



**The
Frontliners**

Functional • Funded • Future-Ready

2026 VSE Annual Conference Paris 2-3 June

Hosted by :



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the European Union

CONTENTS

01

Welcome

02

Interpretation

03

Programme

06

Social Event

07

Speakers

10

Side event conductors

12

Moderators

13

Partners

14

About

15

Contacts

16

Policy Papers

17

Victim Support
Europe Strategy
2026 – 2030

WELCOME

Victim Support Europe (VSE), together with **France Victimes**, is pleased to welcome you to the **Victim Support Europe Annual Conference 2026 (VSEAC2026) “The Frontliners: Functional, Funded, Future-Ready”**, taking place on **2–3 June 2026 in Paris**, at Espace Saint-Martin.

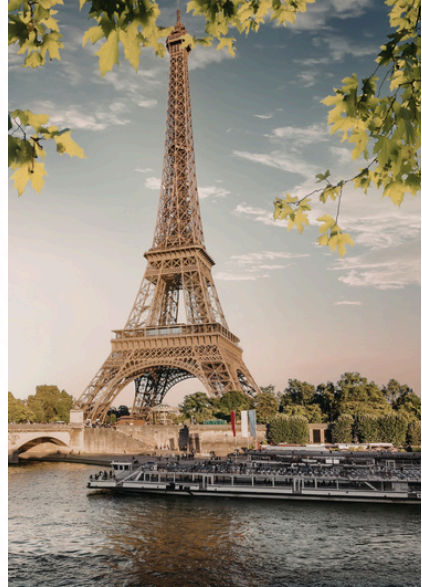
The 2026 conference takes place at a significant moment: 2026 marks a crucial European milestone with the adoption of the revised Victims' Rights Directive. This important development reaffirms and strengthens the European commitment to advancing victim support across the EU.

To mark this achievement, VSEAC2026 is organised as a platform to reflect on progress, highlight ongoing challenges, and strengthen cooperation across Europe — with a particular focus on translating legislative commitments into effective, sustainable support for victims.

Building on this legacy, VSEAC2026 shifts the focus from principles to practice — examining how victim support services operate, how they are sustained, and how they must evolve in a changing social, political, and economic environment.

Under the theme **“Functional, Funded, Future-Ready”**, VSEAC2026 is a deliberately practical conference. It asks a simple but pressing question:

How do we ensure victim support services work today, are paid for tomorrow, and remain relevant in the future?



VSE Annual Conference is one of the largest and most influential events for the global victim support community.



[Victim-support.eu](https://victim-support.eu)



Events



Annual Conferences

SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION

Simultaneous interpretation to English and French is offered to all participants attending the conference via an online platform accessible through a computer, tablet or smartphone.

You can access the platform by scanning the QR codes below.

If you need interpretation, we kindly ask you to bring your own device, headset and charger, as these will not be provided by the conference organisers. We will ensure that there are enough charging points so you can enjoy the simultaneous interpretation throughout the entire day.

DAY 1



DAY 2



**DON'T FORGET YOUR COMPUTER,
TABLET OR SMARTPHONE & HEADPHONES!**



PROGRAMME

DAY 1

Tuesday 2nd of June 2026

09:00 – 09:30 — Registration & Welcome coffee

09:30 – 10:10 — Opening & Welcome session

- **Michael McGrath**, EU Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection, European Commission
- **Maryse Le Men Régnier**, President, France Victimes
- **Rosa Jansen**, President, Victim Support Europe
- **Tommaso Chiamparino**, European Commission Coordinator for Victims' Rights
- **Alexandra Bellayer-Roille**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France

10:10 – 11:10 — Session 1: Running a Victim Support organisation

- **Martyn Herward**, Director of Business Services and Deputy Chief Executive, Victim Support England and Wales
- **Sofia Barlind**, Management Team, Victim Support Sweden
- **Marie Grosset**, Project Manager, French Ministry of Justice

Moderator:

- **Carmen Rasquete**, Executive Director to the Portuguese Association for Victim Support (APAV)

11:10 – 11:40 — Coffee Break

11:40 – 12:40 — Session 2: Delivering Victim Support Services

- **Nela Kalpic**, Victims' Advocate/ State Director, Marsy's Law Wisconsin, US
- **Hetty Burgman** and **Elizabeth Mol-Pronk**, Victim Support Netherlands
- **Anne Decung**, ADAVEM JP 40 Director, France Victimes
- **Costas Yannopoulos** and **Stavroula Spiropoulou**, The Smile of the Child

