of Serbia is a member of several domestic organizations and networks: the European Movement in Serbia, the "Women Against Violence Network" and the Alliance of Associations "Network of Organizations for Post-Penal Support of Serbia". VDS was a member of the Republic Team for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the Initiative for Legal Prohibition and Protection of Children from Corporal Punishment in Serbia. VDS is the founder and member of the Association for Joint Action FOR Truth and Reconciliation. VDS was a member of the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture (NPM) from 2012 to 2017, and became a member of this mechanism again in 2020.

VDS is a member of a number of international and European organizations: The World Victimology Society, the European Forum of Victim Services (now 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 Combating Violence with Firearms (IANSA).

Over the past twenty-six years, VDS has established cooperation with a large number of individuals and organizations from the countries of the former Yugoslavia, as well as from other European and non-European countries.

The main activities of VDS are:

- Proposing amendments to laws and advocating for their implementation;
- Monitoring the status of victims in criminal proceedings
- Assistance and support to victims of crime;
- Scientific research of various forms of victimization, their consequences and ways of prevention, as a basis for further creation of appropriate policies on improving the status of victims of crime and war and protection of their rights;
- Advocating for raising public awareness about the situation victims endure, their rights and problems;
- Truth and reconciliation;
- Publishing;
- Organizing scientific and professional gatherings and

- Education.

These activities reflect the continuity of the Victimology Society's work on achieving long-term goals in terms of improving the position of victims, creating new institutions, influencing the rule of law and the prevention of crime and conflict



## **Activities of the Victimology Society of Serbia in the period 1. January - 31. December 2023. years**

During 2023, VDS activities were carried out according to the VDS Work Program adopted by the Assembly of the Victimology Society of Serbia at the session held on March 2, 2023.

### **General issues**

#### *VDS membership*

During the reporting period, seven people joined VDS. Unfortunately, two members of the VDS passed away in 2023: Prof. Dr. Slobodanka Konstantinović Vilic, one of the founders of the VDS, professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Niš, and prof. Dr. Biljana Simeunović Patić, professor at the Criminalistics and Police University. Activities related to membership are self-funded, and Dr. Sanja Čopić and Milica Luković Radaković were in charge of these activities in 2023.

#### *Informing VDS member and the public about the ongoing projects and the other VDS activities*

During the reporting period, VDS members, who are on the mailing list of the VDS info Society, 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, etc.

The website of the Society is regularly updated, where you can find all the information about the work of the Society - 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 Orej was responsible for administering the website.

In addition to the website, VDS has accounts on social networks: Facebook, Instagram and the X account, which contributes to increasing the visibility of the Society and its activities. VDS also has a YouTube channel where video materials created within the project and other activities of the Society are available, as well as recordings of guest appearances by VDS members in the electronic media.

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

Facebook: viktimoloskodrustvosrbije

Instagram: viktimolosko.drustvo

X: @vdsrbija

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-funded. Milica Luković Radaković and Mirela Osmanović were responsible for these activities in 2023.

### *Statistics of social networks for the year 2023<sup>1</sup>*

The VDS Facebook page has 2555 profiles that follow this page. In the period from January 1 to December 31, 2023, the reach<sup>2</sup> of the Facebook profile of VDS is 2414, which means that over two thousand people had information about an activity of the Victimology Society of Serbia. If we look at the range in relation to the same period for 2022, we come to the fact that the range has increased by 1500 people.



During the year 2023, a total of 539 posts (photos, videos, newspaper articles, reposts, as well as other types of posts) were published on the FB profile and 1398 likes were recorded. It is significant that the FB profile of VDS does not have a paid reach<sup>3</sup> but only an organic reach<sup>4</sup>.

In 2023, statistics record that the VDS Facebook profile was visited by 551 user accounts. A visit to a profile is different from reach, as a special visit to a profile means that the user has visited the FB profile on their own initiative, either during a search or has specifically visited the profile inspired by a previous post noticed on their initial news feed<sup>5</sup>. Visits increased by 170.1% compared to 2022 a year.

It was recorded that the highest number of visits was in February, May, September, November and December 2023. The visitation of the page can be related to the fact that during February 2023, the activities were dedicated to the celebration of the European Day of Victims. Then, the posts that were published during May 2023 related to help and support for the families of the victims of the two mass murders that took place on May 3 and 4, 2023 at the "Vladislav Ribnikar" Elementary School in Belgrade and Dubona and Malo Orašje. In addition to posts that were of an informative nature, an increase in media appearances by VDS experts and representatives who spoke on various topics was also recorded during that period, which additionally had an impact on increasing the visibility and work of the organization. The increased number of visits to the profile during September and November can be attributed to the holding of the annual VDS conference. During the month of September, active work was done on the presentations of the plenary presenters and the works of the participants of the conference, and the announcements that were created during November 2023 related both to the announcement of the conference itself and to the presentation of panels and sessions during the duration of the conference.

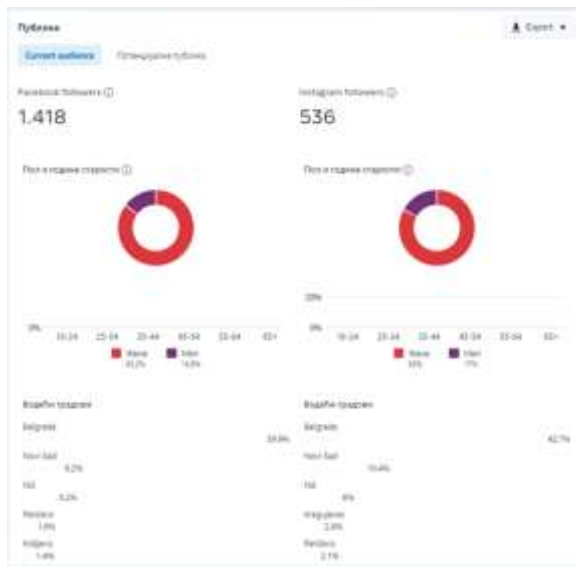
<sup>1</sup> The data was obtained based on insight into the Meta business suite.

<sup>2</sup> Reach refers to the total number of people who saw the posts on the Facebook page.

<sup>3</sup> Paid reach content that users see through paid advertising and promotions.

<sup>4</sup> Organic reach records people who see content on their feed when it's published, people who see pictures and albums, or users who see mentions of a profile in their feed.

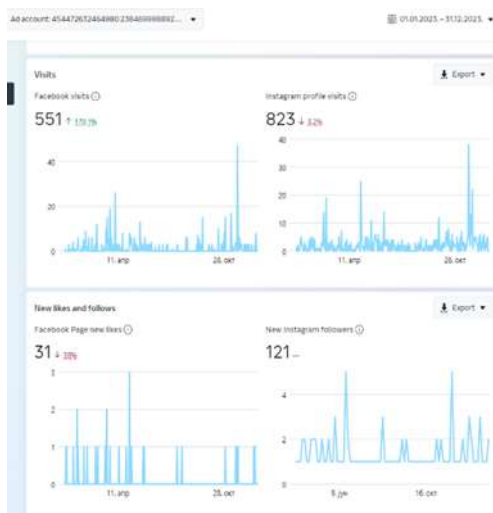
<sup>5</sup> When logging in to the Facebook platform, the news feed represents the front page, where posts and activities of friends and pages you are fans are grouped..



Further insight into Meta business suite statistics out of the total number of profiles (2555) that follow our page, 85.2% are women's profiles, while 14.8% are men's profiles. Further, the statistics record that the followers are predominantly from Belgrade (39.8%), Novi Sad and Niš, then Pančevo, Kraljevo, Kragujevac, Kruševac, Šabac, Vranje and Obrenovac.<sup>6</sup>

The VDS Instagram page has 536 followers. In the period from January 1 to December 31, 2023, the reach of the VDS Instagram profile is 1,000. In this period, the account was visited 823 times, and compared to the same period in 2022, the number of visits decreased slightly -

by 3.2%. It is significant that 122 new people followed the Instagram page in 2023, which is 80% more than in 2022.



During the last year, 114 different posts (photos and videos) and 61 stories (a post available 24 hours a day) were published, while content interactions were 744<sup>7</sup>. It was noted that the numbers increased by 32.6% compared to 2022.

If we look at the Instagram statistics related to the gender of people who follow the VDS page, we come to the data that the largest percentage of the VDS Instagram page is followed by women (83%), in contrast to men (17%). Instagram records that the followers are predominantly from Belgrade and Novi Sad, then from Nis, Kragujevac and Pančevo.

