



Dear Sir/Madam,

It is our pleasure to invite you to the *XIV Annual Conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia* entitled *Caring for victims and routes to recovery*, which will be held on *28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024 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 who provide assistance, protection and care to victims of crime, human rights' violations and other forms of suffering, and enable comprehensive exchange of experience and knowledge. A special focus will be on identifying innovative approaches to support victims on their road to recovery.

Caring for victims involves a holistic and multidisciplinary approach and seeking for effective pathways to recovery while continually empowering victim and restoring her/his agency. This is particularly important in the contemporary social context, characterized by various forms of victimization at different levels. Globally, wars, international terrorism, and other forms of mass victimization, ecological crimes, violence against women and children, are part of everyday life for people around the world, creating numerous victims who need help and support to overcome the consequences of victimization and find pathways to recovery. These are some of the topics that will be analysed and discussed during the two-day conference.

The conference work will be organized through:

- Plenary sessions
- Thematic sessions
- Round tables/workshops
- Poster presentations

## Keynote speakers:

### *Protecting sexual integrity and autonomy through criminal law at EU level: EU Directive on combatting violence against women and domestic violence, and issues of consent*



**Prof. dr Nina Peršak** is Scientific Director and Senior Research Fellow of the Institute for Criminal-Law Ethics and Criminology in Ljubljana and Full Professor of Law (habilitation) of the University of Maribor (Slovenia). Prof. dr Peršak is academic consultant of Ghent University, Belgium, Co-Director of the Working Group 'Equity and Criminal Justice' of the Berkeley Center on Comparative Equality & Anti-Discrimination Law, UC Berkeley, and an expert member of the European Commission's Expert Group on EU Criminal Policy. Her research engages with issues of criminalization, violence, incivilities, human rights, (EU) criminal law and legitimacy of regulation and control of various social phenomena. She has taught victimological courses at the Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security, University of Maribor in Ljubljana and Faculty of Law, Ghent University in Ghent (Belgium). She is a member of the Advisory Board of the academic journal *Temida*.

### *Preparing for and responding to incidents of terrorism, mass violence and mass casualty events: The victim-centered approach*



**Sue O'Sullivan** had a thirty-year career in policing, holding numerous leadership positions until retiring as Deputy Chief of Police in Ottawa (Canada). From 2010 to 2017, she served as Canada's Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime. She is currently the Chair of the International Network Supporting Victims of Terrorism and Mass Violence and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police National Working Group Supporting Victims of Terrorism and Mass Violence, a founding member of Victim Support Asia, a member of the International Victims Focus Group for Operation Kenova (Northern Ireland), the Deputy Chair of the Counter Terrorism Preparedness Network - Humanitarian Assistance and Psychosocial Support Expert Group and a member of the ICRC Missing Persons Global Community. She is also an Executive Director of LinCT-AA Canada. She received the 2022 World Society of Victimology's 'Irene Melup Certificate of Appreciation'.

### *Taking care of the spirit - spiritual victimology in practice*



**Prof. dr Natti Ronel** is a Full Professor of criminology at Bar-Ilan University (Israel). Prof. dr Ronel is a licensed clinical criminologist who works in the fields of addiction, violence, and recovery after being victimized. He is the developer of positive criminology and victimology and of spiritual criminology and victimology. Prof. dr Ronel also developed GraceWay - a spiritually-oriented therapy. Recently, Natti has been involved with the study and assimilation of forgiveness therapy in Israel. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the academic journal *Temida*.

### *Restorative justice perspective on victim's healing journey*



**Dr Petra Masopust Šachová** is a legal expert, academic and restorative justice advocate who strives for its broad involvement in the Czech criminal law, both at the theoretical and policy level as well as in practice (Czech Republic). Dr Masopust Šachová is leading the Czech Institute for Restorative Justice (NGO) and is involved in several governmental and non-governmental platforms on criminal justice, policy and restorative justice agenda. In the same time, she serves as a Secretary of the European Forum for Restorative Justice where she focuses on policy issues, agenda of gender-based violence and governance of the organization. She regularly publishes and gives lectures on criminal law and restorative justice to law students and legal experts, both in the country and abroad (Law Faculty, Palacky University; Justice Academy).

### *Mass murders in Serbia: Care for victims between the individual and systemic approaches*



**Veran Matić** is the founder and editor of B92, a radio and television station that has been changing Serbia for decades. He edits the portal javniservis.net, leads the Serbian Philanthropic Forum, the B92 Fund and the Association of Independent Electronic Media. As an envoy of the President of the Republic of Serbia, he deals with solving the issue of disappeared persons in wars with the Republic of Croatia, leads the Commission for Investigating Murders of Journalists, coordinates activities related to the protection of journalists. He is the recipient of numerous international and domestic journalistic

awards, he was chosen as one of the 50 world heroes of press freedom after the Second World War, he is the recipient of the French Legion of Honour, the German Order of Merit and the Sretenje Medal of honour.

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 [vdconference@gmail.com](mailto:vdconference@gmail.com) and [vdsrbija@gmail.com](mailto: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