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ANNUAL PLAN OF THE  
VICTIMOLOGY  
SOCIETY OF SERBIA

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FOR 2023

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## **ANNUAL PLAN OF THE VICTIMOLOGY SOCIETY OF SERBIA FOR 2023**

During 2023, it is planned to continue and further work on the activities that the Victimology Society of Serbia-VDS has been engaged in until now, as well as the start and initiation of new activities. In this sense, the planned activities are:

### **I General**

1. Further develop the organizational and personnel structure of the VDS.
2. Develop new and amend the existing legal acts, such as the Rulebook on publishing activities, Ethical codex and etc., as well as strategic documents of the VDS.
3. Continue to involve professionals and young people in the VDS membership and activities as well as develop stronger professional cooperation among VDS members.
4. Continuation and further development of cooperation with faculties, state institutions, independent bodies and civil society organizations in the country and international cooperation.
5. Promotion, expansion and finding new options for volunteer work
6. To regularly notify the VDS members via mailing list VDS info.
7. To regularly update the VDS web site, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter.
8. Searching for funds for projects and further developing a longer-term and more stable financing strategy.

### **II Assistance and support to victims of crime**

1. Work on further development of the victim support service VDS info and victim support through:
  - a. Providing information and other types of assistance and support to crime victims. A special focus will be on providing support to women victims of gender-based violence, within the framework of the projects: : *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* (Kvinna till Kvinna), Capacity building and support for groups for coordination and cooperation in response to domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence (UN Women, European Commission), Formation of a national telephone SOS lines for women with experience of gender-based violence that will work according to feminist principles (OAK foundation). Beside that, focus will also be on providing psychosocial support to women victims of all kind of partner violence, especially psychological kind, aiming to build own capacities to end the violence (continuing to pimplement the program From victim to winner).
  - b. Providing licences for support services and experts who work with victims.
  - c. Updating the database of state institutions and civil society organizations that provide assistance and support to victims which is available on the VDS website.
  - d. Updating and use of a special page on the VDS website called Forum for experts who work with victims, which should serve as a resource center and platform for the exchange of experiences, knowledge and examples of good

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practice in dealing with cases of domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence which was created within the project Strengthening capacities and support to groups for coordination and cooperation in response to domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence (UN Women, European Commission).

- e. Monitoring and analysis of the work of the Service (monthly and yearly level).
- f. Strengthening the positioning of the Service at the local level and cooperation with local partners (police, Center for Social Work and etc.)
- g. Strengthening the capacity of the Service through:
  - g.i. Cooperation with European support for victims;
  - g.ii. Cooperation with organizations and institutions that provide help and support to victims, especially victims of gender-based violence in Serbia (through the Women Against Violence Network project)
  - g.iii. Strengthening regional cooperation;
  - g.iv. Continuous education of persons involved in the work of the Service.

### **III Advocating for the implementation of existing legal solutions and further changes in law and practice, especially equating them with international and European standards**

1. Advocating for improving the status of victims and establishing a national victim support system (through participation in the work of the National Convention on the European Union (NCEU) specifically, in working groups for monitoring negotiations related to Articles 23 Justice and Fundamental Rights and 24 Justice, Freedom and Security, etc.) (ongoing activities).
2. Continuation of efforts to improve the services and position of women who have survived male violence within the framework of the *Women Against Violence Network* and the project *Establishing a national telephone SOS line for women with experience of gender-based violence that will work according to feminist principles*.
3. Continuation of cooperation with the Protector of Citizens in carrying out the work of the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture.
4. Advocating for the establishment and improvement of support mechanisms for victims of sexual violence at colleges (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, Kvinna till Kvinna*).
5. Advocating for the improvement of the work of groups for coordination and cooperation in dealing with cases of domestic violence and other forms of violence according to the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence, including distribution of recommendations for improvement of the work of groups which were formed within the project Strengthening capacities and support for groups for coordination and cooperation in response to domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence (*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, Kvinna till Kvinna*).

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6. Monitoring court proceedings in cases of domestic violence, discrimination and abuse at work aiming for further engaging in improvement of practice (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, Kvinna till Kvinna*).
7. Advocating for the establishment of a national SOS telephone line for women victims of violence (through the Women Against Violence Network).
8. Advocating for securing sustainability of the fund for urgent support for victims.

### **IV Advocating for raising public awareness about the status of victims and their rights**

1. Marking the European Day of Victims, 22 February.
2. Marking the Day of Remembrance of the killed women victims of violence, May 18.
3. Marking 16 days of activism against violence against women.
4. Continuation of activities on the project *Power of Change-Power of Prevention of Gender-Based Violence in Serbia*, which should contribute to the reduction of harmful, gender-based stereotypes associated with discrimination and violence against women and girls through raising the level of knowledge and information of young people and influencing the change of negative attitudes and behavior.
5. Representation of the members of the VDS in the media in order to raise public awareness of the victims, their needs, rights and problems.

### **V Research**

1. Continuation of work on collecting and analysis of the data on the work of coordination and cooperation groups.
2. Continuation of the activities of the research group on femicide to collect data for the European observatory on femicide.
3. Encouragement of new victimology researches (for example, in the field of green victimology, traffic delinquency, obstetrician violence and etc.) Competing for projects that will include a research component

### **VI Education**

1. Implementation of accredited training programs (specialist course on gender-based violence, training on identification, assistance and protection of male victims of human trafficking, training for working with victims of violence).
2. Implementation of training to strengthen the capacity to respond to sexual violence at faculties in Serbia (within the project *Advocacy for the rights of victims of gender-based violence in general and specifically of domestic,*

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*work-related, and violence in the educational and other institutions, Kvinna till Kvinna).*

3. Realization of the training *From victim to winner: using one's own capacities to get out of violence* (through the Women Against Violence Network).

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

1. Organizing the annual VDS conference.
2. Organizing forums with representatives of trade unions, professional associations, labor inspectorates and companies with the aim of raising awareness about gender-based violence and discrimination against women in the labor market and ways of preventing and responding to them, as well as advocating for the improvement of gender equality and women's labor rights (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, Kvinna till Kvinna*).
3. Organizing forums on sexual and gender-based violence at colleges with the aim of raising awareness of these forms of victimization and existing mechanisms for their prevention and suppression (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, Kvinna till Kvinna*).
4. Organizing other gatherings as necessary and possible.

### **VIII Publishing activity**

1. Journal *Temida*
  - a. Improving the quality of the journal, especially in terms of progress through categorization from RS Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development.
  - b. Continue being evaluated by Thomas Reuters on order to include *Temida* in appropriate collections of the Web of Science (Social Sciences Citation Index).
  - c. Inclusion in other relevant databases of scientific journals in order to increase visibility and citations.
2. Publication of other publications according to possibilities and needs