### *Activities of the VDS bodies*

During 2023, a regular session of the VDS Assembly was held (adopting the VDS work report for 2022, the financial report for 2022 and the work program for 2023). Two extraordinary sessions were also held at which decisions were made on joining the VDS into the Association of Women's Non-Governmental Organizations "Women Against Violence" and on the election of one member 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 held regular (electronic) sessions and made decisions on current issues. In 2023, amendments

<sup>6</sup> It is necessary to emphasize that Meta business suite collects data based on information left by people when creating profiles and/or recorded signals when turning on location on devices. This data cannot be taken as 100% relevant since such information may not be completely true

<sup>7</sup> Number of likes, saved posts and comments

to the VDS Code of Ethics and the Rulebook on Issuing Publications were adopted, and documents related to the recording and storage of archival material were also adopted, namely: Rulebook on the method of recording, protection and use of electronic documents, Rulebook on the method of recording, classification, archiving and storage of archival material and documentary material and List of categories of documentary material with retention periods.

### *Strengthening the capacity of the VDS team*

During 2023, work was also done on strengthening 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.

### *VDS library*

During the reporting period, the book fund increased. The VDS library currently has 1856 titles in the fields of victimology, law, criminology, gender studies, truth and reconciliation, human rights, restorative justice, and other areas. In addition, the VDS library has a large number of journals, of which two are regularly received through the journal exchange: Journal of Criminology and Criminalistics, Legal Records. Some journals are donated to the VDS by its members or institutions VDS collaborates with: prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović donates her copies of the European Journal of Criminology, Criminology in Europe, The International Journal of Restorative Justice, and Contemporary Justice Review 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, library use has been included in the membership fee, while non-members can join the library. Since 2007, 101 people have joined the VDS library

Information about the library's work and the contents of the VDS library are available at <https://novisajt.vds.rs/vds-biblioteka/>.

Acquiring books for the library is mostly done through gifts and receiving book copies for reviews in the academic journal Temida. Library maintenance activities are self-funded and voluntary. Milica Luković Radaković was responsible for the VDS library during the reporting period.



### *Applying for projects*

One of the ongoing activities of the VDS is seeking funds for projects and further development of a long-term and more stable funding strategy. During the reporting period, VDS applied for a total of 8 projects (independently or in partnership). From that number, funds were obtained for the implementation of two projects, in one case VDS entered the roster of organizations at the Council of Europe for projects related to victim support, one project is awaiting a response, while four were rejected.

## Advocacy for raising awareness about victims' rights and their position

### *Awards of the Victimology Society of Serbia for 2023.*

The Victimology Society of Serbia established three awards in 2009:

- Award for contribution to the improvement 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 for a talented young researcher

The Award for contribution to the improvement of victims' rights is awarded to individuals or organizations who, through their activities or efforts, have made a significant and lasting contribution to the improvement of victims' rights and the achievement of the goals for which the Society was founded. In 2023, this award was given to Brankica Janković, Commissioner for Equality.

**Brankica Janković** graduated from the Faculty of Law at the University of Belgrade, completed her master's studies at the Faculty of Law at the University of Novi Sad and is a PhD student at the Faculty of Security in Belgrade. The National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia elected Brankica Janković as commissioner for the protection of equality in 2015 (first term), and then in 2020, which is her second term at the head of the institution. For many years, and especially after being elected as Commissioner for Equality, Brankica Janković has consistently advocated for the respect of the human rights of all citizens, for recognizing discrimination and responding promptly and efficiently in cases where it occurs. With special care, he advocates for the respect of the rights of children, women, the elderly and persons with disabilities. Her activities, from the beginning of her first term as Commissioner for Gender Equality until today, were marked by 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. Through her work and efforts, she made a great and lasting contribution to the advancement of victims' rights and the achievement of the goals for which the VDS was founded, so the VDS Management Board made a decision to award this award to Brankica Janković.

The talented researcher award is given to young people for particularly high-quality scientific research work in the field of victimology, and its aim is to encourage young people to engage in scientific research work in the field of victimology. This year, the award was given to: Sanja Kalajdžić, Tamara Trajković and Aleksandra Stojanović for their well-made and successfully defended master's theses in the field of victimology.

**Sanja Kalajdžić** defended her master's thesis on the topic "Refugees as victims and survivors", under the mentorship of prof. Dr. Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović, at the University of Belgrade - Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation. The topic of her master's thesis has been very relevant for decades, and it has become more relevant in recent years with numerous political and social 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 you consider that she talked about the experience of war and refugees with people of different ages after almost three decades, thus bringing them back to the past, especially if they don't talk about it often and don't want to remember. Throughout



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 the 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 scientific and research work, especially in the field 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 has been neglected for a long time, even in research. Movements such as #metoo or #nisamprijavila, as well as individual cases of sexual violence that occurred in Serbia, contributed to its actualization. Nevertheless, we continue to witness how prejudices and stereotypes related to sexual violence and sexuality come to the fore in public discourse and everyday communication. That is precisely why the research that Tamara conducted 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 important for the prevention of victimization by sexual violence, but also for the perpetration of sexual violence against others. We believe that this award will be an important incentive for Tamara to continue doing scientific research, especially in the field 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 the mentorship of Assoc. Dr. Ivana Janković, within which she conducted research on a sample of 250 women, aged 18 to 70, in ten villages of the Rasina district. This research provides valuable data on the attitudes of women in rural areas regarding partner violence against women, as well as on their personal experiences with this form of violence, which represents a kind of contribution to the understanding of this problem. In her work, she combines a quantitative and qualitative approach to research, which provides her work with a wealth of different data and the quality of the work itself. Her motivation for researching this topic stands out. For the prevention and prevention of violence, we need engaged individuals who recognize the need for change in their environment and are ready to participate in those changes. Such individuals, and Aleksandra is among them, should be supported, and one form of support is precisely this award of the Victimology Society of Serbia, which was awarded to her.

The "Third Time" award, which is awarded to individuals or organizations that 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, was not awarded this year. The board of directors decided not to award this award because the criteria for awarding the award to the nominated person were not met.

### *Marking the European Victims' Day*

On the occasion of marking the European Day of Victims in 2023, the Victimology Society of Serbia has decided to draw the public's attention to the importance of legislative reforms for victims, as well as the necessity of consistent application of laws and changes in practice in the field of prevention and response to all types of crime, especially violence in the family and other forms of gender-based violence. On this occasion, the Victimological Society of Serbia

issued a press release in which it was pointed out the positive legal reforms related to improving the position of victims in Serbia, but also the fact that, despite positive changes at the legislative level, victims are still not sufficiently protected, as from secondary victimization, as well as from re-victimization. Also, in a statement, the Victimology Society of Serbia reminded the public of the number of women killed by their husbands or partners in 2022 and the first months of 2023, as well as the large number of women and children who experienced some form of sexual violence, including rape, then to persons who were exposed to human trafficking, persecution, various forms of discrimination, property and other crimes. On the tenth anniversary of the brutal murder, we remembered Dr. Stela Gudelj (1987-2013), a successful young doctor, versatile and humane person, who was killed at the age of 25 by her partner.

The Victimology Society of Serbia also marked the European Day of Victims by hosting representatives of the VDS at various faculties. On that occasion, VDS representatives presented to the students the work of VDS and the VDS info and support services for victims and introduced them to the main results of the project carried out by VDS, which is entitled Capacity building and support to groups for coordination and cooperation in response to domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence, as well as with recommendations for improving the work of groups for coordination and cooperation in response to domestic violence in Serbia, which emerged from the project. Prof. Dr. Sanja Čopić held a presentation at the Criminalistics and Police University, Jasmina Nikolić at the Faculty of Media and Communication, Singidunum University, while Milica Luković Radaković held a presentation at the University of Belgrade - Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, as well as an online presentation at the Faculty of Philosophy. University in Belgrade.

### *Annual conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia "Support to victims and prevention of victimization: Challenges and perspectives"*



The 13th annual conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia entitled Support to victims and prevention of victimization: Challenges and perspectives was held in Belgrade, at the Palace Hotel, on November 23 and 24, 2023. The conference brought together a large number of experts and researchers who, from the perspective of various disciplines, theoretically and practically, deal with the rights of victims and the provision of assistance and protection to

victims of crime, human rights violations and other forms of suffering, which enabled a comprehensive exchange of experiences and knowledge. The conference brought together participants from Serbia, Croatia, North Macedonia, Canada, Belgium, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Spain.

The conference began with the opening ceremony on November 23, 2023 and the awarding of the awards of the Victimology Society of Serbia for 2023. At the opening of the conference, the following spoke: prof. Dr. Slobodan Savić, president of the Victimology Society of Serbia; Brankica Janković, Commissioner for the Protection of Equality; Aleksandra Ivanković,

deputy director of the organization European Aid to Victims and Jasmina Nikolić, director of the Victimology Society of Serbia. This was followed by the awarding of the VDS awards for 2023, which can be seen further on in the report.



