



**Viktimološko društvo Srbije**  
**Victimology Society of Serbia**



**XIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
of the Victimology Society of Serbia

**VICTIM SUPPORT  
AND VICTIMISATION PREVENTION:  
CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES**

**BOOK OF ABSTRACTS**

Victimology Society of Serbia  
+381 65 548 6421  
+381 63 356 613  
+381 11 228 8040  
vdsrbija@gmail.com  
www.vds.rs

**November 23 and 24, 2023**  
**Belgrade**



**XIII Annual Conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia**

***Victim Support and Victimization Prevention:  
Challenges and Perspectives***

**Book of abstracts**

**Belgrade, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

### **Program Advisory Committee of the XIII Annual Conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia**

- a. Prof. dr Janice Joseph, Professor Emeritus at the Stockton University and President of the World Society of Victimology (USA);
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- d. Prof. dr Sanja Milivojević, Associate Professor at the 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);
- e. Prof. dr Oliver Bačanović, Full Professor at the Faculty of Security, University of "St. Kliment Ohridski", Skopje (North Macedonia);
- f. Prof. dr Irma Kovčo-Vukadin, Full Professor at the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation, Department of Criminology, University of Zagreb (Croatia);
- g. Dr Nataša Tanjević, Deputy Protector of Citizens of the Republic of Serbia (Serbia);
- h. Dr Mirjana Dokmanović, retired Research Associate of the Institute of Social Sciences (Serbia);
- i. Prof. dr Sanja Čopić, Associate Professor at the University of Belgrade - Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation (Serbia)

### **Organizing Committee of the XIII Annual Conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia**

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- b. Milica Luković Radaković, Assistant in the Victimology Society of Serbia
- c. Mirela Osmanović, Assistant in the Victimology Society of Serbia.

The organization of the XIII annual conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia entitled ***Support to victims and prevention of victimization: Challenges and perspectives*** was financially supported by: the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation of the Republic of Serbia, Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation within the project *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*, the City of Beograd, The City Administration, Secretariat for Social Welfare within the project *Let the victims become winners: Inform, empower, support!*, and the OSCE Mission in the Republic of Serbia.

**XIII Annual Conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia – VDS**  
***Victim Support and Victimization Prevention: Challenges and Perspectives,***  
**Belgrade, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**PROGRAM**

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**Conference Day I (November 23, 2023.)**

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**9.00-9.30 - Registration of participants**

**9.30-10.00**

Opening of the XIII Annual Conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia  
Awards of the Victimology Society of Serbia for 2023

**10.00-11.00**

**Plenary session 1: Victim support and prevention of victimization**

Moderator: prof. dr Vesna Nikolić Ristanović

- Prof. dr Jo-Anne Wemmers, School of Criminology, University of Montreal; International Centre for Comparative Criminology, Canada: ***Preventing victimization by supporting victims***
- Aleksandra Ivanković, Victim Support Europe, Belgium: ***Supporting victims after mass victimisations***

**11.00-11.30 – Break and poster presentations\***

**11.30-13.00**

**Plenary session 2: Victim support system and resources for overcoming the consequences of victimization**

Moderator: prof. dr Oliver Bačanović

- Nikica Hamer Vidmar, Service for victims and witnesses, Ministry of Justice and Public Administration of the Republic of Croatia, Croatia: ***Continuous development of sustainable system of victim and witness support in the Republic of Croatia – focusing on victims and support providers***
- Nataša Novaković and Imola Soroš, OSCE Mission to Serbia: ***Establishing the system of victim and witness support in the Republic of Serbia in the period 2018-2023***
- Mirjana Dokmanović, Institute of Social Sciences and Victimology Society of Serbia, Serbia: ***Media Regulation in the Republic of Serbia, Prevention of Violence and Protection of Victims***
- Prof. dr Vesna Stefanovska, prof. dr Oliver Bačanović, prof. dr Nataša Peovska, Faculty of Security - Skopje, University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Bitola, Northern Macedonia: ***Social reaction to the homeless persons: Stigmatization, marginalization and victimization***

**13.00-14.00 – Break**

**14.00-15.45**

**Thematic session 1: Inter-sectoral cooperation and victim support**

Moderator: Jasmina Nikolić

- 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 Centre for Social Work in Belgrade, Department in Lazarevac, Serbia: *Victim support: Challenges and perspectives from the perspective of the public prosecutor, police and the centre for social work*
- Tijana Mitrašević, Victims and witnesses information and support service, Higher Public Prosecutor's Office in Belgrade, Serbia: *Analysis of the work of the Victims and witnesses information and support service with a special focus on the support for victims of gender-based violence*
- Jasmina Nikolić, Victimology Society of Serbia, Milka Milovanović-Minić, Centre for the Care of the Elderly, Children and Persons with Disabilities "Novi Beograd", Marko Ranković, Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Police station Novi Beograd and Ana Lazarov, City Centre for Social Work in Belgrade, Department Novi Beograd, Serbia: *Rational use of existing resources in the local community for the purpose of prevention and response to violence*

**15.45-16.00 –Break**

**16.00-18.00**

**Thematic session 2: Victimization and social reaction**

Moderator: Milica Luković Radaković

- Prof. dr Irma Kovčo Vukadin, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, Croatia: *Relationship between violent victimization and some indicators of mental health*
- Prof. dr Ksenija Butorac and Suzana Kikić, University of Applied Science in Criminal Investigation and Public Security, Police Academy, Ministry of the Interior, Croatia: *Family violence risk assessment and management*
- Ivana Milosavljević-Đukić, Centre for the Protection of Infants, Children and Youth; College of Social Work Belgrade and Tanja Ignjatović, Autonomous Women's Centre, Serbia: *Do we recognize child witnesses of domestic violence as victims?*
- Ivana Andrijašević, Ena Juričić, Veronika Koštal, Natalia Marincil, Mateja Meštrović, Franjo Lovro Popović, Ivana Prović, Maja Štahan, Maja Vdović, Victims and Witness Support Service, Croatia: *116 006: Change begins with a call – statistical analysis of calls and practical experiences*
- Dr Nataša Tanjević, Deputy Protector of Citizens, Serbia: *The problem of long-term prison sentences – How „to survive prison“?*

**10.00-11.15**

**Thematic session 3: Different forms of victimization: research, legislation and practice**

Moderator: prof. dr Sanja Čopić

- Lorenn Walker, Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice, College of Arts & Sciences and William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai'i (USA) and dr Leela Bilmes Goldstein, Punahou School, USA: *Hawai'i's Multicultural Contexts and Victim Participants' Information Shuttled for Restorative Reentry Planning Circles*
- Maca Arlov Bokan, Senka Damjanović, Doria Jukić, Ivana Kvesić, Suzana Rožić, The Home for Children and Adults - Victims of Domestic Violence „Duga-Zagreb“, Croatia: *Home „Duga-Zagreb“ – The Victim in Focus*
- Milica Luković Radaković, Jasmina Nikolić, Victimology Society of Serbia, Serbia:
- *Twenty years of the VDS info and victim support service: Analysis of previous work*

**11.15-11.45 – Break and poster presentations\***

**11.45-13.30**

**Thematic session 4: International Panel on Universities and Sexual and Gender-Related Violence: Response Is Not Enough!**