Moderator:

- **Julianne Grima**, Executive Chairperson, Victim Support Malta

12:40 – 14:00 — Lunch

14:00 – 15:00 — Theatrical Session: Referral mechanisms that actually work

- **Sarah Christoyannis**, Innovation and Policy Coordinator
Global Diplomacy Bridge, Belgium
- **Sarah De Valckenaere**, Head of the Victim Support Unit at the police of Deinze-Zulte-Lievegem, Belgium
- **Kim Covent**, Police Advisor & Customer Coordinator, Gent Police
- **Thomas Wyns**, Strategic Coordinator for the Veilig Huis Limburg- Limburg Safe House
- **Gitte Hendrickx**, Victim Support Counsellor, Centrum Algemeen Welzijnswerk (CAW)
- **Olivier Lauwers**, Chief-secretary of the Terrorism Division – Commission for financial aid for victims of intentional acts of violence
- **Freya Van Wesenbeeck**, Policy Officer, The Agency for Justice and Enforcement

Moderator:

- **Levent Altan**, Executive Director, Victim Support Europe

15:00 – 16:30 — Afternoon Workshops

16:40 – 16:45 — Closing

- **Jérôme Moreau**, Vice President and Spokesperson, France Victimes,

PROGRAMME

DAY 2

Wednesday 3rd of June 2026

09:00 – 09:30 — Registration & Welcome coffee

09:30 – 09:45 — Opening | Day 2 Welcome

- **Charlotte Beluet**, Senior Official for Gender Equality and Diversity, Ministry of Justice, France

09:45 – 10:45 — Session 1: Sustaining a Victim Support organisation

- **Jérôme Bertin**, Director General of the Fédération France Victimes
- **Janice Buntling**, CEO, Victim Support Northern Ireland
- **Knut A Gulbrandsen**, Chairman, Victim Support Denmark

Moderator:

- **Antonio De Martin**, Development, Innovation & Knowledge Management Director, Victim Support Europe

10:45 – 11:15 — Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:15 — Session 2: Delivering Victim Support Services

- **Jon Boucher**, Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland
- **Amanda Herron-Quan**, GM – People & Wellbeing, Victim Support New Zealand
- **An Verelst**, Psychosocial Manager, Belgian Ministry of Public Health
- **Pascal Quetty**, Senior Clinical Psychologist, France

Moderator:

- **Matylda Pogorzelska**, Lawyer, Project Officer, Justice, Digital and Migration Unit, FRA
- **Aleksandra Ivankovic**, Deputy Director, Victim Support Europe

12:15 – 13:15 — Session 3: Delivering Future-Ready Services

- **Carmen Rasquete**, Executive Director to the Portuguese Association for Victim Support (APAV)
- **Élia Faustino**, Head of Business Consulting, askblue
- **Maatu Arkio-Lampinen**, Head of Service Development at Victim Support Finland
- **Anna Juusela**, CEO/Founder, We Encourage, AinoAid™

Moderator:

- **Élia Faustino**, Head of Business Consulting, askblue

13:15 – 14:45 — Lunch

14:45 – 16:45 — Afternoon Labs

16:45 – 17:00 — Closing ceremony and handover of the conference flame from France to The Netherlands

- **Levent Altan**, Executive Director, Victim Support Europe
- **Isabelle Sadowski**, Deputy Director General, France Victimes
- **Rosa Jansen**, Victim Support Netherlands

SIDE EVENTS

DAY 1: FUNCTIONAL

WORKSHOP A: Supporting Victims of War Crimes: Practical Skills and Recommendations for Europe

by **Veronika Plotnikova**

WORKSHOP B: Clarity, Culture, and Connection: Human Lessons from a Digital Transformation

by **Stevie Hight**

WORKSHOP C: Strengthening Victim Support: Engaging Young People and Driving Volunteer-Led Innovation

by **Nikita Murva** and **Becky McAdams**

WORKSHOP D: Maximising Access to Victim Support for the Hardest-to-Reach Groups of Victims