Within the main theme of the conference, special attention was devoted to the analysis of challenges and perspectives regarding support for victims, on the one hand, and prevention of victimization, on the other hand, as well as the connection and importance of timely, adequate and needs-based support for the prevention of revictimization, retraumatization and secondary victimization. During the two days of the conference, the following topics were analyzed: the development of victim support systems and the work of services for victims in Serbia and neighboring countries, intersectoral cooperation in preventing and responding to cases of violence, especially domestic violence, the role of the media in preventing victimization and protecting victims, victimization of homeless persons, risk assessment and protection of victims of domestic violence, recognition of children who are witnesses of domestic violence as direct victims. Also, the role and place of programs based on the principles of restorative justice were pointed out, especially in prisons and in the context of preparing convicted persons for release.

The work at the conference took place through two plenary sessions, four thematic sessions and one panel. In addition, there was a poster presentation, which allowed the participants to learn about the possibilities of applying yoga as a form of self-care and in the context of contributing to the prevention of victimization and support for victims.





The topics of the plenary sessions were: Support for victims and prevention of victimization and System of support for victims and resources for overcoming the consequences of victimization. The presenters at the plenary sessions were:

- Prof. Dr. Jo-Anne Wemmers, Faculty of Criminology, University of Montreal; International Center for Comparative Criminology, Canada
- Aleksandra Ivanković, European support for victims, Belgium
- Nikica Hamer Vidmar, Victim and Witness Support Service, Ministry of Justice and Administration of the Republic of Croatia, Croatia
- Nataša Novaković and Imola Soros, OSCE Mission in Serbia
- Dr. Mirjana Dokmanović, Institute of Social Sciences and Victimology Society of Serbia, Serbia
- Prof. Dr. Vesna Stefanovska, prof. Dr. Oliver Bačanović and Prof. Dr. Nataša Peovska, Faculty of Security, Skopje, University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Bitola, North Macedonia





The topics of the thematic sessions were: Cross-sectoral cooperation and victim support, Victimization and social reaction, Different forms of victimization: research, legislation and practice and Victims, victimization and social reaction. The presenters at the thematic sessions were:

- Jasmina Krštenić, Basic Public Prosecutor's Office in Lazarevac, Dušica Dimitrijević, Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Police Station Lazarevac and Anđela Pejović, City Center for Social Work in Belgrade, Department in Lazarevac, Serbia
- Tijana Mitrašević, Service for the Support of Victims and Witnesses of Crimes of Gender-Based Violence, Higher Public Prosecutor's Office in Belgrade, Serbia
- Jasmina Nikolić, Victimological Society of Serbia, Milka Milovanović-Minić, Center for the Care of the Elderly, Children and Persons with Disabilities "Novi Belgrade", Marko Ranković, Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Police Station Novi Belgrade, Ana Lazarov, City Center for Social work in Belgrade, New Belgrade Department, Serbia
- Prof. Dr. Irma Kovčo Vukadin, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation, Croatia
- Prof. Dr. Ksenija Butorac and Suzana Kikić, University of Criminology and Public Security, Police Academy and Ministry of Internal Affairs, Croatia
- Ivana Milosavljević-Đukić, Center for the Protection of Infants, Children and Youth and the College of Social Work and Tanja Ignjatović, Autonomous Women's Center, Serbia
- Ivana Andrijašević, Ena Juričić, Veronika Koštal, Natalia Marincil, Mateja Meštrović, Franjo Lovro Popović, Ivana Prović, Maja Štahan, Maja Vdović, Association for Support of Victims and Witnesses, Croatia
- Dr. Nataša Tanjević, Deputy protector of citizens of the Republic of Serbia, Serbia
- Loren Walker, Hawaii Friends of Restorative Justice, College of Arts and Sciences and William S. Richardskon School of Law, University of Hawaii, USA and Dr. Leela Bilmes Goldstein, Punahou School, USA
- Maca Arlov Bokan, Senka Damjanović, Doria Jukić, Ivana Kvesić, Suzana Rožić, Home for Children and Adults - Victims of Domestic Violence "Duga-Zagreb", Croatia
- Milica Luković Radaković, Victimology Society of Serbia, Serbia
- Prof. Dr. Danica Vasiljević-Prodanović and Antonija Raspopović MA, University of Belgrade - Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, Serbia

- Dr. Filip Mirić, University of Niš, Faculty of Law and Jovana Kostić MA, Law Office in Leskovac, Serbia
- Prof. Dr. Tatjana Gerginova, Faculty of Security, Skopje, University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Bitola, North Macedonia



As part of the conference, an *International Panel on Universities and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence was organized: The answer is not enough!* where eminent experts from the United Kingdom, Spain and Serbia spoke about developing and strengthening institutional responses and mechanisms for effective suppression and prevention of sexual and gender-related violence at colleges and universities and providing support to victims. The presenters on the panel were:

- Prof. Dr. Pam Alldred, Faculty of Social Sciences, Nottingham Trent University, United Kingdom
- Prof. Dr. Barbara Biglia, Department of Pedagogy, University of Rovira and Virgili, Spain
- Prof. Dr. Gordana Lalić-Krstin, University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Philosophy, Serbia
- Prof. Dr. Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović and Prof. Dr. Sanja Čopić, Victimology Society of Serbia and University of Belgrade - Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, Serbia



A book of abstracts of papers presented during the conference is available at <https://vds.rs/File/XIII%20GKVDS%20-%20Knjiga%20apstarakata.pdf>.

As every year, this year the VDS conference was also a contribution to the 16 Days of Activism against Violence Against Women campaign, which begins on November 25 with the International Day against Violence against Women and ends on December 10 with the International Human Rights Day.

The members of the Program Committee of the conference were::

- Prof. Dr. Janice Joseph, professor emeritus at Stockton University and president of the World Victimology Society (USA);
- Prof. Dr. Annabel Cerezo, Faculty of Law, Department of Criminal Law; Andalusian Interuniversity Institute of Criminology, University of Malaga (Spain);
- Prof. Dr. Natti Ronel, professor at the Department of Criminology, Bar-Ilan University (Israel)
- Dr. Sanja Milivojević, associate professor at Bristol Digital Futures Institute/School for Policy and executive director of the Border criminologies program at Oxford University (Great Britain) and research associate for criminology at La Trobe University in Melbourne (Australia);
- Prof. Dr. Oliver Bačanović, full professor of the Faculty of Security, University of "St. Kliment Ohridski", Skopje (Macedonia);
- Prof. Dr. Irma Kovčo-Vukadin, full professor at the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation, Department of Criminology, University of Zagreb (Croatia)



- Dr. Nataša Tanjević, deputy protector of citizens of RS (Serbia);
- Dr. Mirjana Dokmanović, retired research associate of the Institute of Social Sciences (Serbia);
- Prof. Dr. Sanja Čopić, associate professor at the Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation of the University of Belgrade (Serbia).

The members of the Conference Organizing Committee were:

- Jasmina Nikolić, director of the Victimology Society of Serbia;
- Milica Luković Radaković, assistant at the Victimology Society of Serbia;
- Mirela Osmanović, assistant at the Victimology Society of Serbia.

In addition to the members of the organizing committee, Marija Stupar, a volunteer at VDS, and Mina Jevtić, a student at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, Department of Psychology, who was on an internship at VDS, participated in the realization of the conference.

The organization of the XIII annual conference of the Victimological Society of Serbia was partially financed by funds from paid registration fees for participants at the conference, and partially the organization was financially supported by: the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation of the RS, the Kingdom of Sweden and the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation within the framework of the Advocacy for the Rights of Victims project 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 Let the victims remain winners: Inform, empower, support!, and the OEBS Mission in Serbia.

### *Gender equality and the fight against gender-based violence and femicide in the Western Balkans*

The Victimology Society of Serbia-VDS, in cooperation with the organization FemPlatz, monitored court proceedings in cases concerning femicide, attempted femicide and other forms of gender-based violence against women. The monitoring of the trial was carried out as part of the project of the AIRE Center entitled Gender Equality and the Fight against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide in the Western Balkans, which is supported by the Government of the United Kingdom. The project aims to improve the understanding of gender-related issues within the judiciary in Western Balkan countries and thus increase access to justice for victims and survivors of gender-based violence. Monitoring of court proceedings was carried out according to the methodology developed within the project in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of North Macedonia and Montenegro.

Within this project, VDS representatives monitored six court proceedings, four of which were court proceedings related to domestic violence, one court proceeding related to attempted femicide and domestic violence, and one court proceeding related to femicide in conjunction with the criminal offense of unauthorized production, keeping, carrying and trafficking of weapons and explosive substances. The aforementioned court proceedings were conducted before the First Basic Court in Belgrade (3), the Basic Court in Mladenovac (1), the High Court in Belgrade (1) and the High Court in Pirot (1).