Moderator: prof dr Pam Alldred

- Prof. dr Pam Alldred, School of Social Sciences, Nottingham Trent University, UK: *Sexual and Gender-Related Violence in UK Universities: Response Is Not Enough!*
- Prof. dr Barbara Biglia, Department of Pedagogy, University Rovira and Virgili, Spain: *Perspectives and challenges for a comprehensive approach to gender related violence in universities: The Catalan case*
- Prof. dr Gordana Lalić-Krstin, University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Philosophy, Serbia: *Project Universities and Gender Mainstreaming: Results and Perspectives*
- Prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović and prof. dr Sanja Čopić, Victimology Society of Serbia; University of Belgrade – Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, Serbia: *Sexual violence in Serbian universities: Towards evidence-based prevention of sexual violence and victim support*

**13.30-14.30 – Break**

**14.30-15.45**

**Thematic session 5: Victims, victimization and social reaction**

Moderator: Milica Luković Radaković

- Prof. dr Danica Vasiljević-Prodanović, Antonija Raspopović MA, University of Belgrade - Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, Serbia: *The scope of the application of restorative justice in prison*
- Filip Mirić, University of Niš, Faculty of Law and Jovana Kostić MA, Lawyer office in Leskovac: *Hentig's typology as a starting point for the creation of new classifications of victims*

- Prof. dr Tatjana Gerginova, Faculty of Security-Skopje, University “Sv. Kliment Ohridski”- Bitola, North Macedonia: *Victimization of citizens on the basis of discrimination*

**15.45-16.00**

**Closing of the conference**

**\*Poster presentations:**

- Prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović, Victimology Society of Serbia; University of Belgrade – Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, Serbia: *Yoga as a part of self-care: contribution to prevention of victimisation and victim support*

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## PLENARY SESSIONS

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## Plenary session 1: Victim support and prevention of victimization

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### Preventing victimization by supporting victims

***Prof. dr Jo-Anne Wemmers***

*School of Criminology, University of Montreal; International Centre for Comparative Criminology, Canada*

Nearly 22 million people in the EU experienced physical violence in 2020 (FRA 2021). The risk of victimization is not the same for everyone. As much as 80% of victimizations are multiple victimizations, that is the individual already experienced victimization in the past (Farrell & Pease 1993, Perreault, Sauvé & Burns 2010). As a society, we have an obligation to help victims avoid revictimization. Not only would this avoid needless suffering, if successful, this would significantly reduce crime rates, which would benefit society. Hence, it is important to identify ways in which we can help victims avoid revictimization. One approach is to encourage victims to report their victimization to police (EUCPN 2023). Most victims of violence, especially victims of sexual and domestic violence, do not report their victimization to police (Wolitzky-Taylor et al 2011). Police are unlikely to know about the victimization and intervene if the victim does not contact them. However, even if victims contact police, the criminal justice system, which serves to criminalize the offender, is limited in terms of how it can help victims. Most violent victimizations, especially sexual violence, do not end with a conviction and without a conviction the criminal justice system can offer victims very little (Daly & Bouhours 2010). Besides there being no guarantee that the criminal justice system will provide the victim with a favorable outcome, the criminal justice process may further add to their suffering, causing them to feel victimized all over again. This is referred to as secondary victimization and it is one reason why victims are hesitant to go to police. An alternate approach is to invest in victim support. Longitudinal research shows that the effects of having experienced multiple victimizations are cumulative and can boost a person's risk of revictimization (Tseloni & Pease 2003; Ruback, Clark & Warner 2014; Bunch, Clary-Warner & McMahon-Howard 2014). Besides prior victimization, risk factors for violent victimization include mental health problems, drug use, homelessness, and poverty, all of which may result from having experienced traumatic life events, such as violent victimization, and in turn render the individual even more vulnerable and at risk for victimization (Shapland & Hall 2007; Tillyer 2013; Snyder et al 2020). Providing assistance to victims and helping them deal with the consequences of their victimization, promotes healing and reduces their vulnerability and risk of revictimization, which benefits both the individual and society. In this presentation I will argue that rather than investing in criminal justice, effective crime prevention starts with investing in victim support.

### Supporting victims after mass victimisations

***Aleksandra Ivanković***

*Victim Support Europe, Belgium*

There are obvious differences between mass victimisation and “ordinary” victimisation on a number of different levels. Mass victimisation is a complex phenomenon to respond to, and there are many obstacles to address, including:

- It requires more resources to respond to;

- Crime scenes get messy, with the presence of larger number of people involved;
- They usually require longer time to fully investigate, deal with the evidence and conduct criminal proceedings, due to sheer volume;
- They usually attract a lot of media and public attention, requiring an additional layer of complexity;
- The impact of mass victimisation is also larger on the communities.

Due to all these elements, mass victimisation requires specific responses at the national level to the needs of victims. This includes, in particular, the three phases of intervention: planning and preparation, crisis intervention, long-term support in responding to the five basic needs of victims (respect and recognition, support and information, access to justice, protection and compensation and restoration). The contribution explores different practices in responding to mass-victimisation and mass-violence in cases of human-induced victimisation (there fore excluding national disasters), in particular looking into how the national victim support frameworks can be developed to respond to needs of victims of terrorism, understood in the broader sense to include also supporting broader communities and general public. The article particularly reflects on some good practices in responding to the needs of victims of mass-violence, including victims of terrorism, mass shootings or other mass incidents, like plane crashes and bus accidents, for example. It explores the multi-stakeholder approaches to delivering support to victims – from e.g. collaborating in planning and preparation through table top exercises, to victim identification and death notification in the crisis stage, to organising commemoration and remembrance, in the long term.

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**Plenary session 2: Victim support system and resources for overcoming the consequences of victimization**

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**Continuous development of sustainable system of victim and witness support in the Republic of Croatia – focusing on victims and support providers**

*Nikica Hamer Vidmar*

*Service for victims and witnesses, Ministry of Justice and Public Administration of the Republic of Croatia, Croatia*

The general system of victim and witness support within the judiciary in the Republic of Croatia has been developed since 2006. In addition, specialist services and civil society organizations ensure support for victims and their family members, considering the type of criminal offense, sex of the victim, types and forms of assistance and support. The Ministry of Justice and Public Administration strategically develops and coordinates the support system for all victims and witnesses regardless of their sex/gender or type of criminal offense. There are nine victim and witness support departments at the county courts, while 6 more departments are currently established at the county courts, and two departments at the the two largest municipal courts. In addition to the support department, the Ministry of Justice and Pubic Administration also finances the work of civil society organizations, namely the Association for the Victim and Witness Support for the work of the National Call Center for Victims of Criminal Crimes and Misdemeanors (NPC) – 116 006 and the Network of support and cooperation for victims and witnesses of crime. A network of support and cooperation ensures support, information, legal and psychological assistance and accompanying victims to courts and authorities bodies in 17 counties. The national call center is located in the premises of the Ministry and provides emotional support and information to

victims 24 hours a day every day, including weekends, holidays and religious holidays, in Croatian and English. Thanks to the cooperation with The Ministry of the Interior and the National Call Center except for the basic system of referring victims to support services by the police, state attorney's office, courts and other bodies, an advanced referral system has been developed - the so-called OPT-IN system. This referral system envisages that in case of all victims of crime, police officers, when informing a victim about his/her rights and providing him/her a written document with their rights, request the consent of the victim to submit his/her contact information to the NPC via a secure email address. The NPC is obliged to contact the victim within 48 hours, including weekends, holidays and on non-working days, through communication channels chosen by the victim. Thanks to the media campaigns and promotional materials produced by the Ministry of Justice and Public Administration as well as the victim and witness support organizations, victims are provided with timely, easily accessible, comprehensible information free of charge. The Ministry of Justice and Public Administration is a member of national and working bodies that deal with the development of policies aimed at ensuring support for victims as well as of international networks (ENVR, VSE, EUCVT) while also being the national contact point for victims of terrorism and the national contact point for financial compensation for victims. Apart from victim support, regular education and supervision for support officers and volunteers are provided. In this comprehensive way, an effort is made to ensure a sustainable and resilient support system, which takes into account the needs of victims and their assistance providers.