by **Dr. Smita Dharmamer**, **Hayley Halpin** and **Steen Thykjær**

DAY 2: FUNDED & FUTURE-READY

LAB 1: Mémo de Vie: A Digital Platform for Victims of Violence

by **Fabienne Brégy**, **Pauline Okroglic**, and **Blandine Yvard**

LAB 2: Advancing solutions for victim support in the healthcare sector

by **Gerttu Aavik**, **Johanna Uittammo** and **Marelle Maiste**

LAB 3: A Day in the Life of a Frontliner: Caring for Those Who Care

by **Floortje Hogenhout** and **Judith de Koning**

LAB 4: Preparing Those Who Support: Interactive Lab on Competencies and Procedures in Victim Support

by **Carmen Rasquete**, **Cristina Soeiro**, and **Elia Faustino**

LAB 5: Enhancing Access to Victim Support: AI Tools by Victim Support Finland

by **Maatu Arkio-Lampinen** and **Outi Rantamäki**

LAB 6: Listening to Survivors' Needs: A Journey to Justice, Support and Healing

by **Laura Hein** and **Georgia Van Appeven**

LAB 7: Do You Know How to Recognise Victims of Crime? Experience Victim Support Europe's Most Innovative Training Method

by **Victim Support Europe**

LAB 8: Listening to Survivors' Needs: Preparing for Mass Violence Incidents

by **Elisabeth Cronin**

More information on Side Events and their conductors is one scan away on our conference website!



2026.vse-conference.eu



Programme



Side Events

SOCIAL EVENT

Boat cruise and dinner party aboard the **Louisiane Belle**

2nd of June 19:30

Dress code: Casual Chic



On June 2, **France Victimes** and **Victim Support Europe** will host a boat party for conference attendees aboard the **Louisiane Belle** (<https://www.bateauxdeparis.net/location-bateau-roue-louisiane-belle/>).

The evening event will feature a **river cruise in a festive setting, with music, lighting, and panoramic views of Paris by night.**

Scheduled at the **close of the first day of conferences**, the cruise offers participants an opportunity to continue discussions in an informal setting. **Registration is required, as capacity is limited.**

SPEAKERS



Michael MCGRATH
EU Commissioner for
Democracy, Justice, the
Rule of Law and
Consumer Protection
European Commission



**Alexandra
BELLAYER-ROILLE**
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
France



Maryse LE MEN RÉGNIER
President
Fédération France
Victimes



Tommaso CHIAMPARINO
Coordinator for Victims'
Rights
European Commission



Rosa JANSEN
President
Victim Support
Netherlands, The
Netherlands



Carmen RASQUETE
Executive Director
APAV, Portugal



Martyn HERWARD
Director of Business
Services and Deputy
Chief Executive
Victim Support England
and Wales, UK



Sofia BÄRLIND
Management Team
Victim Support Sweden



Marie GROSSET
Project Manager
French Ministry
of Justice



Nela KALPIC
Victims' Advocate/
State Director,
Marsy's Law Wisconsin,
US



Hetty BURGMAN
Advisor to the Board
Victim Support
Netherlands, The
Netherlands



Elizabeth MOL-PRONK
Senior Legal Policy
Advisor
Victim Support
Netherlands, The
Netherlands

SPEAKERS



Anne DECUNG
ADAVEM JP 40 Director
France Victimes - Victim Support Association (ADAVEM JP 40)



Costas YANNOPOULOS
President of the Board of Directors
The Smile of the Child, Greece



Stavroula SPIROPOULOU
Helplines Supervisor & Coordinator of the National Center for Abuse and Exploitation
The Smile of the Child



Sarah CHRISTOYANNIS
Innovation and Policy Coordinator
Global Diplomacy Bridge, Belgium



Sarah De VALCKENAERE
Police, Head of the Victim Support Unit
Deinze-Zulte-Lievegem, Belgium



Thomas WYNS
Strategic Coordinator
Veilig Huis Limburg- Limburg Safe House



Kim COVENT
Customer Coordinator
Ghent Police Department, Belgium



Gitte HENDRICKX
Victim Support Counsellor
Centrum Algemeen Welzijnswerk (CAW)



Olivier LAUWERS
Chief-secretary of the Terrorism Division
Commission for financial aid for victims of intentional acts of violence



Levent ALTAN
Executive Director
Victim Support Europe, Belgium



Freya VAN WESENBEECK
Policy Officer
The Agency for Justice and Enforcement



Jérôme MOREAU
Vice President and Spokesperson
France Victimes, France

SPEAKERS



Charlotte BELUET
Senior Official for
Gender Equality and
Diversity
French Ministry of
Justice