In the mentioned period, VDS representatives attended a total of 23 hearings. The most hearings were monitored for the case that was conducted before the First Basic Court in

Mladenovac (seven hearings). For three court cases that were conducted before the First Basic Court in Belgrade, representatives of the VDS attended ten hearings. Three hearings were followed for court cases that were conducted before the High Court in Belgrade. Of the six court cases that the representatives of the Victimology Society followed, four court cases have been completed, while the hearings for two court cases will continue in 2024.

The following were directly involved in the realization of the project: Prof. Dr. Sanja Čopić, Jasmina Nikolić, Dr. Neda S. Savić, Milica Luković Radaković and Mirela Osmanović. The project was implemented in the period from April 1, 2023. until December 31, 2023.

### *National mechanism for the prevention of torture*

VDS is one of six civil society organizations with which the Protector of Citizens concluded an agreement on cooperation in carrying out the work of the National Torture Prevention Mechanism (NPM) on September 13, 2022. The signed agreement more closely regulates the cooperation that the Protector of Citizens achieves with selected associations in the performance of NPM duties based on the Decision of the Protector of Citizens dated July 22, 2022 on the selection of associations with which the Protector of Citizens will cooperate in the performance of NPM duties and in accordance with Article 2a. paragraph 2 of the Law on Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Punishments and Procedures.

Cooperation is carried out through the participation of representatives and permanent professional associates of the association in visits to places where persons deprived of their 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 they are or may be persons deprived of their liberty, giving expert findings and opinions about the state of health, especially the resulting physical injuries and suffered mental pain as a consequence 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, there were no activities or visits in which VDS members participated.

### *Advocacy for the rights of victims of gender-based violence in general and especially violence in the family, at the workplace and in educational institutions*

During 2023, activities continued on a four-year project entitled *Advocacy for the rights of victims of gender-based violence in general and specifically of domestic, work-related, and violence in the educational and other institutions*, which is realized 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 Company exists, and about which there is more information in the corresponding parts of this report:

- The organization of the XIII annual conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia entitled Support to victims and prevention of victimization: Challenges and perspectives, which was held in Belgrade on November 23 and 24, 2023, and which represented a contribution to marking the campaign of 16 days of activism against violence against women.
- Commemoration of the European Day of Victims.
- Preparation and writing of the annual report on the work of the VDS.
- Organization of a panel discussion entitled Gender-based discrimination in the labor market: Mapping resources and needs to strengthen capacities to support victims, which will be held online on December 21, 2023. The aim of the panel discussion was to establish a dialogue, network and find ways to better use existing resources to help and support victims of gender-based discrimination on the labor market at the local, regional and national level and to map the needs for strengthening the capacity of union representatives, employers' associations and the inspectorate. of work for providing support to women victims of gender-based discrimination at work. The panel discussion brought together 11 participants from civil society organizations, trade unions, employers' associations and the Labor Inspectorate.
- Monitoring court proceedings in cases of domestic violence, femicide or attempted femicide, as well as monitoring court proceedings for damages in the case of the murder of nine children and one adult at the "Vladislav Ribnikar" Elementary School in Belgrade.
- Preparation and submission of comments on the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Strategy for Realizing the Rights of Victims and Witnesses of Criminal Crimes in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2020-2025, which refers to the period 2023-2025.
- Organization and realization of trainings to strengthen capacities for responding to sexual violence at faculties in Serbia.
- Organizing regular meetings with representatives of institutions and organizations at the local level and strengthening strategic cooperation important for the work of the service for victims of VDS info and support for victims and improving the position of victims of domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence.
- Support for victims within the VDS info service and support for victims.

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

#### *Capacity building and support to groups for coordination and cooperation in responding to domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence*

In the period from June 21, 2021 to February 15, 2023, the Victimology Society of Serbia implemented a project called Strengthening the capacity and support of groups for coordination and cooperation in response to domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence, which was part of the program Stopping violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey: Applying norms, changing awareness, funded by the European Union and

implemented by UN Women. The overall goal of the VDS project was to strengthen the capacity of coordination and cooperation groups in Serbia to assess the needs of victims and develop individual plans for the support and protection of victims of domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence defined by the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence.

During the reporting period, two round tables were organized. The first round table was organized on January 25, 2023 in Užice, while the second round table was organized on February 1, 2023 in Požarevac. The round tables were devoted to the protection of victims of domestic violence and recommendations for its improvement. Special focus was on considering the role of groups for coordination and cooperation in responding to domestic violence, sharing experiences and challenges that groups face in practice, and recommendations for improving the work of groups and the overall response to domestic violence. The round tables were attended by representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the RS, representatives of centers for social work and basic public prosecutor's offices, who participate in the work of groups for coordination and cooperation in cases of domestic violence, as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations from Zlatibor, Moravički, as well as and Braničevo and Podunavski District



Prof. Dr. Sanja Čopić, Jasmina Nikolić and Milica Luković Radaković participated in the implementation of the round tables.



## Advocacy for changes of laws and practice

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

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

### *Preparation of comments for strategic documents*

VDS worked on the preparation and submission of comments on the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Strategy for Realizing the Rights of Victims and Witnesses of Criminal Crimes in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2020-2025, which refers to the period 2023-2025. Prof. Dr. Sanja Čopić participated in the public debate on the National Plan, which was organized on February 28, 2023..

### *The VDS Research Group on Femicide and its work within the European Observatory on Femicide*

The European observatory for femicide is one of the most important results of the activities of the Femicide project throughout Europe (implemented within the European Program of Cooperation in the Field of Science and Technology (COST) - 2013-2017), in which Serbia participated (the Steering Committee of the project included: Prof. Dr. Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović, Dr. Sanja Čopić, MSc Ljiljana Stevković). The European Observatory on Femicide (EOF) was established in 2018. The mission of the EOF is the prevention of femicide through data collection, through data visibility and raising awareness, namely: through the creation of a unique European data collection system that will ensure the measurement and comparison of the extent of femicide across Europe and raising the awareness of the public and experts, and through the analysis of individual cases of femicide across Europe in order to identify failures in responding to violence against women. See more about EOF at <http://eof.cut.ac.cy/>

The EOF has four bodies: Coordinators who change every two years, the Council, National Research Groups and two thematic groups (for quantitative and qualitative research). The role of the research groups is to work together with the EOF to collect and analyze data on femicide - data collection for a pilot study is underway. The research group for Serbia consists of VDS members: prof. Dr. Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović, prof. Dr. Sanja Čopić, Dr. Vida Vilic and MSc Ljiljana Stevković. The research group for Serbia has been involved in EOF from the beginning.

During 2023, the research group for Serbia carried out the following activities:

- Continuation of data collection on cases of femicide during 2023 and after the end of the EOF pilot study, according to the same methodology that was applied for the

purposes of the pilot study. The key sources of data are media texts of printed and electronic media about the murders of women in the context of family-partner relations.

- MSc Ljiljana Stevković participated in the online meeting of the focal point of the European Observatory for Femicide, where the previous achievements and plans for the future activities of the Observatory were presented. In addition, at the meeting, a decision was made to hold a memorial webinar in March 2024 in honor of the suddenly deceased prof. Dr. Christiana Kouta, where her entire work in the field of gender-based violence will be presented.

## Education

### *Training for working with victims of gender-based violence*

Training for working with victims of gender-based violence is accredited by the Republic Institute for Social Protection. During the year 2023, the training was carried out as part of the project entitled "*Let the victims remain victorious: inform, empower, support!*", which is implemented by the Victims' Society of Serbia-VDS, and financed by the City of Belgrade, the City Administration of the City of Belgrade, and the Secretariat for Social Protection. During October 2023, a four-day training for social service providers, representatives of state institutions and non-governmental organizations was held in Belgrade. The training was attended by 28 experts from the City Center for Social Work in Belgrade (Departments Novi Beograd, Palilula, Zemun, Surčin); Center for the care of the elderly, children and persons with disabilities "New Belgrade"; Center Zvezda as well as from the City Municipality of Novi Beograd. The goal of the training was to provide basic knowledge for working with victims in an appropriate manner, with special emphasis on victims of domestic violence, sexual violence and human trafficking, as well as the acquisition of the necessary skills and knowledge that will enable the provision of appropriate assistance to potential and current victims of gender-based violence and victims in a broader social sense. The main topics covered during the training are: Defining basic terms; Scope, structure and characteristics of individual forms of RBN; Factors that contribute to the occurrence of RBN and risk situations; Victimization, the needs of victims and the importance of appropriate support and assistance to victims, especially women and children; Legal protection of RBN victims; Stereotypes and prejudices related to RBN; System of protection, support and assistance to victims; Firearms as a risk factor for domestic violence and a form of control of the victim by the abuser; Challenges in work and analysis of individual protection and support plans for victims. The lecturers at the training were prof. Dr. Sanja Čopić and Jasmina Nikolić, while the assistant was Mirela Osmanović.



