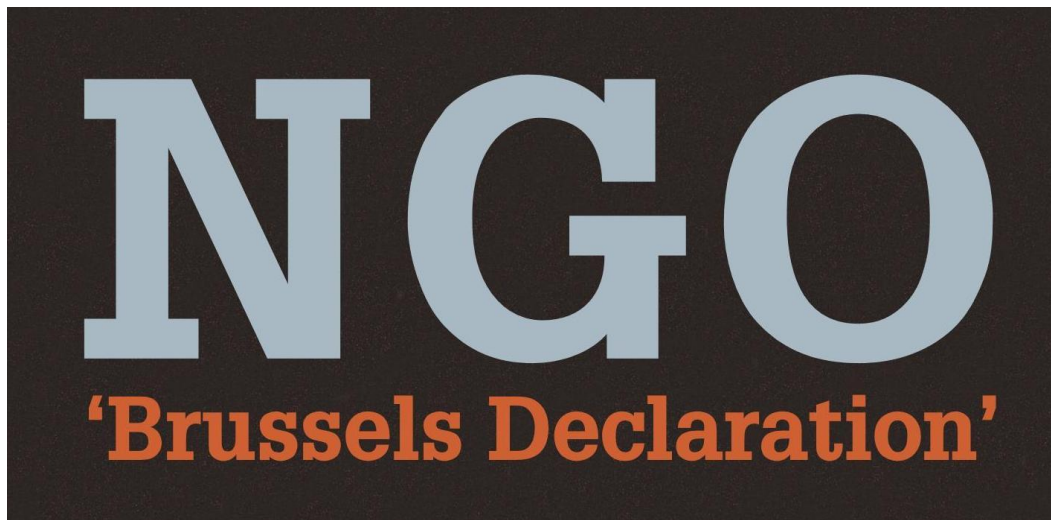


Brussels NGO declaration

May 2009

Brigitte Chaudhry, former FEVR president coordinated the drafting, agreement with text by the various NGOs and design of the 'Brussels Declaration', from 1st draft to final document



POST CRASH RESPONSE

Serious post crash response is a vital component of effective road safety policy and includes:

**Recommendations to Governments from NGOs
advocating for road victims and road safety
for the 'Decade of Action for Road Safety'**

In May 2009, more than 100 representatives of 70 NGOs from 40 countries came together for the first time in Brussels at a meeting hosted by the World Health Organization. Using their unique expertise and perspective, participants compiled 33 recommendations to improve road safety

- Immediate rescue interventions, thorough investigations, criminal and civil proceedings if appropriate, long-term rehabilitation and support. Therefore NGOs expect Governments to guarantee:

- National standards of social, medical and legal care to injured victims and bereaved families

- Thorough investigations in order to identify all preventable causes and ensure justice for victims

- An effective, proportionate and deterrent response to traffic law violations involving death or injury

POST CRASH RESPONSE demands that once a fatal or injury crash has occurred, two parallel actions take place:

a. thorough investigation, followed by measures to prevent a recurrence, along with criminal and civil proceedings where appropriate

b. immediate short-term rescue interventions and longer-term rehabilitation and support for those who sustained injuries and their families and care-givers, as well as for the relatives of those killed
Therefore, we recommend that governments:

1. Accord priority to improving emergency services and the immediate post-crash response (golden hour) and the adoption of a global emergency telephone number
2. Provide early rehabilitation to minimize emotional trauma, especially in children, and ensure social, medical (psychological and physical) and legal care for injured victims and bereaved families to satisfactory national standards, for as long as this is needed
3. Conduct thorough investigations of crashes, especially fatal and injury crashes, in order to identify all causes and employ all available measures to prevent their recurrence, drawing upon existing research and proven reduction measures from other countries – ‘no need to re-invent the wheel’
4. Award settlements to victims, based on a fair and proportionate assessment of short and long-term effects suffered by them, independent of the insurance status of the person or vehicle that caused the crash and according to transparent and timely procedures
5. Provide automatic compensation to the most vulnerable users, except in cases of proven gross negligence by them; i.e. apply strict liability law, based on the principle that the party with the greatest “uncontrolled kinetic energy concentration” is likely to cause greater damage, and therefore bears the greater responsibility
6. Apply an effective, proportionate and deterrent legal response to road law violations and death and injury caused thereby, commensurate to the offence of endangering life, taking a life or affecting quality of life, with procedures and verdict delivering justice for road crash victims
7. Conduct national situational reviews to monitor road collision investigation capability, number of criminal prosecutions in cases of road death and injury and standard of services for crash victims

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Brigitte coordinated the drafting, agreement with text by the various NGOs and design of the 'Brussels Declaration', from 1st draft to final document. Editing: Bernadette Bhacker, design: Tea Aganovic

[link](#)

Beside FEVR there were 15 of our member associations who signed the NGO declaration:

European Federation of Road Traffic Victims (FEVR), United Kingdom

Associação de Cidadãos Auto-Mobilizados (ACA-M), Portugal

Association nationale des Victimes de la Route (AVR), Luxembourg

Association of Road Victims (VVS), The Netherlands

Associazione Italiana Familiari e Vittime della Strada (AIFVS), Italy

Hellenic Association for Road Traffic Victim Support (Ε.Υ.ΘΥ.Τ.Α), Rhodes-Greece

NAH Zorg, The Netherlands

P(A)T- AP(A)T – Asociación de Prevención de Accidentes de Tráfico, Spain

Parents d'Enfants Victimes de la Route (PEVR), Belgium

Road and Safety Association, Poland

RoadPeace, United Kingdom

Safe Journey Institute (Zavod Varna Pot), Slovenia

Suat Ayöz Traffic Victims Association, Turkey

Udruga Obitelji osoba stradalih u promet, Croatia

You Are What U Do – Kostas Kouvidis, Greece

Youth Association for Social Awareness, Lebanon