**Establishing the system of victim and witness support  
in the Republic of Serbia in the period 2018-2023**

*Nataša Novaković*

*Imola Soroš*

*OSCE Mission to Serbia, Serbia*

Since 2018 the OSCE Mission to Serbia has been implementing the project “Support for Victims and Witnesses of Crime in Serbia”, financed through the pre-accession assistance of the European Union. The main objective of the project is to provide support to the Ministry of Justice in its efforts to strengthen victims rights in the Republic of Serbia by aligning the national legislation with the standards of the EU outlined in the Directive 2012/29/EU establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime. In addition to this, the project also aims to establish a national support system for victims and witnesses of crime. Over the past few years, the Government of the Republic of Serbia has launched several strategic activities targeting specific aspects of strengthening the rights of victims in line with the standards of the European Union, including: drafting and adoption of the 2020-2025 National Strategy on the Rights of Victims and Witnesses of Crime in the Republic of Serbia and its two accompanying action plans covering the periods between 2020-2022 and 2023-2025, as well as drafting amendments to the substantive and procedural criminal legislation in order to harmonize domestic laws with the *acquis communautaire*. The aim of this presentation is to present the scope and type of the assistance provided to the institutions of the Republic of Serbia, through the examples of concrete activities implemented towards establishing an overarching national system of support for victims and witnesses of crime.

## **Media Regulation in the Republic of Serbia, Prevention of Violence and Protection of Victims**

***Mirjana Dokmanović***

*Institute of Social Sciences and Victimology Society of Serbia, Serbia*

The research indicate that media content in Serbia is characterized by the gratuitous portrayal of violence, “the dissemination of messages, words and images, the violent content or presentation of which is given a prominence which is not justified in the context“ (Recommendation No. R (97)19 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe). There is a widespread phenomena of sensationalist, inappropriate and unethical reporting on cases of violence, including domestic violence and other forms of gender based violence. Reporting cases of violence often include presenting unverified and intimate details, violating the victim’s rights to dignity and privacy, thereby causing secondary victimisation. In its report (2023) on monitoring the compliance with the Code of Journalists of Serbia, the Press Council pointed out on increase of disrespect for the culture and ethics of the public speech. The media are increasingly publishing details of crimes and disturbing content, and knowingly violating the Code when it pays off. In TV programs, reality shows freely broadcast violent content, thus promoting the “culture“ of violence and violent behaviour. The topic of this presentation is the findings of the analysis of the Law on Public Information and Media and the Law on Electronic Media from the perspective of violence prevention and protection of victims. The results of the analysis indicate serious flaws in these regulations. The laws do not include the obligation of media professionals to respect journalistic professionalism and ethical standards of professional reporting, to foster the culture and ethics of the public speech, and to ensure that the media content is free of prejudices, stereotypes and sexism. Hate speech is prohibited, but there are no sanctions prescribed for violating this prohibition. The grounds of the prohibition of hate speech do not include gender, gender characteristics, language, ethnic origin, political affiliation, gender identity, disability, age and other personal characteristics. There is no legal sanction prescribed for unprofessional and unethical reporting on cases of violence, especially domestic violence, and protecting the dignity and privacy of victims and their family members. The aim of this presentation is to highlight the need to develop the appropriate media regulation bearing in mind the importance and influence of the media on the formation of attitude and behaviours of people, especially children and young.

### **Social reaction to the homeless persons: Stigmatization, marginalization and victimization**

***Prof. dr Vesna Stefanovska***

***Prof. dr Oliver Bačanović***

***Prof. dr Nataša Peovska***

*Faculty of Security - Skopje, University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Bitola, Northern Macedonia*

Homelessness is a phenomenon that is present in all countries of the world. In almost all major cities, in certain parts, i.e. inhabited or abandoned places, homeless people can be found begging or sleeping on the street, on a bench, under bridges, in improvised houses with substandard housing conditions. The topic is often debated and researched both in the public political sphere and in the academic and civil society sector, from several aspects, including

from the aspect of humanism, solidarity or marginalization, social exclusion and victimization of this vulnerable category. The Faculty of Security - Skopje, in the period from February to September 2022, conducted scientific research related to homelessness, from the perspective of the homeless themselves, in order to understand their social and personal worlds. Its overall goal is to understand the conditions and social context in which homelessness occurs, because such knowledge is necessary to design appropriate policies at the social and individual level. The research subject were the paths of homeless people before and during homelessness as a process. That process includes the life history of homeless people, the social and economic context in which homelessness occurs, the experience of being homeless, the process of marginalization, criminalization and victimization, the development of social policies and the availability of social support from the community and society as a whole. A special subject of the analysis was the processes of stigmatization, marginalization and victimization from homeless perspective. It is even more important to investigate the social reactions towards those persons and the relationship, communication, both from the institutions of the system and from the public. Special emphasis is placed on the victimization of homeless people, understood, first of all, as a structural victimization, as a type of victimization that is recognized as very important in the contemporary science of victimology and in addition to the broader understanding of the concept of victim and the related subject of the so-called new victimology. In addition to this is the perception of victimization as a violation of human rights (in this case, the right to housing). At the same time, there is a need to reconsider the thesis that socio-pathological phenomena (in this case, homelessness and related poverty, begging, idleness, etc.) as a rule lead to or are related to crime and criminal behavior. Several techniques and procedures were used for data collection: in-depth semi-structured "face-to-face" interviews, conversation with the key actors at the Homeless Center in Skopje, and review and content analysis of relevant statistical analyzes and other reports and documents related to homelessness, treatment, the protection and prevention of homeless persons. The sample included 35 respondents who were recruited according to several characteristics: gender, age, nationality, material, educational and family status.

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## THEMATIC SESSIONS

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## **Thematic session 1: Inter-sectoral cooperation and victim support**

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### **Challenges and perspectives from the perspective of the public prosecutor, police and the centre for social work**

***Jasmina Krštenić***

*Basic Public Prosecutor's Office in Lazarevac, Serbia*

The aim of this article is to explain the role and the importance of Public Prosecution in application of the Law on prevention of domestic violence. We will analyse the articles of this Law defining the role of Public Prosecution and we will present the importance of Public Prosecutor for the victim's protection and work of the Group for coordination and cooperation. Complete procedure taken by Public Prosecution from June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, when the application of the Law on prevention of domestic violence begun, got very important professional quality, because Public Prosecutor got new procedural role which is relevant for immediate and effective protection of victims of gender-based violence. This first part of victim's protection, which starts even before initiating criminal procedure, aims at responding to the most innocent announcement of violence, to stop violence immediately, and to prevent recurrence of violence. As a result, a victim feels understood and protected. In order to act effectively, quick and efficiently, we need knowledge which contributes to proper evaluation of the police officer's assessment and the feeling for specific condition in which victim lives. We will present our experiences gained in work of the Group and face the challenges we have encountered so far, as well as those we will face in the future. Each professional must be educated enough, aware and sensitive for victim's problem, capable to comprehend victim's unique condition, suggest and undertake necessary measures to protect victim, to stop the violence and prevent its recurrence. It is evident, and also confirmed in the statistical reports, that victim returns consciously and deliberately in threatening surrounding with reduced psychological, physical, and economic capacity to fight for herself and to win in that fight. The aim is to understand, help, educate and empower the victim. The concept of a victim is multifaceted and complex, and an individual protection plan will realize the efforts of all professionals who work on every case of domestic violence to encourage the reporting of domestic violence through the example of successful victim protection in order to empower victims without a shred of strength to help themselves. Let's report and stop, anonymously, consciously, without fear for ourselves and for the victim.