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

Training for working with victims of violence is accredited by the Republic Institute for Social Protection. In 2023, training was held for a group of participants from Romany women's organizations, members of the United Romany Women Against Violence network, coordinated by the Daje Romany Center for Women and Children. The training was organized on May 20, 21, 27 and 28, 2023 in Belgrade. 21 participants attended the training. The goal of the training was to acquire the necessary basic knowledge and skills for working with victims of violence, which should be possessed by every social service provider who comes or may come into contact with an adult or minor victim of any type of violence. Through this training, the participants acquired the necessary skills and knowledge that will enable them to recognize the victim of violence, to recognize and understand the victim's needs, to accordingly provide the victim with the necessary information, emotional support and other types of assistance, as well as to refer the victim to other competent services or organizations depending on previously identified needs. The training was carried out by Jasmina Nikolić and prof. dr Sanja Čopić.

### *Training to strengthen the capacity to respond to sexual violence at faculties in Serbia*

The training to strengthen the capacity to respond to sexual violence at faculties in Serbia was developed as part of the project *Sexual violence at universities in Serbia: Raising awareness and developing innovative mechanisms to support victims*, which was carried out by the Victimological Society of Serbia in the period from 2020 to 2022. During March and April 2023, two trainings were conducted to strengthen the capacity to respond to sexual violence at faculties in Serbia, within the project entitled *Advocating for the rights of victims of gender-based violence in general and domestic violence in particular, violence at work and in education and other institutions*, financed by the Kingdom of Sweden and the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation. The participants of the training were students and employees (teaching and non-teaching staff) from the Faculty of Civil Engineering at the University of Belgrade and the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Belgrade. The trainings were conducted online (via the Zoom platform). A total of 43 participants attended the training: 16 students, 16 teachers and 11 non-teaching staff. The goal of this four-day training was to strengthen the capacity of employees and students at the faculties to adequately respond to sexual violence at the faculty. The training included eight thematic workshops: Defining and familiarizing with basic terms (gender, gender, gender-based violence, sexual violence); Scope and characteristics of sexual violence against students at faculties; The consequences of sexual violence and the needs of victims; Stereotypes and prejudices related to sexual violence; "First response" to sexual violence (2 workshops) and Mechanisms for supporting and protecting students from sexual violence at colleges (2 workshops). The training was carried out by prof. Dr. Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović, prof. Dr Sanja Čopić, Jasmina Nikolić and Milica Luković Radaković, while the training assistants were Anita Marković and Mirela Osmanović.

### *Training From victim to winner: Using one's own capacities to get out of violence*

The training entitled *From victim to winner: Using one's own capacities to get out of violence* was realized on May 24 and 25, 2023 in Belgrade as part of the project *Formation of a national telephone SOS line for women with experience of gender-based violence* that will work according to feminist principles, which funded by OAK through the Trag Foundation. The goal of the training is for the participants to learn how to guide victims in the best way possible, in addition to the existing system of help and support, to use their own capacities to escape violence and personal growth. The training was attended by 12 participants, representatives of women's organizations - members of the Belgrade Women Against Violence Network, who have experience of working directly with victims of violence (representatives of organizations from the Belgrade region of the Women Against Violence Network: NGO Astra, NGO Athens, Autonomous Women's Center, Roma Daje, IZ KRUGA-Belgrade, Victimology Society of Serbia-VDS), as well as representatives of the Support Center-SVEDA. The training was implemented interactively with a lot of practical demonstrations and exchanges between the participants. During the training, an affirmative approach in working with victims was presented, as well as techniques related to post-traumatic growth, forgiveness and gratitude that are applicable in working with victims. The importance of defining goals and empowering victims in order to help themselves become winners, as well as how experts can help them in this, is especially presented. The training was conducted by Jasmina Nikolić and Dr. Mirjana Dokmanović.



## Providing support to victims of crime

### *VDS info and victim support service*

In 2023, the VDS info and victim support Service celebrated 20 years of work and existence. The results of two decades of work of the Service were presented during the 13th annual VDS conference.

The VDS info and support service for victims is the first general service for victims of crime, 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 (LBGT, sick, people with disabilities, etc.). Help and support are provided to both 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 (about psychological reactions and dynamics of recovery, practical information for re-establishing life courses after a traumatic event, information about victims' rights and the ways in which they can exercise them, about 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 European Support for Victims, 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.

During the reporting period, the following activities were carried out:

Providing support to victims - during 2023, 155 victims of various forms of victimization contacted the Service for Help and Support for Victims. A total of 485 contacts were made, which means that a certain number of victims contacted the Service more than once. Of the total number of victims, 126 were female, and 29 of them were male. The most common forms of victimization for which the victims turned to the Service were:

- Domestic violence 41.9%
- Violence at the workplace 23.8%



- Violence outside the workplace and family 15.4%
- Impossibility of exercising rights within the employment relationship 8.3%
- Other forms of victimization for which people turned to the Service are: dissatisfaction with the work of institutions, post-criminal admission, burglary, fraud, civil rights violations, family problems - a total of 10.6%.

During 2023, a report on the work of the VDS info and victim support service was posted every month on the VDS website, as well as on social networks (Facebook and Instagram). The reports are available at [link](#).

In 2022, the Victimology Society of Serbia piloted the program "*From victim to winner: Using one's own capacities to get out of violence*". During 2023, 8 women, victims of domestic violence, were successfully treated according to this program, which includes the provision of individualized continuous psychosocial support. Based on the needs of each individual victim, a program and guidelines were designed to strengthen one's own competences for getting out of violence. Victims were worked on recognizing violence, strengthening self-confidence, self-care, developing the ability to peacefully resolve conflicts, setting boundaries in relationships with family members, recognizing emotions, mastering techniques for getting rid of anxiety, frustration and anger, etc. Also, the victims were informed about the criminal legal procedure and ways of exercising their rights in court and other organizations and institutions at the local level. Support was provided through individual conversations at the VDS office (total of 17 conversations), as well as through telephone consultations (total of 24 telephone consultations). Depending on the assessment, a follow-up meeting with the victim is scheduled, a plan is made and guidelines are given for them to think about and implement, which are discussed during the next meeting.

Within the *VDS info and support for victims service* during 2023, with 11 victims of various criminal acts, continuous work was done 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).

In order to increase the visibility of the Service, on the social networks Facebook and Instagram and on the VDS website, examples of addressing the Service, as well as other materials intended for victims and potential victims, are regularly posted. You can read about the activities and visibility of the social networks of the Victimological Society of Serbia in the section of the report *Statistics on social networks*.

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 *Let the victims stay victorious: Inform, empower, support!*

During the reporting period, the victims were supported by: Jasmina Nikolić, Milica Luković Radaković, Mirela Osmanović and volunteer Marija Stupar.

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

Support for victims was provided within the project *Let the victims remain winners: inform, empower, support!*, which was financed by the City of Belgrade, the City Administration of

the City of Belgrade, the Secretariat for Social Protection, as well as within the project *Advocating for the rights of victims of gender-based violence in general and especially violence in the family, at the workplace and in educational institutions* (the Kingdom of Sweden and the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation), within which the emphasis was on providing support to victims of domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence. Work on providing support to victims was also supported within the project *Formation of a national telephone SOS line for women with experience of gender-based violence, which will work according to feminist principles*.

### *Establishing a national telephone SOS line for women who have experienced gender-based violence which will work according to feminist principles*

During 2023, the Victimology Society of Serbia continued to coordinate the Belgrade region of the Women Against Violence Network (MŽPN) and the activities planned in the Belgrade region as part of the project *Establishing a national telephone SOS line for women who have experienced gender-based violence which will work according to feminist principles* for the fifth year in a row. 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 Network on the public, national and local policies through participation in decision-making, access to funds and implementation of activities; better position of members of the Women Against Violence Network as service providers; establishment of a common SOS line (national SOS phone) coordinated by the Network as a leading service for women with experience of violence in Serbia. Financial support is provided by OAK through the Trag Foundation.

The Women Against Violence Network was formalized in 2023 and is called the Association of Women's Non-Governmental Organizations "Women Against Violence Network".

Key activities during the reporting period were:

- SOS phone licensing training was held online on February 27, 2023. The main topics of the training were: Licensing of social protection services and legal regulations for SOS phone service licensing; Evidence of compliance with licensing standards; Administrative and technical duties. The training was designed and led by Dijana Malbaša and Mirjana Mitić, and 14 women members of the Belgrade region and other regions attended. From the training, questions were sent to the relevant Ministry, related to SOS phone licensing. The received answers were submitted to the Assembly of the Ministry of Education and Culture.
- Training was held *From victim to winner: Using one's own capacities to get out of violence*. See more about this in the section of the report on education.
- On June 13 and 14, 2023, the Belgrade Region organized Action Strategic Planning for advocacy actions related to local budget funds and funds from RS opportunities. 6 women participated in the work, one woman from each regional organization. Zorica Rašić designed and managed the strategic planning. As a result of the two-day work, a plan for further advocacy actions emerged.
- During the month of September, in Vrnjačka Banja, a team building was organized for representatives of the organizations of the Belgrade region, the Women Against Violence Network. During the two-day visit to Vrnjačka Banja, representatives of the following organizations: Astra, Atina, Autonomous Women's Center, Roma Center for

Women and Children Daje, ... From the circle-Belgrade and representatives of the Victimological Society of Serbia, had the opportunity to exchange new ideas, strengthen existing mutual relations and participate in recreational activities in order to take care of yourself and release yourself from everyday stress.

