Challenges of crime victims

Can Media help victims to reach recovery and resilience
FEVR wants to see the situation of road crash victims improved. It champions their rights, represents their voice and campaigns for legislative improvements.
A) No real differences among victims

The importance of grief groups: It is well known that not sharing the traumatic events causes prolonged traumatic symptoms and creates isolation. So bereavement and self aid groups are very helpful to find a space to express oneself & to share one’s emotions. Listening and being heard and understood by people suffering under similar situations.

Yolanda Domenech -Moral
FEVR psychological consult & member of the board

Survey on Cultural perceptions and impacts of Road Crashes
Support

Information

Respect – Rights

LADIES

Law – Advice – Dignity

Individuuel assessment – Evidence – Support
Impact of Road Death and Injury

Research into the principal causes of the decline in quality of life and living standard suffered by road crash victims and victim families.

Proposals for Improvements

The objective of the latest enquiry was to determine the causes of victim families’ substantial drop in both quality of life and living standard and to propose administrative and legislative improvements.
Information given is totally inadequate

Need of considerable emotional, practical and legal support

Dissatisfaction with criminal and civil justice

No legal recognition head injury impairment
‘My life after the crash’

An exploratory international online survey on medical, psychological, social and economic consequences of serious road injuries

2017
Objectives

- Direct
  - Collect, analyse and synthesize information on the medical, psychological, economical and social impact of being a traffic victim

- Indirect
  - Understand better how victims of road crashes could be better supported
Consequences

Many of the findings confirm those collected in the FEVR Blue Book 1997.

Almost 80% of people seriously injured in road traffic crashes never recover fully.

The psychological toll is high and should not be underestimated.
effects of a road traffic crash are not limited to material and physical damage alone.  

victims and those around them continue to bear the **psychological and financial effects** of a crash, often for the rest of their lives.
Post Crime Response

Vital post-crash actions: Medical Care, Investigation, Justice

EU-project

‘Victims of road traffic offences’

Your rights after a road traffic offence

Project Victims of road traffic offences Supported by the Justice Programme of the European Union
Media & Victims

Manifesto (March 2019) to journalists and media about ethical and privacy topics and other useful considerations which are relevant for all victims of crime and violence when contacted by the press.

Coverage of specific cases and emerging crimes, such as Internet crimes against children, can contribute to positive changes in public policy. Media coverage can also change public attitudes about the crimes such as impaired driving and sexual assault.
The Manifesto is based on conference recommendations

https://fevr.org/manifesto/

- testimonies from victims, earlier workshops and publications from FEVR member associations, own experiences, as well as contacts with professionals.
The following questions were addressed:

- Can the media help to improve society, to raise awareness about aspects that should concern us all?

- Is everything worth to sell the news?

- What impact does it have on victims and relatives depending on how journalists tell the news?
The media, considered to be "the fourth power"

- A strong influence on public opinion and on people's attitudes.
- The role of the media in dealing with this issue is vital since these news cannot and should not be minimized by the media or reduced to a "brief" in specific situations.
- Reality can be explained in different ways and help the perception that society has on the specific topic.
talked about the importance of the media to help reduce victims and improve security.

The entities that fight for this cause needs the press, its complicity to raise awareness in society and to demand political leaders to act to avoid such absurd suffering.

They demand journalist not only to talk about cold statistics, but to talk about the serious public health problem, to explain what the cause of the violence was and how it could have been avoided.

To talk about the long–term consequences for those involved in the disaster: that is, victims, family members and also the perpetrators.

What have been the consequences for the cause of the crime? How is the family?

In case there is a survivor, how is his/her life now?
we live in the culture of the self or of hyperindividualism that affects the community and therefore the incivilic behavior in the sense that only “I” or “mines” matters, and “the others” are not taken into account.

She also spoke about the need of norms. It is important to understand that we are social beings and we are part of a community in which we have to respect our own lives and those of others.

distinguished between information, knowledge and wisdom. The information is the data. Knowledge is the analysis of data. And wisdom is the application of knowledge to one's life and society. And she urged journalists to go beyond the data.
The first round table

was focused on the presentation of good communication practices aimed at generating a favorable public opinion towards the prevention of crimes.

Presented some campaigns:
The second round table

- was a debate among journalists about the treatment of information in the media and about what things could be done to improve their role in society.
Third round table

- Catalogue of good practices directed to the media

The three tables were preceded by real testimonies that explained their own experience
4 testimonies

- Randa Khater Hauch from Zena Hauch Foundation explained how the news are explained so differently according to religious beliefs in the case of Lebanon.

- Silke von Beesten from Verkehrsunfall–Opferhilfe Deutschland e.V. (VOD) Germany, who presented an example of good practice using media at the wheel: with humor instead of the raised finger we want to draw attention to the dangerous situations in traffic scenes and the fatal consequences.

- Jana Neusarová from Czech Republic explained how the sensationalist tendency of some media can generate secondary victimization and the importance of respecting privacy of road victims and their families.

- And Joan PuigPey from P(A)T Spain, explained that journalist shold be aware that it is not easy to explain such a painful experience and that they are dealing with sensitive material, so they were asked for maximun respect.
media should be encouraged to promote a new anti violence culture.

do not promote speeding & power of cars

Do not promote violence

agree with victims on the content of the article.
The media should be encouraged to promote a new no crime culture.
Media should provide full and accurate information and advice regularly and frequently about crimes and victims and should influence responsible behaviour.
The public should become aware of the full extent of the consequences and suffering after being a victim of (violent) crime – the families who lost a loved one & not to forget seriously injured victims – as well as of the consequences for the offenders.
The media should inform of the costs to society of crimes and the impact on victims’ families and friends.
Statistics should be announced regularly and, in such way, as to draw attention.
Make sure to publish the correct data (name, place, etc), have requested permission from the victim and/or the family to publish pictures of the crime, and respect families’ intimacy.
When interviewing a victim, understand that it is difficult to expose such a painful part of life and therefore be very respectful towards them. It would be appreciated to agree on the content of the article.
Media should be encouraged to participate to lifelong education including information on the law and penalties for law breaking.
Advertisers should be encouraged to take part in anti crime campaigns and not promote violence and warn possible consequences for violent acts.
In social media everybody should respect privacy and not publish pictures from the crime scene.
One should always use the right wording because a violent crime is not a fatality...
We all should consider crime and violence as a social problem, in order to raise awareness of the big carnage that crimes mean for society.
Dealing with media intrusion

- Media attention can be **intense** – this can seriously affect your life and make it even harder to cope with the stress and shock.

- Some victims **feel better when they speak** to the media.
- It allows them to **get their feelings off their chest**.
- It also gives them an opportunity to **warn other people** of the risks,
- to draw attention to how they coped or
- to **thank people** who helped them.
Some good practices?
Some useful advice

- Don’t leave the victim alone when lights are off
- Prepare them before about Q & A
- Think very carefully about what you want to say. Once you’ve spoken to a journalist it’s usually impossible to take back what you have said.
One morning, some 2 years ago our daughter Sandy left our home to go to catch the school bus. How it started some 25 years ago.
Video 2

Dok Show April 2004
DOK TV Luxemburg
WDoR  World Day of Remembrance

Las calles y carreteras cuentan historias.
Para un futuro mejor, mejoramos la seguridad vial.

FEVR  we live VISION ZERO

Signo el meu compromís amb la visió zero
Discussion - Comments - Suggestions

- Thank you - merci