***Dušica Dimitrijević***

*Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Police Station Lazarevac, Serbia*

The aim of this paper is to present the role and importance of the police officer who acts in cases of domestic violence. His work and the complexity of his actions in each case will be shown, which is conditioned by his professional sensitivity to gender-based violence. When dealing with incidents of violence in the family and partner relationships, it is very important for the competent police officer to build a relationship of trust and to point out that violence, of any kind, is unacceptable behavior, the responsibility for violence always lies with the abuser, not the victim. Open criticism of violent behavior, reference to and familiarization with the legal provisions in which violence is sanctioned, in no way diminishes the objectivity and professionalism in the work of the competent police officer. Multisectoral cooperation of competent institutions is extremely important in order to provide the victim

with comprehensive protection and support. When creating an individual protection and support plan, the victim can be allowed to participate in it, if he/she wishes and if his/her condition allows it. Providing support to family members who need it is very important. The competent police officer in the field obtains information and knowledge important for the recovery, empowerment, and independence of the victim, after which, at the meeting of the Group for Coordination and Cooperation, he exchanges information about the protection measures undertaken and implemented. The victim and the measures implemented for protection must provide the victim with safety, stop the violence, prevent its recurrence, and protect the victim's rights. The measures taken by the competent police officer should enable the victim to be provided with psychosocial protection and support for his recovery, as well as measures for the victim's safety, which can be reflected in the transportation of the victim to a safe and secure place, daily contact by phone and visit. When the report/notification is submitted without the victim's consent, measures and actions must be taken to ensure the safety, protection, support, and empowerment of the victims as adequately as possible. In every contact with victims, competent police officers act in a considerate, appropriate and professional manner, without discrimination on any basis, with full respect for their personality and dignity, taking into account the degree of vulnerability and needs of the victim and the risks of secondary victimization and intimidation.

***Andela Pejović***

*City Centre for Social Work in Belgrade, Department in Lazarevac, Serbia*

Our goal is to show the importance of multi-sectoral cooperation for solving cases of gender-based violence, especially domestic violence. We will show the importance and complexity of the role and work of the guardianship body in the work of the Coordination and Cooperation Group and in the development of an individual plan of protection and support for the victim. Looking at the work on cases of domestic violence and the comprehensive protection of victims from the point of view of the Center for Social Work, the implementation of the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence has contributed to many positive changes, new perspectives, but also the challenges we face. One of the problems that is not closely related to the law concerns the very organization of centers for social work, where all professionals who are employed in the Services for the Protection of Children and Youth or Adults and the Elderly work on cases of protection against domestic violence. This leads to a difference in the quality of service provision in the centers because not all professional workers have sufficient sensitivity to work on cases of protection from domestic violence, nor sufficient education in the aforementioned field. One of the challenges that often complicates the work on cases is the victim's refusal to testify, the influence of primary families on the victim to refuse to testify. Often, victims need to be provided with additional psychological support or some kind of psychotherapeutic work that is outside the scope of work in centers for social work. The lack of the aforementioned resources in the local community and the distance from the city of Belgrade often lead to the loss of the victim's motivation to seek this kind of help. The implementation of the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence has led to really better coordination and cooperation in the work of institutions at the local level (public prosecutor-police-center for social work), but also other participants as needed. The constancy of group members contributes to fast, efficient cooperation. The victim's lack of financial security and unemployment is one of the risks that often causes victims to give up reporting and conducting further proceedings. By forming a Group for assistance in the employment of women victims of violence, within which the opportunity and assistance for victims of violence to find employment is provided, the



victim's motivation is increased, they are empowered and encouraged to get out of the vicious circle of violence.

**Analysis of the work of the Service for information and support for victims and witnesses with a special focus on support for victims of gender-based violence**

***Tijana Mitrašević***

*Information and support service for victims and witnesses, Higher Public Prosecutor's Office in Belgrade, Serbia*

People who have suffered violence go through serious psychological consequences that can vary from anxiety to post-traumatic syndrome, and they have in common a loss of self-esteem, self-confidence and trust in the individual as well as in the institutions and the entire system. Accordingly, the idea of the Information and support service for victims and witnesses of gender-based violence is to use our support, as well as that provided by the civil society organizations with which we connect them, to restore lost trust and thus provide the victim with protection during the participation in the procedure, which is multifold beneficial, both for the victim and for the successful conclusion of the criminal proceedings. The Information and support service for victims and witnesses has existed in the prosecutor's offices in Belgrade for the last five years, and from October 2022, within the framework of the Higher Public Prosecutor's Office, with the arrival of the coordinator for gender-based violence, the Service for the support of victims and witnesses of criminal acts of gender-based violence was established, which operates and through six contact points in basic prosecutor's offices. The aim of the presentation would be to present the work of the Service for the support of victims and witnesses of criminal acts of gender-based violence, whose task is to facilitate the participation of every witness or victim of violence in the procedure by, first of all, providing them with the necessary information about the procedure itself, but also recognizing whether the victim needs further support from one of the civil society organizations or centers for social work and then refer them to one of them. The service provides support thanks to which a person who has suffered violence will be strengthened and persevere in the further process. Through the Service, injured persons receive timely information and become familiar with support services, which include information about what the procedure in which they will participate in looks like, their rights that they exercise and which they are usually not aware of before, namely that they have the right to the status of a particularly sensitive witness, an attorney at the expense of the state, they are informed who are the parties in the procedure, what each stage looks like, an explanation of legal terms, which organizations they can contact if they need other types of psychosocial support, without discrimination on any basis.

***Rational use of existing resources in the local community for the purpose of prevention and response to violence***

***Jasmina Nikolić***

*Victimology Society of Serbia, Serbia*

***Milka Milovanović-Minić***

*Centre for the Care of the Elderly, Children and Persons with Disabilities "Novi Beograd", Serbia*

***Marko Ranković***

*Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Police station Novi Beograd, Serbia*

***Ana Lazarov***

*City Centre for Social Work in Belgrade, Department Novi Beograd, Serbia*

The cooperation between the Victimology Society of Serbia and the City Center for Social Work Belgrade, Department Novi Beograd and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Police station Novi Beograd began in 2018. This year, the Center for the elderly, people with disabilities and children, Novi Beograd, is included in the cooperation. Cooperation is carried out through three types of activities aimed at preventing and reacting to violence: 1. Exchange of knowledge and good practices in order to increase the capacity of all actors to provide support for victims at the local level; 2. Informing and referring citizens; and 3. Providing direct support to victims. The importance of this type of cooperation is reflected in the rational use of existing resources at the local level in order to provide the most complete and easily accessible services. It is particularly important for victims that in this way they can receive information and support for a longer period of time, in their local community, which makes it easier for them to organize their daily business and private obligations. The aim of this paper is to present the experiences and challenges faced by organizations and institutions at the local level during previous cooperation, as well as proposals for improving cooperation and prevention and response to violence at the local level. In particular, the problems faced by especially vulnerable victims such as the elderly, people with disabilities and children will be analyzed. In the second part of the presentation, the perception of representatives of the City Center for Social Work, Department Novi Beograd, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Department Novi Beograd, the City Municipality of Novi Beograd, the City Secretariat for Social Protection and the Victimology Society of Serbia will be given on the importance of networking at the local level in order to prevent and respond. in the case of violence in general and domestic violence in particular.