Jérôme BERTIN
Director General
Fédération France
Victimes



Janice BUNTLING
CEO
Victim Support NI,
Northern Ireland



Knut A. GULBRANDSEN
Chairman of the Board
Victim Support
Denmark, Denmark



Jon BOUTCHER
Chief Constable
Victim Support NI,
Northern Ireland



Amanda HERRON-QUAN
General Manager –
People & Wellbeing
Victim Support,
New Zealand



Pascal QUETTY
Senior Clinical
Psychologist
France



An VERELST
Psychosocial Manager
Belgian Ministry of
Public Health



Anna JUUSELA
CEO/Founder
We Encourage,
AinoAid™



Maatu ARKIO-LAMPINEN
Head of Service
Development
Victim Support Finland
(RIKU), Finland



Élia FAUSTINO
Head of Business
Consulting
Askblue, Portugal



Isabelle SADOWSKI
Deputy Director General
France Victimes

SIDE EVENT CONDUCTORS



Veronika PLOTNIKOVA
Head of the
Coordination Centre for
Victims and Witnesses
The Prosecutor
General's Office of
Ukraine



Becky McADAMS
Volunteer and
Community
Engagement Manager
Victim Support England
and Wales



Blandine YVARD
Communications officer
and deployment
France Victims



Cristina SOEIRO
Senior Specialist
the Institute of Criminal
Police and Criminal
Sciences



Élia FAUSTINO
Head of Business
Consulting
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Elizabeth CRONIN
Attorney and Associate
Academic Program
Director
National Mass Violence
Center at the Medical
University of South
Carolina



Fabienne BRÉGY
Product Manager
France Victims



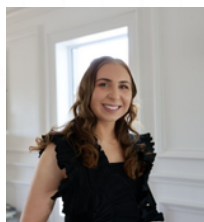
Floortje HOGENHOUT
Helpline Teamlead
Victim Support
Netherlands



Georgia VAN APPEVEN
Member of the EFRJ WG
on Restorative Justice &
Gender Based Violence
European Forum for
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 for Restorative Justice



Nikita MURVA
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Patricia PAZOS
**Senior Project and
 Training officer**
 Victim Support Europe



Pauline OKROGLIC
Lead Legal Officer
 France Victimes



Dr. Smita DHARMAMER
Associate Director
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Steen THYKÆR
**Knowledge and
 Education Consultant**
 Victim Support Denmark
 (OID)



Cécile SWYSEN
Training & Legal Assistant
 Victim Support Europe



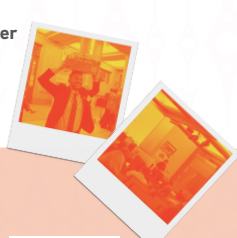
Johanna UITTAMMO
Oral & maxillofacial surgeon
 Helsinki University Hospital



Marelle Maiste
Family nurse
 Ädala Family Medical Center
 Clinical UX
 Dermtest

SHARE YOUR PICTURES WITH US!

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 or "... " > Upload > Files > Gallery >
 Choose the pictures > Add



MODERATORS & MC



Aleksandra IVANKOVIĆ
Deputy Director
Victim Support Europe



Matylda Pogorzelska
Lawyer, Project Officer
European Union Agency
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Antonio DE MARTIN
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Malta



Élia FAUSTINO
Head of Business
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APAV, Portugal



Marina KAZAKOVA
Associate Communications Manager
Victim Support Europe
MASTER OF CEREMONIES (MC)

**FOR MORE INFO ON SPEAKERS,
SCAN THE QR CODE**



OUR PARTNERS



Paris je t'aime

Official Tourism Concierge, official tourist information points, Cartoville guide, social networks, **Paris je t'aime** – Tourist Office welcomes and informs you.



Buyhearts

Founded in 1983, **Buyhearts inc.** has been dedicated to producing high-quality products through innovative technology.

Their flagship product, Nalclip, has been distributed worldwide for the past 40 years, contributing to the company's growth as an industry leader.

With a commitment to sincerity and excellence, Buyhearts continues to offer luxury stationery designed with precision and care.

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**MINISTÈRE
DE L'EUROPE
ET DES AFFAIRES
ÉTRANGÈRES**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

ABOUT

Victim Support Europe

Founded in 1990, **Victim Support Europe (VSE)** is the leading European umbrella organisation advocating for all victims of crime, regardless of the type of crime or who the victim is. For over **35 years**, VSE has worked to ensure victims across Europe can **access their legal rights and receive support**, whether or not they report a crime.