- In October, the representative of VDS, Milica Luković Radaković, participated in the first meeting of the working group for the formation of the national SOS telephone line of the MŽPN, which was held online, via the google meet platform.
- On December 21, 2023, the representative of VDS, Milica Luković Radaković, participated in the second meeting of the working group, which was dedicated to the development of a plan and technical details for the establishment of a joint SOS phone of the alliance of women's non-governmental organizations, the Women Against Violence Network.

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

### *Let the victims remain winners: inform, empower, support!*

During the reporting period, the Victimology Society of Serbia-VDS implemented a project called "*Let the victims remain winners: inform, empower, support!*", which was financed by the City of Belgrade, the City Administration of the City of Belgrade, and the Secretariat for Social Protection. The general goal of the project is the prevention of victimization and re-victimization of domestic violence through information, education and support activities for potential victims and victims of domestic violence. The specific goals of the project related to strengthening the capacity of employees in the local community for prevention, intervention and prevention of re-victimization in cases of domestic violence, as well as the 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, people with disabilities, children and Roma. The main activities within the project were:

- Providing support and legal assistance to victims of violence, which was discussed in more detail in the report on the work of the VDS victim service;
- Realization of the program From victim to winner;
- Realization of training of social service providers to work with victims of gender-based violence for employees of the GCSR Department of Novi Belgrade, Zemun, Palilula and Surčin, about which you can see more in the part of the report on education;
- Raising the capacity of employees through a joint presentation of VDS, CSR Novi Belgrade, MUP RS PS Novi Belgrade, Center for the Care of the Elderly, Children and Persons with Disabilities "New Belgrade" at the 13th annual conference of VDS
- Organization and implementation of the forum entitled Let the victims remain winners: Inform, empower, support! New Belgrade with you!\*
- Designing and printing information leaflets.\*\*

\* As part of the project activities, a forum was organized and held under the name Let victims become winners: inform, empower, support! New Belgrade with you! The purpose of the forum was to inform citizens about violence, the possibilities of prevention and protection, as well as adequate types of help and support on the premises, especially related to sensitive groups such as women, the elderly, people with disabilities and Roma. At this panel, more attention was paid to domestic violence, so the panel represented a contribution to the global campaign of 16 days of activism against violence against women. In addition to interested



citizens, representatives of the City Center for Social Work, New Belgrade Department also took part in the forum; Ministry of Internal Affairs of the RS, Police Station Novi Beograd, Police Station Sopot and Police Station Lazarevac, as well as a representative of the Basic Public Prosecutor's Office in Lazarevac; Center for the care of the elderly, children and persons with disabilities, "New Belgrade" as well as representatives of the Victimology Society of Serbia-VDS. Representatives from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the RS Police Station Lazarevac, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the RS Police Station Sopot and the Basic Public Prosecutor's Office Lazarevac contributed to the forum and actively participated in the prevention of violence.



For the purpose of promoting the forum and inviting citizens, a poster was designed and printed, which was placed in the CSR Department of Novi Belgrade, the city municipality of Novi Belgrade and the premises of three local communities of the municipality of Novi Belgrade.

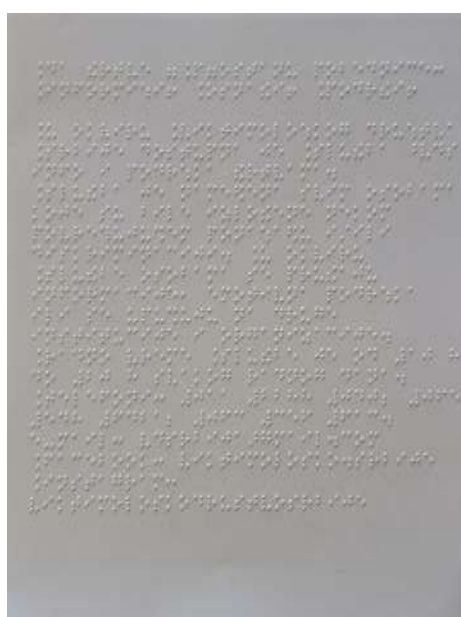


\*\* For the needs of the project, a printed information material (leaflet) was prepared with the aim of informing victims about the support provided by the Victimological Society of Serbia, i.e. the Service VDS Info and Support for Victims, but also to make it easier for experts to refer victims to 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. Also, the leaflet contains contact information through which people can contact the VDS Info and Victim Support Service (phone numbers, e-mail, as well as VDS social networks and website). During the training of social service providers to work with victims of gender-based violence, informative material-leaflets were distributed to employees of the GCSR Departments of Novi Belgrade, Surčin, Palilula and Zemun, representatives of the Center for the Care of the Elderly, Children and Persons with Disabilities, representatives of the City Municipality of Novi Belgrade, as well as to the representatives of the Citizens' Association "Zvezda Center".



In addition to this, informative material in Braille was designed, printed and distributed to the Center for the Care of the Elderly, Children and Persons with Disabilities, who further distributed it to their users, while a number of leaflets were left at the Information Desk of the City Municipality of Novi Belgrade. The leaflet contains basic information about the VDS Info Service and support for victims, who it is intended for, what services are provided within the Service, as well as contact information.



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 August 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

### *Support to the families of those killed in mass murders in May 2023 and participation in the memorialization process*

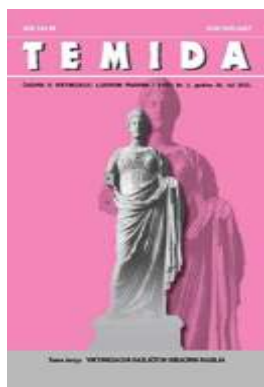
The reporting period was marked by two mass murders on May 3 and 4, 2023 - one at the "Vladislav Ribnikar" Elementary School in Belgrade, in which a school student killed 9 children and one adult, and on the same occasion wounded five children and one adult, and in the villages of Malo Orašje and Dubona in the municipalities of Smederevo and Mladenovac, where 9 young people were killed and 12 injured. In relation to these events, VDS undertook the following activities:

- Immediately after the incident on May 3, a message was sent to the principal of the school in which the victim support services were offered by the victim service VDS info and victim support;
- In May 2023, VDS issued a [press release in which it supported the initiative of the parents of the Elementary School "Vladislav Ribnikar"](#);
- Work was done on building the capacity of employees in the VDS victim support service to provide assistance to the families of those killed;
- Two members of the VDS team contacted the parents of the children killed in the elementary school in Belgrade, who were then included in the work of the multidisciplinary team, which gathered the families of those killed in the elementary school "Vladislav Ribnikar";
- Participation in meetings of the multidisciplinary team related to the planning of marking the first anniversary of the martyrdom and memorialization (participation in two meetings with the families of murdered children and one adult, as well as in two meetings of members of the multidisciplinary team);
- Connecting families of victims with international experts for memorialization;
- Monitoring of court proceedings for compensation of damages to families and providing support to families during the proceedings;
- Prof. Dr. Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović gave an interview for NIN on June 1, 2023.
- The parents of two girls killed in elementary school were our guests at the XIII annual VDS conference held on November 23 and 24, 2023, which gave them the opportunity to meet experts in the field of victim support, establish contact with a representative of European Victim Support.

During the reporting period, this was a volunteer activity in which Jasmina Nikolić and prof. Dr. Sanja Čopić were directly involved.

## Publishing

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



Immediately after its foundation, in 1998, the Victimological Society of Serbia launched a journal on victimization, human rights and gender, named after the Greek goddess of justice, Temida. The first sample edition of the journal 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* journal has been published regularly. Until 2017, the journal was published four times a year, and since 2017 it has been published three times a year. *Temida* journal is in open access mode. *Temida* publishes works in Serbian and English. Papers are subject to double anonymous review.

From 2023, the co-publisher of *Temida* journal 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 2023, the scientific journal *Temida* is categorized as a national journal of international importance (M24).

*Temida* has been in the international DOI number system since 2007. *Temida* has been referenced in DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) since 2010, in the EBSCO research database since 2013, and in 2015 it was included in the new citation index in the Web of Science - Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), which enables searching, finding and citing journals included in this edition. Thus, publishers are enabled to gain insight into citations, while the process of evaluation and inclusion in other collections within the Web of Science is ongoing.