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## **Thematic session 2: Victimization and social reaction**

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### **Relationship between violent victimization and some indicators of mental health**

***Prof. dr Irma Kovčo Vukadin***

*University of Zagreb, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, Croatia*

Mental health is a significant part of a person's overall health that is gaining increasing scientific interest. It affects a person's overall functioning-thinking, behavior, and interactions and is the basis for a person's subjective well-being. Criminological and victimological research has found a bi-directional relationship between violence and mental health problems. The results of numerous foreign studies show that mental health problems can be both negative outcomes of violent victimization and predictors of violent behavior. Previous research has mostly been conducted on clinical or court and correctional samples, so there is a need (especially because of the high rate of unreported cases of violent victimization) to determine the relationship between violent victimization and mental health indicators in the general population. The aim of the study was to determine the relationship between violence victimization and some mental health indicators. The study sample consists of 1,580 students from different study programs in Croatia. It was found that there are statistically significant differences in the severity of symptoms of depression, anxiety and stress, as well as in self-esteem and overall life satisfaction among students regarding their experiences with different forms of violent victimization (sexual violence, physical violence in childhood and adulthood, and emotional violence). The paper discusses the significance of the results obtained.

### **Family violence risk assessment and management**

***Prof. dr Ksenija Butorac***

***Suzana Kikić***

*University of Applied Science in Criminal Investigation and Public Security, Police Academy, Ministry of the Interior, Croatia*

The aim of this research is to examine the extent, structure and trends of domestic violence misdemeanors and felonies, socio-demographic characteristics of perpetrators with special reference to the analysis of the most common risk factors for the repetition of these punishable acts in the urban and rural areas of the Sisak-Moslavina Police Directorate in the period from 2018 until 2022. There is a continuing downward trend in the rate of misdemeanors, and at the same time, there is a tendency of increasing felonies with elements of domestic violence, the rate of which is almost six times higher than the incidence of these criminal offenses at the level of Croatia. Although, as a rule, men of vital age are the main perpetrators of domestic violence, it is noted that in the female sub-sample, female perpetrators living in the rural areas are represented relatively more often than in the urban environment. As for the modalities of violence, psychological violence prevails, and to a slightly lesser extent, psychological and physical violence are equally represented. A significant criminogenic factor is the excessive use of alcohol. It is an indicative indicator that violence is increasingly directed towards children, the elderly and people with special needs. Generally speaking, the analysis of risk factors for repeat misdemeanors or felonies of domestic violence indicates that the risk indicators in the observed cases are not established

or are marked as unknown in the majority of cases, and if they are established, they refer exclusively to the risk of repeating physical violence in the urban area. The fact that risks for sexual abuse are almost completely absent or found to be non-existent is also worrying. Therefore, recommendations and suggestions for improving risk assessment can be related to the need for further empirical verification of the following assumptions: police officers are not sufficiently trained to conduct interviews with perpetrators or sensitized to interview victims of domestic violence; the police does not have sufficient or adequate personnel or human resource management that could meet the needs related to the prevalence of domestic violence in the concerned population and the related area; the checklist of 56 variables is too large, as such it leads to more superficial approach to the risk assessment; lack of motivation due to additional time and professional over workload for police officers taking into account the successive performance of multiple tasks in the daily work routine of police officers.

### **Do we recognize child witnesses of domestic violence as victims?**

***Ivana Milosavljević-Đukić***

*Centre for the Protection of Infants, Children and Youth; College of Social Work Belgrade, Serbia*

***Tanja Ignjatović***

*Autonomous Women's Centre, Serbia*

The family, as the primary social group, should provide the child with protection, security and love. However, there are families that can be the source of a child's most intense vulnerability. In these families, children may be exposed to different types of violence or may witness domestic violence. This paper aims to present the position of child witnesses of domestic violence in the family legal protection of children, by reviewing key international and domestic standards (laws and policies), research and practice analysis. Although the Republic of Serbia guarantees the right to a safe family environment with a large number of international and national legal instruments, numerous professionals in the child protection system still do not recognize child witnesses of domestic violence as victims. Children are not only victims of domestic violence when directly affected, but also as witnesses in all situations when they are exposed to acts of violence that one family member perpetrates on other members. Children are exposed to violence in the family, when they directly observe the violence, but also when they hear sounds, blows, screams from another room, or when they see the consequences of violence against a family member (bruises, injuries) or feel them (sadness, low mood, fear), see the intervention of the police, emergency and social services, or when they hear relatives and people around them retelling acts of violence. Contemporary findings confirm that exposure to domestic violence has a negative impact on various spheres of child development (immediate or delayed, short-term or long-term). That is why it is necessary for professionals who participate in child protection, to recognize children who are witnesses of domestic violence as victims so that these children also receive immediate protection of emotional and physical safety, the necessary help and support and realize their inalienable rights, which is also the right to a safe childhood.

## **116 006: Change begins with a call – statistical analysis of calls and practical experiences**

*Ivana Andrijašević*

*Ena Juričić*

*Veronika Koštal*

*Natalia Marincil*

*Mateja Meštrović,*

*Franjo Lovro Popović*

*Ivana Prović*

*Maja Štahan*

*Maja Vdović*

*Victims and Witness Support Service, Croatia*

National Call Center for Victims of Crime – 116 006 (NPC) is a free and anonymous helpline for providing support to victims and witnesses. It is available 24/7 to every Croatian citizen, including weekends, holidays and other non-working days. Through the broad support available at any moment during the criminal procedure, we ensure its adequacy and comprehensiveness, which is indicated by 16,000 callers who have received information and a clear message that they are not alone. By providing legal, practical information and emotional support, as well as connecting them with other organizations and institutions, NPC plays an important role in empowering and encouraging victims and witnesses. With supportive and informative conversations, but also by encouraging the callers to regain control, we strive not only to mitigate unpleasant reactions after stressful or traumatic experience, but also to facilitate a long-term recovery through prevention of revictimization and retraumatization. The goal of this presentation is the analysis of the work of NPC in the period from 2013 to 2022. Sociodemographic data and an analysis of differences in gender and age will be presented. We will point out most common questions and needs, as well as criminal offences that callers experience. We will also focus on gender-based violence that requires a particularly sensitive approach. Moreover, the differences between victims and witnesses related to reactions to the crime and provided forms of support will be shown. Activities and progress of NPC will also be discussed. In the conclusion, the limitations of the work will be presented, as well as the directions for further development. With this, we want to point out the need to empower victims and witnesses through an individualized and informed approach, as well as institutions and non-governmental organizations that provide support to those who suffer the consequences of a criminal offence.