VSE represents **83 national member organisations**, collectively supporting more than **3 million people annually** across 36 countries.

The organisation works closely with **European and international institutions** to shape laws, policies, and strategies on victims' rights. VSE has formal consultative status with the **UN ECOSOC Committee** and the **Council of Europe**, and collaborates with the **European Commission, European Parliament**, and **EU agencies**, including the **Fundamental Rights Agency**.

VSE actively informs organisations and policymakers about gaps in victims' rights and implementation challenges through **consultations, expert meetings, and conferences**. It shares expertise on victims' rights at international events, develops research, and builds knowledge and capacity at national and local levels.

Through advocacy, research, capacity-building, policy influence, projects on the ground, and awareness-raising, VSE works toward its vision of a Europe — and a world — where victims are supported, protected, and empowered to rebuild their lives.



France Victimes is a pioneering French non-governmental organisation, dedicated to providing comprehensive support to victims of all crimes, as well as their families and friends. In 2026, France Victimes celebrates its **40th anniversary**, marking four decades of commitment to victims' rights and high-quality, empathetic support services.

France Victimes operates a nationwide network of community-based services, staffed by trained professionals and volunteers, offering **confidential, qualified, and free-of-charge assistance**. Services include emotional, psychological, and social support, legal guidance, and practical help, ensuring victims receive **holistic care tailored to their circumstances**.

(France Vicimes)

The organisation also provides specialised support for:

- Migrants who are victims of hate crimes, trafficking, or exploitation
- Families and friends who have lost someone to homicide
- Children and young victims of sexual violence
- Elderly victims of crime

Beyond direct support, France Victimes is deeply involved in **advocacy and public policy**, working to influence legislation that protects and empowers victims. The organisation collaborates with national and international partners to promote **best practices**, and ensures that victims' voices are heard in policymaking processes.

Education and training remain central to France Victimes' mission. The organisation provides professional development for police officers, social workers, healthcare providers, and others, while also running public awareness campaigns to strengthen societal understanding of victims' rights and the importance of a compassionate response.

CONTACTS

**FOR INQUIRIES ABOUT COM EVENTS AND
GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS PLEASE, CONTACT:**

REGISTRATION COORDINATOR:



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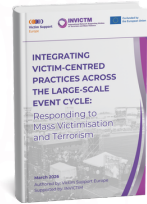
Francesco Cimmino
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POLICY PAPERS

Integrating Victim-Centred Practices Across the Large-Scale Event Cycle: Responding to Mass Victimization & Terrorism

This new publication explores how a holistic, rights-based, victim-centred approach can be integrated into the planning of large-scale events, placing individuals at the core of emergency preparedness.

Aiming to strengthen institutional readiness to respond humanely to terrorist attacks and mass victimisation incidents, the paper focuses on understanding the impact of terrorist victimisation on individuals and their needs, and operationalising a victim-centred framework in large-scale events.



Victims of Crime Model Provisions Paper



Since the EU Victims' Directive came into force, 750 million victims have been unable to fully access their European rights. We cannot afford to wait another ten years for improvements to be implemented and leave another 750 million victims without support, protection, and justice. VSE has long advocated for a revision of the VRD that establishes a strong foundation for the rights of all victims of crime, without exception. The Victims of Crime Model Provisions Paper presents VSE's vision for a revised Victims' Rights Directive.

Safe Justice for Victims of Crime

After forty years of the same statements, of rights that are not implemented, of rights that cannot be exercised, of victims being marginalised, a change in approach is required. The commitments made by governments and international organisations must become a reality for victims.



and many more!

Have you downloaded our latest policy papers?
They're only a couple of clicks away!



VICTIM SUPPORT EUROPE STRATEGY 2026 – 2030



What began as a coalition of 17 national organisations determined to give a voice to forgotten victims has grown into Victim Support Europe (VSE); a powerful network of over 80 members across 35 countries, united by a single mission: to ensure that every victim of crime is heard, supported, and empowered. Over the past three decades, VSE has championed victims' rights, built resilient organisations, and fostered a culture of collaboration and knowledge-sharing across borders. Together, VSE and its members have helped millions of victims reclaim their lives.



victim-support.eu



Publications

Download the VSE Strategy
2026-2030 here.



Download the VSE Strategy
2026-2030 **one-pager** here.





The Frontliners

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 **Victim Support Europe**

Hosted by :



Annual Conference 2026

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