

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is our pleasure to invite you to the *XIII Annual Conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia* entitled *Victim Support and Victimization Prevention: Challenges and Perspectives*, which will be held on *23rd and 24th November 2023 in Belgrade*, Hotel Palace, Topličin venac 23.

The conference aims to bring together experts and researchers, who deal both theoretically and practically and from the perspective of different disciplines with victims' rights and provide assistance to victims of crime, human rights' violations and other forms of suffering, and enable comprehensive exchange of experience and knowledge.

Within the main conference topic, special attention will be devoted to the analysis of challenges and perspectives regarding *victim support*, on the one hand, and *prevention of victimization*, on the other, as well as to their mutual connection and importance of timely, adequate and needsbased victim support for the prevention of re-victimization, re-traumatization and secondary victimization. Bearing in mind the current social context, these topics will be also analysed in the context of the suffering of a large number of victims in two mass murders that shook Serbia in May this year, with the aim of arriving at ideas about adequate forms of assistance to victims and developing effective strategies for the prevention of victimizations.

The conference work will be organized through:

- Plenary sessions
- Thematic sessions
- Workshops
- Poster presentations

Keynote speakers

Prof. dr Jo-Anne Wemmers: Preventing victimization by supporting victims



Prof. dr Jo-Anne Wemmers obtained her doctorate in criminology from the Faculty of Law at the University of Leiden (The Netherlands). She is currently a full Professor at the School of Criminology of the University of Montreal (Canada), and researcher at the *International Centre for Comparative Criminology*, where she leads the research group on *Victims, Rights and Society* and runs the *Justice Centre for Victims of Crimes* (www.cjvac.ca). Former Secretary General of the *World Society of Victimology* (2006-2009), she has published widely in the areas of victimology, international criminal justice, and restorative justice. Her books include *Victimology: A Canadian Perspective* (University of

Toronto Press 2017) and *Reparation for Victims of Crimes Against Humanity* (Routledge 2014). She has been a visiting professional at the *International Criminal Court* (The Hague) and a visiting fellow at several universities including the University of Tilburg (*INTERVICT*) and the University of Leuven. In 2015, she was awarded a *Certificate of Appreciation* by the *World Society of Victimology* for her contribution to victimology. She is currently Editor of the *International Review of Victimology* and member of the Editorial Board of the *Temida*.

Aleksandra Ivanković: Supporting victims after mass victimisations



Aleksandra Ivanković is the Deputy Director in the Victim Support Europe (Belgium). She is a widely respected human rights lawyer with a passion for justice and equality for all. She has supported several international organisations, governments and NGOs and has developed her capacities in this field of rights of women and persons with disabilities, linking her work with some key human rights agencies and procedures. Before joining VSE in February 2017, Aleksandra has worked at the European Court of Human Rights, litigated on behalf of victims with disabilities and managed several European human rights projects. As of 2020, in addition to her regular duties as Deputy Director, Aleksandra is also Operations Manager at the European

Center of Expertise for Victims of Terrorism (EUCVT) - a project of the European Commission entrusted with the management of Victim Support Europe. It is also a member of the International Network for Victims of Terrorism and Mass Victimization (INVICTM). She is the author of numerous articles and publications, and has participated in numerous conferences, trainings, and in an official and personal capacity was engaged as an expert in numerous international projects.

Nataša Novaković and Imola Soroš: Establishing the system of victim and witness support in the Republic of Serbia in the period 2018-2023



Nataša Novaković is the Head of the Department for Human Rights and Criminal Justice System in the OSCE Mission to Serbia. She initiated and, through the support of the OSCE Mission, supported the design and introduction of a number of new institutes into the legal system of Serbia, such as alternative sanctions and measures, National Preventive Mechanism, system of complaints in the prison system, protection of persons with mental disorders in psychiatric hospitals, establishment of victim support services in higher courts and prosecutor's offices, use of dogs in the treatment of convicted persons, use of video link connection during the hearing of victims and witnesses, etc. She participated in drafting of a number of strategies, laws, by-laws, manuals and

instructions in the field of criminal law and human rights protection. For more than ten years, he has been actively working on establishing a victim and witness support system in the Republic of Serbia.



Imola Soroš is a Legal Advisor at the Department on the Rule of Law and Human Rights in the OSCE Mission to Serbia. Since 2015, she has been implementing the activities of the OSCE Mission in Serbia, which aim to improve the rights of victims and establish a national victim and witness support system in Serbia, and since 2018 she has been employed on the EU funded project entitled "Support to victims and witnesses of

criminal offences in Serbia”. She completed her undergraduate studies at the Faculty of Law, University of Novi Sad, and attended postgraduate studies in the field of human rights at the Central European University in Budapest and the National University of Ireland in Galway. Her professional areas of interest are international human rights, victims' rights and refugee law.

Nikica Hamer Vidmar: Continuous development of sustainable system of victim and witness support in the Republic of Croatia – focusing on victims and support providers



Nikica Hamer Vidmar is a psychology professor, licensed psychotherapist and supervisor who has been dealing with the topic of trauma and victim assistance and support since 1993. Since 2006, employed within the justice system, she has been developing a support system for victims and witnesses. She currently serves as the Head of the Service for victims and witnesses, in the Ministry of Justice and Public Administration of the Republic of Croatia. With her colleagues, she coordinates and develops a support system following international standards, recommendations, legislation, designing national programs that provide implementation of new models of informing victims and ensuring adequate support and information. Through research work and written articles, participation in national and international networks and working groups as well as operational bodies, she contributes to the exchange of experiences and best practices. Through the cooperation with the Police Academy and the Judicial Academy, she participates as a trainer at trainings and workshops on the topics of victim support, victims’ needs, trauma, and stress.

Lorenn Walker and dr Leela Bilmes Goldstein: Hawai‘i’s Multicultural Contexts and Victim Participants’ Information Shuttled for Restorative Reentry Planning Circles



Lorenn Walker directs Hawai‘i Friends of Restorative Justice, is an Associate Professor of practice for the College of Arts & Sciences, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, Lecturer at William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai‘I (USA). She studies how people learn, increase resiliency, and address trauma and social problems. Her work focuses on finding ways to systemically shift using the criminal legal system for social problems to more helpful processes. She has authored over 60 publications, has trained thousands, and has facilitated hundreds of restorative meetings. She is a Senior Fulbright Specialist for peacemaking and conflict management.



Dr Leela Bilmes Goldstein is the Director of Advancement Services at Punahou School and Former Executive Director of Women’s Fund of Hawaii, a state-wide grant-making organization. She received three degrees from UC Berkeley, the most recent of which was a PhD in Linguistics. Besides Hawaii and California, Leela has also attended university and worked in Thailand and France. She serves on the boards of the Women's Funding Network, Abilities Unlimited Hawaii, and Hawaii Friends of Restorative Justice, where she is Board Chair. She was honored to be selected USA Today’s 2022 Woman of the Year – Hawaii Honoree and one of Pacific Business News’ 2018

Women Who Mean Business for her non-profit work and is passionate about social justice. She has co-authored several papers on the status of women in Hawaii.

Call for abstracts is available [HERE](#).

Information on conference fee and registration is available [HERE](#).

For additional information about the conference, please address Ms. Milica Luković Radaković at +381112288040 or via email vdsconference@gmail.com and vdsrbija@gmail.com.

We would kindly ask you to forward this message to anyone who might be interested in participating in the Conference.

Sincerely yours,

Jasmina Nikolić
Director of the Victimology Society of Serbia