## **The problem of long-term prison sentences – How „to survive prison“?**

*Dr Nataša Tanjević*

*Deputy Protector of Citizens, Serbia*

Long-term prison sentences received a special place in their actuality with the abolition of the death penalty from the register of criminal sanctions. The length and manner of serving long-term prison sentences are often in contradiction with the obligation of human treatment, while preserving human dignity and preserving the life and health of those sentenced to these sentences. Representing the position that the punishment must not be reduced to retribution for the committed crime, and its execution to the mere implementation of the imposed sentence, but that something must be done with people while serving the sentence in order for the process of re-education, i.e. resocialization to be possible, the paper indicated to certain

problems related to the execution of long-term prison sentences, especially in light of the possibility of achieving the purpose of punishment. It was concluded that long prison sentences, especially if the majority of these sentences are served in closed departments of institutions, without the possibility of employment, education, professional development, participation in treatment and purposeful activities, etc., de-socialize prisoners, i.e. make them lose a sense of social values and relationships, all of which makes their social reintegration difficult upon release. Therefore, it was particularly pointed out that the system of execution of criminal sanctions should focus increased attention on more intensive treatment of these prisoners, implementation of the resocialization process and finding ways that will contribute to preserving the dignity, life and health of those sentenced to long prison terms, as well as their easier reintegration in society, after the end of the sentence.

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### **Thematic session 3: Different forms of victimization: research, legislation and practice**

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#### **Hawai'i's Multicultural Contexts and Victim Participants' Information Shuttled for Restorative Reentry Planning Circles**

***Lorenn Walker***

*Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice, College of Arts & Sciences and William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai'i (USA)*

***Dr Leela Bilmes***

*Goldstein, Punahou School, USA*

Hawai'i is a multicultural island state that has been experimenting with a facilitated restorative reentry planning circle process for incarcerated individuals who meet with loved ones. The circle process considers loved ones' needs for repairing harm, and the incarcerated person's needs for successful reentry including reconciliation with loved ones. When loved ones cannot attend a circle they are invited to provide information over the telephone or by email to the facilitator, who shares the information during the circle. This study analyzed participants' perceptions of how helpful it was for them to provide information about their needs having an incarcerated loved one. The authors predicted participants from high-context cultures would find the process less satisfying than those from low-context cultures, but the study found no differences. Despite identifying from a high- or low-context culture, all participants except one from a low-context culture, found that providing shuttled information was helpful.

#### **Home „Duga-Zagreb“ – The Victim in Focus**

***Maca Arlov Bokan***

***Senka Damjanović***

***Doria Jukić***

***Ivana Kvesić***

***Suzana Rožić***

*The Home for Children and Adults - Victims of Domestic Violence „Duga-Zagreb“, Croatia*

The presentation of the Home for Children and Adults - Victims of Domestic Violence „Duga-Zagreb“ presents four levels of assistance to victims of domestic violence. The goal is to show the activities of the institution, the ultimate purpose of which is the protection of victims of domestic violence. The shelter is a social welfare institution with a capacity of 40

places, founded in 2007 by the City of Zagreb. Since its establishment, 1,340 victims of domestic violence have found temporary accommodation in crisis situations in our institution. Psychosocial services are provided by two social workers, a lawyer and a psychologist, and in addition to the professional team, the shelter also has a technical team and a project department. The shelter provides physical and technical protection 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In addition to the shelter, since 2009, psychosocial treatment of perpetrators of domestic violence has also been carried out within the institution, which is located in a separate, publicly accessible location. Perpetrators of violence are referred to psychosocial treatment by court order, and the main goal is to change the perpetrator's violent patterns of behavior. Two psychologists and one social worker implement psychosocial treatment. In terms of services for citizens, since 2005, the Home has opened a counseling center whose legal, social and psychological counseling services are free and available every working day. Organized housing as the newest service is a form of de-institutional support for victims, which enables victims to be supported when leaving the shelter, and for the purpose of independence and further empowerment.

### **Twenty years of the VDS info and victim support service: Analysis of previous work**

*Milica Luković Radaković*

*Jasmina Nikolić*

*Victimology Society of Serbia, Serbia*

In 2003, in order to help victims to overcome the consequences of victimization and facilitate their recovery, the Victimology Society of Serbia established the VDS info and victim support service for victims as a special organizational unit, which provides support to victims of crime. What makes the Service specific is that it is still the only generic service in Serbia, which means that all victims of crime can be addressed, regardless of any personal characteristics and hurtful behavior they have experienced. Through information, emotional support, as well as connecting with other institutions and organizations, the victims have been empowered for twenty years through the Service, so that they can face complex consequences of the injury suffered and regain confidence in themselves and their environment. Over the past twenty years, a total of more than 6,500 calls to the Service were recorded by persons who were exposed to some hurtful behavior. Despite the numerous challenges the Service faced during its existence, thanks to the motivation and perseverance of its employees and volunteers, the Service managed to survive and maintain continuity in providing assistance and support to victims. The aim of the paper is to present the results of a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the work of the VDS Info and victim support service over the past 20 years, challenges and limitations in work and a personal perspective in providing help and support to victims.

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**Thematic session 4: International Panel on Universities and Sexual and Gender-Related Violence: Response Is Not Enough!**

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**Sexual and Gender-Related Violence in UK Universities: Response Is Not Enough!**

***Prof. dr Pam Alldred***

*School of Social Sciences, Nottingham Trent University, UK*

Taking a wide definition of the problem to include VAWG, homophobic or transphobic abuse, a complex picture of shocking incidents and responsible condemnation is apparent. UK law is helpful in its definition of sexual consent, with attention to capacity and freedom to consent; with recognition of rape within marriage; and the suggestion of age bands e.g. 13-16 year olds. There seems increased public awareness and problematisation, but simultaneous the misogynistic views of far right influencers worry teachers about to discuss violence without being 'political'. Today's news (29/9/23) includes reports of both an incident and a response: the killing of a 15 year old girl in London seemingly for declining a teenaged boy's advances, and the suspension from his job with a TV channel of an actor for making sexually objectifying comments about a journalist and the TV interviewer who smiled at his comments. Evidence on SGRV in universities have been provided by student, government, campaigning and trades union reports, and highlight the ubiquity of abuse, context of misogyny in HE (Sundaram and Jackson 2019; Stead 2022) and the intersection of race with gender (Sundaram et al 2023). In the UK, universities have a duty of care for students, good equalities law to demonstrate they abide by, but responsibilities for the education of all students and can therefore be reluctant to remove an alleged perpetrator from a class. 24 universities' introduced training for staff to respond to disclosures in a European study (USVreact/eu) and PhD studies of response (e.g. Shannon 2021) evidence some of their limitations. Many universities run some form of consent education for students. The neoliberal context is key in shaping university responses that Phipps (2021) describes as protecting their reputation more than their student survivors' wellbeing, but prevention approaches insist that universities who discuss SGRV are being responsible and proactive and should not worry about reputational damage or reduced student applications. Some universities adopt general strategies like 'Ask Angela', and equalities work goes on by universities, Students' Unions and student feminist campaigns.