During 2023, three issues of *Temida* were published:

- Number 1: Gender-based violence in different contexts
- Number 2: Victimization in educational institutions
- Number 3: Victims and restorative justice

During the reporting period, some of the key activities related to *Temida* journal were:

- Regular communication between the members of the Editorial Board of *Temida* journal.
- Regular meetings of the editor-in-chief, deputy editor-in-chief and secretary of *Temida* journal were held.
- The participation of the editor-in-chief, deputy editor-in-chief and secretary of *Temida* journal at the webinar *Metrix, indexing and visibility: A journey to quality journal publishing*, which was held on May 4, 2023, organized by the Elsevier Intelligence Research team and the European Association for Scientific Editors (EASE). The focus of the webinar was on the importance and key aspects of journal indexing in Scopus, the criteria that scientific journals should meet and the ways in which they can achieve this, all with the aim of better international recognition and visibility of scientific journals.
- 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 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 magazine, 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
- The evaluation process by Thomas Reuters for the inclusion of Temida in the Web of Science (Social Sciences Citation Index) is still ongoing.

During 2023, three legal entities and two natural persons subscribed to the magazine.

During 2023, the exchange of Temida journal with two journal from the country and abroad continued.

For issuing numbers in 2023, VDS received financial support from the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation of the RS.



## **Cooperation with higher education institutions, associations and independent bodies, internship and international exchange programs**

In 2023, a cooperation agreement was signed between VDS and the Center for the Care of the Elderly, Children and Persons with Disabilities. The agreement was signed on September 14, 2023, in the premises of the City Municipality of Novi Belgrade. The agreement was signed by Milka Milovanović Minić, director of the Center and Jasmina Nikolić, director of VDS. The cooperation agreement contributes to better information, prevention and intervention in cases of domestic violence, especially for vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, people with disabilities and Roma. Further cooperation, among other things, will take place through the exchange of knowledge and good practices in cases of domestic violence and discrimination.

In 2023, the Agreement on scientific, educational and professional cooperation was signed between the University of Belgrade - Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation and VDS. The agreement was signed on November 6, 2023. year, which made the Agreement on Cooperation from 2010 no longer valid. The agreement was signed by prof. Dr. Marina Šestić, Dean of FASPER and Jasmina Nikolić, Director of VDS.

The Victimology Society of Serbia is the scientific base of the University of Belgrade - Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation (FASPER). During the 2022/2023 school year. and 2023/2024. 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 16, 2023, 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*.

During November and December 2023, Mina Jevtić, a student at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, Department of Psychology, was on an internship at VDS. In December 2023, Jelena Milanović, a student at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, Department of Psychology, was also on an internship, which continued in January 2024.

## **Participation of VDS members in the work of organs and bodies of international and domestic organizations and networks**

Jasmina Nikolić, director of VDS, participated in the work of the Coordination Committee of the Women Against Violence Network, i.e. the Steering Committee after the formalization of the Network, as a member.

Prof. Dr. Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović, Dr. Sanja Čopić, Dr. Mirjana Dokmanović and MSc Ljiljana Stevković were involved in COST Action CA18121 - Cultures Of Victimology: understanding processes of victimization across Europe, which was implemented in the period 2019-2023. Prof. Dr. Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović was a member of the Management Committee.



## **People engaged in the implementation of VDS activities in 2022**

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

- 4 people in permanent employment - Jasmina Nikolić, VDS director and head of the VDS info and victim support service, Milica Luković Radaković, assistant and head of the VDS info and victim support service, Mirela Osmanović, assistant (from March 1, 2023) and Anita Marković, assistant (from March 1 to April 28, 2023).
- 4 people were engaged under the contract on the author's work - prof. Dr. Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović, prof. Dr. Sanja Čopić, Dr. Mirjana Dokmanović and MSc Ljiljana Stevković.
- 1 volunteer - Marija Stupar.
- 1 accountant - Petra Dragišić, agency Orenda d.o.o.
- 1 person who administers the VDS website - Tatjana Orelj.

## **Participation of VDS members and volunteers at professional and scientific gatherings and seminars in the country and abroad (on behalf of VDS or with presentations of VDS activities and related victimological topics)**

### Prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović

- Feminist Peace Conference “Feminist activism - for lasting peace”, Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, Skoplje, North Macedonia, 21-23. 3. 2023.
- Conference Gender-based violence and restorative justice: A victim-centered approach, International Centre for Comparative Criminology (ICCC), 15. 5. 2023. online
- Webinar Learning from the Balkan War, Israeli Society of Victimology, 14.11. 2023, online
- XIII Annual Conference of the Victimological Society of Serbia Victim Support and Victimization Prevention: Challenges and Perspectives, November 23 and 24, 2023, Belgrade: poster presentation Yoga as part of self-care: contribution to victimization prevention and victim support and co-authored work with Sanja Čopić, Sexual violence at universities in Serbia: Towards evidence-based prevention of sexual violence and victim support
- Advisory Group for Child Sexual Violence Research Priority Setting - Inception meeting, 30.11.2023., online
- Round table Fighting against sexual harassment in the academic community, speaker in the framework of the work entitled Breaking the silence: Prevention of sexual harassment in the academic community - perspectives of cooperation between the civil sector and the academic community, OEBS and the Protector of Citizens, 15.12. 2023.
- Feminist Foreign Policy Reception - Reception on the occasion of 16 days of activism against violence against women organized by the ambassadors of Mexico and FR Germany, 7.12. 2023.

### Prof. dr Sanja Čopić

- Public hearing on the National Action Plan for realizing the rights of victims and witnesses of criminal acts, Belgrade, 28.2.2023.



- Webinar Research on VAC and VAW in South East Europe: Connect, share and learn, Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Belgrade and SVRI, 8.3.2023. Presentation of VDS and the project on sexual violence at faculties in Serbia.
- Lecture on human trafficking for students of the Faculty of Law of the University of Prishtina with temporary headquarters in Kosovska Mitrovica, 21.3.2023.
- • Round table Using evidence as an ally to tackle GBV in the Western Balkans, World Bank, Belgrade, 22.3.2023. Presented results of the project on sexual violence at faculties in Serbia.
- • XIII Annual Conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia Victim Support and Prevention of Victimization: Challenges and Perspectives, November 23 and 24, 2023. year, Belgrade. Co-authored work with Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović Sexual violence at universities in Serbia: Towards evidence-based prevention of sexual violence and victim support
- Round table Reporting of Gender-based Violence, Belgrade, 4.12.2023.

#### Jasmina Nikolić

- Workshop for licensing the SOS phone service for women with experience of violence, Women Against Violence Network, 27. 2. 2023. online.
- Webinar Research on VAC and VAW in South East Europe: Connect, share and learn, Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Belgrade and SVRI, 8.3.2023. Presentation of VDS and the project on sexual violence at faculties in Serbia
- Training on Monitoring of Femicide and Gender Based Violence Court Cases, Femplatz, 28. 3. 2023., Belgrade.
- MŽPN Assembly, January, May, December 2023, Belgrade
- Conference Gender-based violence and restorative justice: A victim-centred approach, International Centre for Comparative Criminology (ICCC), 15.5. 2023.godine, online
- Action strategic planning for advocacy actions related to local budget funds and funds from RS opportunities, Women Against Violence Network, June 13 and 14, 2023, Belgrade.
- Sixth Virtual National Town Hall on Mass Violence: School-Based Mass Violence Incidents: Addressing Student, Caregiver, and School Personnel Impact, 25. May 2023.
- VSE Annual Conference 2023 - Protecting Fundamental Freedoms, Protecting Fundamental Freedoms, A Victim's Perspective, Victim Support Europe, 7-9.6 2023.godine, Berlin, Germany.
- Twentieth manifestation "I am a child from this planet", Center for the care of the elderly, children and persons with disabilities "New Belgrade" and the Association for helping mentally underdeveloped persons "New Belgrade", September 29, 2023. year, Belgrade. Presentation of the work of the Victimology Society of Serbia.
- Opening of the Info corner for youth support, Center Zvezda association, November 1, 2023, Belgrade
- XIII annual conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia Victim support and prevention of victimization: Challenges and perspectives, November 23 and 24, 2023, Belgrade. Presentation of the co-authored work with Milica Luković-Radaković entitled Twenty Years of Service VDS info and support for victims - analysis of previous work. Co-authored work Jasmina Nikolić, Victimology Society of Serbia, Ana Lazarov, City Center for Social Work in Belgrade, Zemun Department, Milka Milovanović-Minić, Center for the Care of the Elderly, Children and Persons with Disabilities "New Belgrade", Marko Ranković, Ministry of Internal Affairs Republic

of Serbia, Police Station New Belgrade, Serbia: Rational use of existing resources in the local community in order to prevent and react to violence

- Conference organized by the Center for Democracy and GIZ: Key challenges in ensuring gender equality in Serbia: the fight against gender-based violence against women and recognition of unpaid work", December 7, 2023, Belgrade
- Workshop "(Feminist) monitoring - how do we record the results of the program on which we work together?" organized by Kvinna Till Kvinna 15.12.2023, Belgrade

#### Milica Luković Radaković

- Workshop for licensing the SOS phone service for women with experience of violence, Women Against Violence Network, February 27, 2023, online.
- Feminist Peace Conference "Feminist activism - for lasting peace", Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, Skoplje, North Macedonia, 21-23.3.2023.
- Training on Monitoring of Femicide and Gender Based Violence Court Cases, Femplatz, 27.3.2023. Belgrade.
- Conference Gender-based violence and restorative justice: A victim-centered approach, International Centre for Comparative Criminology (ICCC), 15. may 2023. online
- Action strategic planning for advocacy actions related to local budget funds and funds from RS opportunities, Women Against Violence Network, June 14, 2023, Belgrade.
- VSE Annual Conference 2023 - Protecting Fundamental Freedoms, A Victim's Perspective, Victim Support Europe, 7-9. 6. 2023. Berlin, Germany.
- Twentieth manifestation "I am a child from this planet", Center for the care of the elderly, children and persons with disabilities "New Belgrade" and the Association for helping mentally underdeveloped persons "New Belgrade", September 29, 2023, Belgrade. Presentation of the work of the Victimology Society of Serbia.
- Meeting of the working group for the SOS telephone, Women Against Violence Network, 24 October 2023, online
- National conference Association and networking to progress - tolerance to more comprehensive support for vulnerable groups of citizens, Center for the care of the elderly, children and persons with disabilities "New Belgrade" and the Association of Social Protection Lawyers "Argument", 11/17/2023, Belgrade. Presented work of the Victimology Society of Serbia.
- Presentation of the study "What you need to know before entering the labor market - Improving the position of young people", ROZA-Association for women's labor rights, 14 November 2023, online.
- XIII annual conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia Victim support and prevention of victimization: Challenges and perspectives, November 23 and 24, 2023, Belgrade. Presentation of the co-authored work with Jasmina Nikolić entitled Twenty Years of Service VDS info and support for victims - analysis of previous work.
- Tribune "Let the victims remain winners: inform, empower, support!" New Belgrade with you!", Victimology Society of Serbia, Belgrade. Moderator on the stand.
- Public event dedicated to the program "Participation and democracy in Serbia - Women's rights in practice", Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, 14 December 2023, Kaštel Ečka, Zrenjanin.
- Meeting of the working group for the SOS telephone, Women Against Violence Network, December 21, 2023, Belgrade.

## Mirela Osmanović

- Workshop for licensing the SOS phone service for women with experience of violence, Women Against Violence Network, February 27, 2023, online.
- Training of social service providers to work with victims of violence, Victimology Society of Serbia, March 8, 10, 20, 22, and 24, 2023, Belgrade.
- Training on Monitoring of Femicide and Gender Based Violence Court Cases, Femplatz, March 27, 2023, Belgrade.
- Training to strengthen the capacity to respond to sexual violence at faculties in Serbia, Victimology Society of Serbia, 05, 09, 13, and 16.4. 2023, Belgrade.
- Round table, "Improving cooperation between the civil sector and the municipality of Voždovac in the area of prevention of family and partner violence and prevention of child marriage at the local level", Romany Center for Women and Children, "DAJE", 04/07/2023, Belgrade.
- Professional meeting "Concept of "alienation from parents" in the context of violence in an intimate partner relationship", Autonomous Women's Center, 11 May 2023, online.
- Training "From victim to winner: Using one's own capacities to get out of violence", Belgrade region of the Network of Women Against Violence (Victimological Society of Serbia), 24-25 May 2023. year, Belgrade
- Training for improving NGO and media communications, "Women's voice can be heard further", Prijepolje Women's Forum, June 9 and 10, 2023, Zlatar/Nova Varoš
- Networking meeting of partner organizations, Kvinna till Kvinna, June 12 and 15, Lake Bor
- Professional meeting "Needs and rights of minor children and other family members after femicide", Autonomous Women's Center, 6/27/2023, Belgrade
- Twentieth manifestation "I am a child from this planet", Center for the care of the elderly, children and persons with disabilities "New Belgrade" and the Association for helping mentally underdeveloped persons "New Belgrade", September 29, 2023, Belgrade. Presentation of the work of the Victimology Society of Serbia.
- Training of social service providers to work with victims of gender-based violence, Victims' Society of Serbia, October 10, 11, 17, and 18, 2023, Belgrade.
- National conference Association and networking to progress - tolerance to more comprehensive support for vulnerable groups of citizens, Center for the care of the elderly, children and persons with disabilities "Novi Belgrade" and the Association of Social Protection Lawyers "Argument", 11/17/2023, Belgrade . Presented work of the Victimology Society of Serbia.
- XIII annual conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia Victim support and prevention of victimization: Challenges and perspectives, November 23 and 24, 2023, Belgrade.
- Research launch "The dark side of digitalization: Addressing technology-facilitated violence against women in Eastern Europe and Central Asia", UN women, 29 November 2023, online.
- Tribune "Let the victims become winners: inform, empower, support!" New Belgrade with you!", Victimology Society of Serbia, 05.12. 2023, Belgrade
- Public event dedicated to the program "Participation and democracy in Serbia - Women's rights in practice", Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, 14 December 2023, Kaštel Ečka, Zrenjanin.

### Marija Stupar

- Training of social service providers to work with victims of violence, Victimology Society of Serbia, 20-28.5.2023, Belgrade
- Training "From victim to winner: Using one's own capacities to get out of violence", Victimology Society of Serbia, May 24 and 25, Belgrade.
- Team building, Women Against Violence Network, September 7 and 8, 2023, Vrnjačka Banja.
- Twentieth event "I am a child from this planet", Center for the care of the elderly, children and persons with disabilities "Novi Belgrade" and the Association for Helping Mentally Underdeveloped Persons "Novi Belgrade", September 29, 2023, Belgrade. Presentation of the work of the Victimology Society of Serbia.
- XIII Annual Conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia Victim Support and Prevention of Victimization: Challenges and Perspectives, Victimology Society of Serbia, November 23 and 24, 2023, Belgrade.

### **Media representation of VDS members**

#### Prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović

TV N1, Live day, Topic: Support for the Ribnikar parents' initiative, 25.05.2023.

NIN, Topic: One month after the massacre at Vladislav Ribnikar Primary School, The continuing nightmare, Support for the Ribnikar Parents' initiative, 01.06. 2023.

TV K1, Uranak1, Topic: Division due to the tragedy in "Ribnikar", 01.06.2023.

TV Kopernikus, Don't be silent, report it!, Topic: Violence against women and children, 16.06.2023.

#### Dr Sanja Čopić

RTV Vojvodina, Dnevnik, Topic: European Day of Victims, 22.02.2023.

TV Kopernikus, Topic: European Day of Victims, 22.02.2023.

TV Una, Popodne, Topic: Support for the Ribnikar parents' initiative, 29.05.2023.

TV Euronews Srbija, Euronews jutro, Topic: The arrival of experts from Norway to "Vladislav Ribnikar" elementary school, 02.06.2023.

TV Kopernikus, Srbija Online, Topic: Violence against women and children, 15.06.2023.

TV Insajder, Marker, Topic: Special premises for victims and witnesses - protection of victims in the proceedings, 05.10.2023.

#### Jasmina Nikolić

RTV Slovenia, Globus, Topic: Violence against women, 07.03.2023.

TV Nova S, Among us, Topic: Femicide; Violence against women, 30.03.2023.

TV Euronews Srbija, Support for the Ribnikar parents' initiative, 26.05.2023.

TV Kopernikus, Don't be silent, report it!, Topic: Violence against women and children, 16.06.2023.

TV Euronews Srbija, Euronews jutro, Topic: Can the measures announced after the mass murder be implemented? 14.07.2023.

#### Milica Luković Radaković

Radio Vojvodina, Topic: European Day of Victims, 22.02.2023.

#### Anita Marković

TV Nova S, Among us, Topic: Femicide; Violence against women, 30.03.2023.

## **Donors**

During the reporting period, the implementation of projects and other activities of VDS was supported by:

- Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation of RS
- Secretariat for Social Protection of the City of Belgrade
- The Kingdom of Sweden and the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation
- OAK through the Trag Foundation
- United Kingdom Government through the AIRE Centre/FemPlatz project.
- UN Women/European Commission

We would also like to thank the donors on this occasion.

Other ways of financing:

- Membership fees
- Subscription to the scientific journal Temida.

In Belgrade, February 2024.