**Perspectives and challenges for a comprehensive approach to gender related violence in universities: The Catalan case**

***Prof. dr Barbara Biglia***

*Department of Pedagogy, University Rovira and Virgili, Spain*

In the last 15 years, the legal approach to tackling gender-related violences in Catalan universities has greatly evolved. As we will detail in this presentation, thanks to the learning of the European project USVReact and the Catalan SeGReVCatMex, this had been mainly possible for the impressive work realised by committed feminist academics and technicians. In this sense, the 2020 modification of the Catalan Machist Violent Law (5/2008) introduced interesting elements that pass over a criminalistic approach in the tackling of GRV within educational institutions. More recently, and more deeply, the framework protocol created by the feminist department of the Catalan government exhorts institutions to assume due diligence in the case of GRV and put restoration as a key measure. However, its full



implementation is all but easy or linear. Firstly, it is not clear which economic and human resources will be supplied to implement this. For example, most training, like the one designed within USVreact project, depends on budget allocations (Pacto de estado contra la violencia de género) that arrive discontinuously and force a certain amount of improvisation. Secondly, university autonomy implies that this document will be adapted by each institution, fragmenting the responses. Moreover, the protocol does not specify the control mechanisms of its implementation giving rise to situations of helplessness. Thirdly, there is not a collection of incidents, and the problem is still underestimated and mostly understood through homogenising lenses. The two surveys designed through a collaborative process within the project SeGReVUni, one for the whole community and one for “survivors” and their closer bystanders, may be useful to overcome this limit. In fact, they do not just aim to map the problem but also to show how power relations and intersectionality affect its expression, development, and resolution. Last but not least, we must reflect on how (and if) a hierarchical cisheteropatriarchal bureaucratic institution can acknowledge its responsibility for GRV without restructuring its own power organization and dynamics.

### **Project Universities and Gender Mainstreaming: Results and Perspectives**

***Prof. dr Gordana Lalić-Krstin***

*University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Philosophy, Serbia*

The goal of this paper is to present the UNIGEM project (University and Gender Mainstreaming), its objectives and results so far, with an overview of activities that have been implemented as part of this project at the University of Novi Sad. The UNIGEM project was initiated by the TPO Foundation from Sarajevo towards the end of 2021, with the aim of bringing together universities in the region in a common attempt to ensure gender equality in the university context and create a safe environment for both teachers and students. There are currently 19 universities from 4 countries (Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia) that are participating in the project and a large number of events have been organized in order to educate teaching and non-teaching staff and student populations, to promote gender equality issues, conduct research and publish research results, but also in order to establish contacts between the academic communities and enable cooperation in improving gender equality and implementing the gender equality plans. The paper presents project activities implemented at all 19 partner institutions from January to December 2022. A more detailed account is then given of those conducted at the University of Novi Sad and their short- and long-term effects, followed by a brief overview of the perspectives and activities to be implemented during the next stage of the project.

### **Sexual violence in Serbian universities:**

#### **Towards evidence-based prevention of sexual violence and victim support**

***Prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović***

***Prof. dr Sanja Čopić***

*Victimology Society of Serbia; University of Belgrade – Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, Serbia*

The aim of the paper is to demonstrate the theory of change in responding to sexual violence (SV) at the faculties in Serbia. The topic of SV in a variety of contexts, including universities, came to public attention recently both in Serbia and the region of former Yugoslavia. Ratification of the Istanbul Convention set a basis for legal and policy reforms

that, albeit some inconsistencies, improved states' response to gender-based and sexual violence. Cases of SV, including those occurred in the universities and other institutions of formal or informal education, initiated campaigns for raising public awareness and assist victims to speak up and get support (e.g. MeToo regional movement). Several EU-funded projects conducted in the region, such as UNIGEM and UNISAFE, enriched the knowledge on gender-based violence and sexual harassment in academic institutions. In 2021 Victimology Society of Serbia (VDS) conducted an online victimisation survey on SV against students on a sample of 1597 students at 22 faculties within six universities in Serbia. It revealed that SV is present at the faculties, but, students rarely report cases of SV, informing and training students and university staff for recognizing, preventing and suppressing SV is rare, while stereotypes and prejudice on SV persist. Therefore, the survey data informed further intervention directed towards strengthening mechanisms for prevention of SV and victim support. First codes of conduct for preventing and suppressing SV at the faculties were brought even before aforementioned steps, mainly initiated by particular cases of SV. Only recently some more systematic initiatives occurred. For example, in 2021 the University of Belgrade enacted the Code of conduct for preventing and suppressing sexual violence, obliging all member faculties to bring their codes or adjust the existing ones, appoint commissioners for equality, and put in place mechanisms for prompt response to SV cases and victim support. For efficient prevention and response to SV, it is necessary to build capacities of the university staff and students for gender-sensitive approach to and treatment of victims of SV. In 2022 VDS developed and implemented the 'first response/support' training, which was informed by knowledge and experience gained through the USVreact project, as well as the 2021 survey data. The training was conducted at eight faculties in Serbia. The survey findings and the training evaluation set a basis for proposing and influencing changes to policies and practice at the selected faculties in addressing SV cases, which will be presented.

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## **Thematic session 5: Victims, victimization and social reaction**

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### **The scope of the application of restorative justice in prison**

*Prof. dr Danica Vasiljević-Prodanović*

*Antonija Raspopović, MA*

*University of Belgrade - Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, Serbia*

Restorative justice, as a model of reaction to crime, attracts the attention of penologists, lawyers, special pedagogues and other experts who focus on the treatment of convicted persons. The purpose of restorative justice is to repair the broken relationships between the perpetrator, the victim, and society. Regardless of all the advantages, the question arises whether restorative justice is even possible to apply in totalitarian institutions, such as those for the execution of criminal sanctions. Prisons have always been institutions where the retributive model of reaction to crime was applied, becoming over time one of its symbols. The subject of the paper is an analysis of the scope of restorative justice in prison. Through this work, the authors strive to provide an answer to one of the most important questions of contemporary penology - whether, and under what conditions, restorative justice in prison is possible. Two models of restorative justice in prison will be considered in this paper - mediation between the perpetrator and the victim of a criminal offense, and mediation as conflict resolution between convicted persons during their stay in prison. Mediation between the perpetrator of the criminal act and the victim can occur in two forms, as a dialogue

between the victim and the perpetrator who are connected by the same criminal event, or as a meeting between the convict and the victim's surrogate. The second model involves training of convict-mediators who help other convicts to resolve the conflict (as in the example of the peaceful table program). Authors aim to point out new ways of applying restorative justice. Although the paper has a theoretical character, the proposals presented in this paper are also important for penological practice.

### **Hentig's typology as a starting point for the creation of new classifications of victims**

***Dr Filip Mirić***

*University of Niš, Faculty of Law, Serbia*

***Jovana Kostić, MA***

*Lawyer office in Leskovac, Serbia*

One of the most important typologies of victims was created by Hans von Hentig and published in his book *The Criminal and His Victim* (1948). The subject of the paper is the analysis of concepts established by Hentig with his typology (criminal-victim combination, latent victim and criminal-victim relationship). The paper will also show the most important characteristics of each type of victim, which Hentig included in his phenomenological typology of victims (minors, women, old, intellectually disabled people, immigrants, members of minorities, dull-normal, depressed, easy on wealth, lonely, disappointed, eager for life, blocked and bored victims). The work has a theoretical character and in it, in addition to methods of analyzing the content of different typologies of victims, a historical method will also be used, because the classifications of victims were made in different periods of the development of victimology as a science. Although it is the first scientific typology of victims, which represents the basis for the development of victimology, it has not been overcome in any way. The aim of the paper is to connect Hentig's typology of victims with later typologies and thus create a rounded whole that will represent a solid basis for further research in this area and the creation of some new typologies of victims. What is the importance of creating new typologies of victims? In addition to theoretical and scientific, they also have practical significance. Namely, the constant improvement of the classifications of victims, according to the author, contributes to the improvement of the legal and social position of victims because the scope of persons who can acquire the status of victim is expanding. Taking into account everything stated, the authors believe that, using Hentig's division as a basic one, it is possible to make new divisions of victims that would be based on a more complete study of the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim.

### **Victimization of citizens on the basis of discrimination**

***Prof. dr Tatjana Gerginova***

*Faculty of Security-Skopje, University "Sv. Kliment Ohridski" - Bitola, North Macedonia*

Within the framework of the paper, the author analyzes the legal position of the victims based on discrimination. The author analyzes the terms discrimination, direct and indirect discrimination, calling, incitement and instruction for discrimination, according to the Law on Prevention and Protection from Discrimination in the Republic of North Macedonia. The author analyzes the terms harassment and hate speech as well as elements of hate speech. Within the framework of the paper, the author analyzes the reasons – Why citizens do not report discrimination. The subject of research is the victimization of citizens based on

discrimination with reference to hate speech. The purpose of the paper is to determine the obligation of the state to provide assistance to the citizens, to understand the problem and the state of mind of the victim, and to enable them to exercise their rights through the analysis of the rights of the victims based on discrimination. Human rights education is needed, especially acquiring knowledge in the area of combating discrimination. Namely, citizens must be informed about their rights to equal opportunities and the right to live without discrimination. It is necessary to conduct public campaigns that will be organized by the state in order to spread knowledge about the rights of potential victims of discrimination, but also with a message that discriminatory behavior will not be tolerated.

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# POSTER PRESENTATION

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## **Yoga as a part of self-care: contribution to prevention of victimisation and victim support**

***Prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović***

*Victimology Society of Serbia; University of Belgrade– Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, Serbia*

This poster presentation aims to present possible contribution of yoga to the prevention of victimisation and victim support. Positive impact of yoga on physical and psychological health of people is known from long time ago. Serbian Law on health protection recognises yoga as a form of traditional medicine that can be used in both disease prevention and rehabilitation. Bearing that in mind, yoga should have important place within self-care of every person. In line with the meaning of the word yoga in Sanskrit (unity of body, mind and soul), yoga has an impact on physical, mental and spiritual level, i.e. through physical exercises (asana), breathing exercises, meditation and relaxation. Yoga puts special emphasis on awareness about one's body, mind, soul as well as surrounding. After defining yoga and short overview of experiences of using yoga with victims and those who support them, both in Serbia and in the world, three short exercises will be described that can be done on one's own. Exercises contribute to increase of awareness and connection with one's body and emotions, as well as to re-establishment of inner balance and peace.

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### List of participants

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Aleksandra Ivanković  
[a.ivankovic@victimsupporteurope.eu](mailto:a.ivankovic@victimsupporteurope.eu)

Ana Lazarov  
[ana.lazarov@gcsrbg.org](mailto:ana.lazarov@gcsrbg.org)

Anđela Pejović  
[andjelapejovic27@gmail.com](mailto:andjelapejovic27@gmail.com)

Antonija Raspopović  
[tonci9650@gmail.com](mailto:tonci9650@gmail.com)

Barbara Biglia  
[barbara.biglia@urv.cat](mailto:barbara.biglia@urv.cat)

Danica Vasiljević-Prodanović  
[vp.danica@gmail.com](mailto:vp.danica@gmail.com)

Dušica Dimitrijević  
[dussicadimitrijevic@gmail.com](mailto:dussicadimitrijevic@gmail.com)

Filip Mirić  
[filip.miric@gmail.com](mailto:filip.miric@gmail.com)

Gordana Lalić-Krstin  
[gordana.lalic.krstin@ff.uns.ac.rs](mailto:gordana.lalic.krstin@ff.uns.ac.rs)

Imola Soroš  
[imola.soros@osce.org](mailto:imola.soros@osce.org)

Irma Kovčo Vukadin  
[irma.kovco.vukadin@erf.unizg.hr](mailto:irma.kovco.vukadin@erf.unizg.hr)

Ivana Milosavljević-Đukić  
[imdjukic@gmail.com](mailto:imdjukic@gmail.com)

Ivana Prović  
[npc@pzs.hr](mailto:npc@pzs.hr)

Jasmina Krštenić  
[jasmina.krstenic@aepa.org.rs](mailto:jasmina.krstenic@aepa.org.rs)

Jasmina Nikolić  
[vdsrbija@gmail.com](mailto:vdsrbija@gmail.com)

Jo-Anne Wemmers  
[jo-anne.m.wemmers@umontreal.ca](mailto:jo-anne.m.wemmers@umontreal.ca)

Jovana Kostić  
[kostic.jovanna@gmail.com](mailto:kostic.jovanna@gmail.com)

Ksenija Butorac  
[ksenija.butorac@gmail.com](mailto:ksenija.butorac@gmail.com)

Leela Goldstein  
[lbilmes@gmail.com](mailto:lbilmes@gmail.com)

Lorenn Walker  
[lorenn@hawaii.edu](mailto:lorenn@hawaii.edu)

Maca Arlov Bokan  
[arlov@duga-zagreb.hr](mailto:arlov@duga-zagreb.hr)

Marko Ranković  
[rankovicmarko@hotmail.com](mailto:rankovicmarko@hotmail.com)

Milica Luković Radaković  
[lukovic.milica.vds@gmail.com](mailto:lukovic.milica.vds@gmail.com)

Milka Milovanović Minić  
[milka.milovanovic.minic@novibeogr.rs](mailto:milka.milovanovic.minic@novibeogr.rs)

Mirjana Dokmanović  
[mirad@eunet.rs](mailto:mirad@eunet.rs)

Nataša Novaković  
[Natasa.Novakovic@osce.org](mailto:Natasa.Novakovic@osce.org)

Nataša Tanjević  
[tanjevicn@gmail.com](mailto:tanjevicn@gmail.com)

Nikica Hamer Vidmar  
[Nikica.Hamer@pravosudje.hr](mailto:Nikica.Hamer@pravosudje.hr),  
[Nikica.HamerVidmar@mpu.hr](mailto:Nikica.HamerVidmar@mpu.hr)

Nataša Peovska  
[natasa.akademija@yahoo.com](mailto:natasa.akademija@yahoo.com)

Oliver Bačanović  
[bacanovicoliver@gmail.com](mailto:bacanovicoliver@gmail.com)

Pam Alldred  
[pam.allred@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:pam.allred@ntu.ac.uk)

Sanja Čopić  
[sanja.copic011@gmail.com](mailto:sanja.copic011@gmail.com)

Suzana Kikić  
[skikic@mup.hr](mailto:skikic@mup.hr), [skikic66@gmail.com](mailto:skikic66@gmail.com)

Tanja Ignjatović  
[tanja@azc.org.rs](mailto:tanja@azc.org.rs)

Tatjana Gerginova  
[tatjana.gerginova@uklo.edu.mk](mailto:tatjana.gerginova@uklo.edu.mk)

Tijana Mitrašević  
[tijanamitrasevic@gmail.com](mailto:tijanamitrasevic@gmail.com)

Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović  
[vnikolicristanovic@gmail.com](mailto:vnikolicristanovic@gmail.com)

Vesna Stefanovska  
[vstefanovska77@gmail.com](mailto:vstefanovska77@gmail.com)