

Fédération Européenne des **Victimes** de la Route  
European Federation of Road Traffic **Victims**

**FEVR**

since  
**1991**



## **Challenges of crime victims**

**Can Media help victims to reach recovery and resilience**

# The Voice of Road Traffic Victims



# A) No real differences among victims

Ministère de la Justice

diav Délégation interministérielle à l'aide aux victimes

## European conference of the victim support associations and victims' associations

### WHICH PATHS TO RESILIENCE ?

November 5th, 2018 - 9 am  
Paris Town Hall



The personal invitation, the detailed agenda and the arrangements for the travel expenses coverage, will be sent out shortly.

Translation will be provided in French, English, German.

diav.eu@justice.gouv.fr

Mairie de Paris

FAVT

MINISTÈRE DE LA JUSTICE  
DÉLÉGATION INTERMINISTÉRIELLE À L'AIDE AUX VICTIMES



## 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



# S.I.R.

- ▶ Support
- ▶ Information
- ▶ Respect – Rights



## LADIES

Law–Advice–Dignity  
Individuel assessment –  
Evidence–Support

# IMPACT OF ROAD DEATH AND INJURY

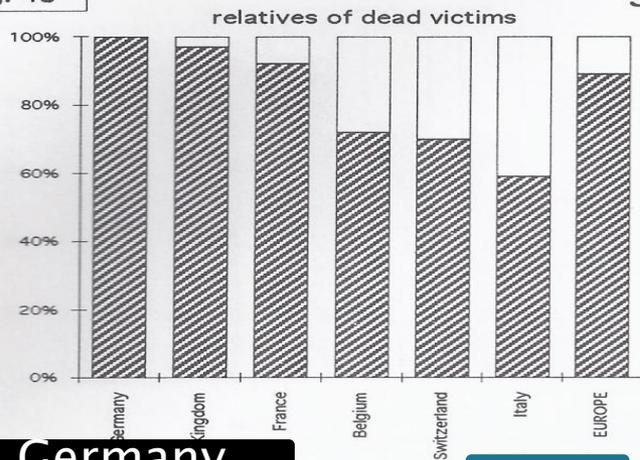
1997

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

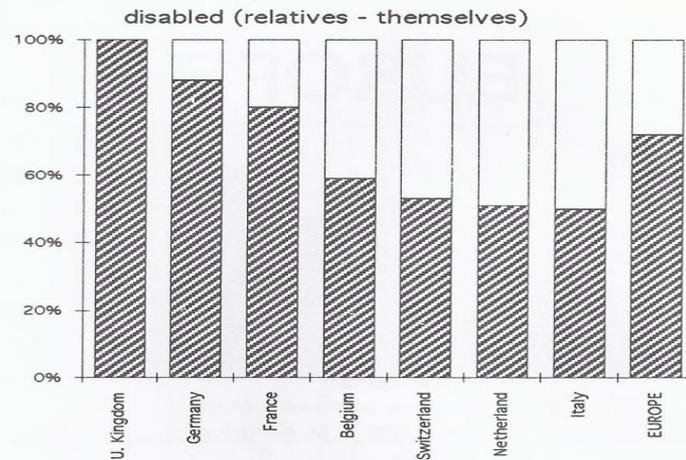
## PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENTS

*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.*

Fig. 48



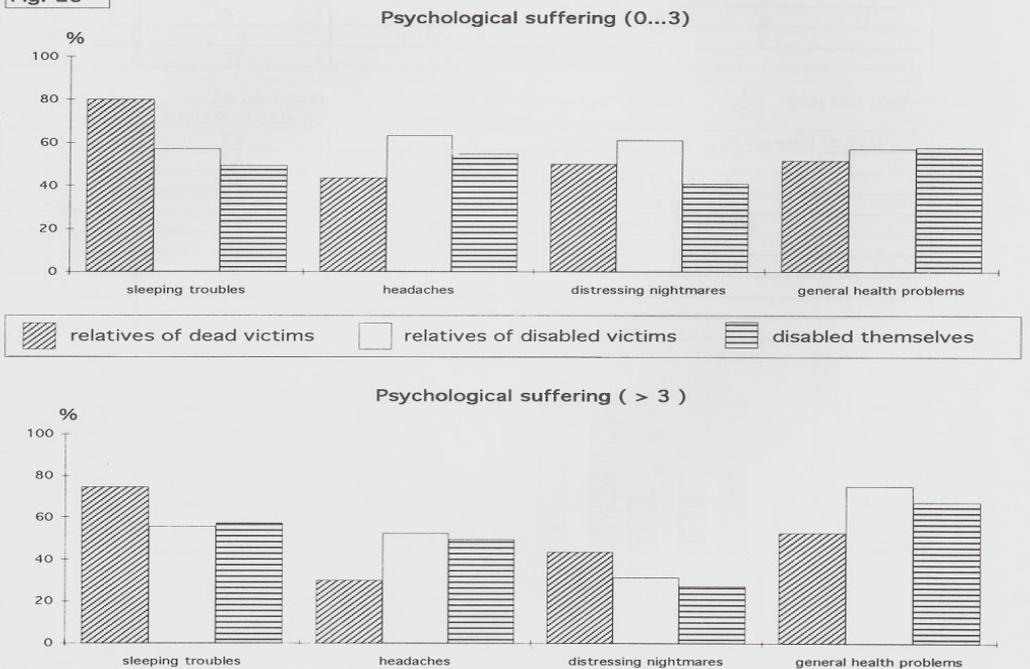
Sentence fair



Germany  
UK

Italy

Fig. 25



# Conclusions

**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.

# Conclusion

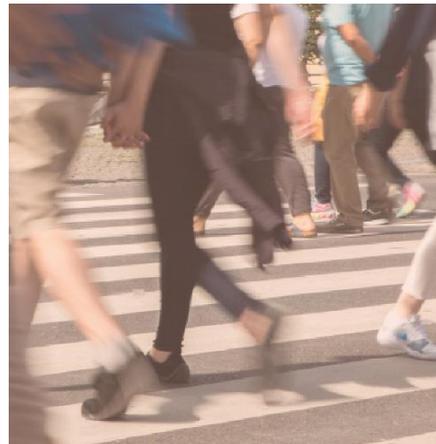


effects of a road traffic crash are not limited to material and physical damage alone.



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



Your rights after  
a road traffic offence

Rights Leaflet Rondpunt vzw

EU-project

'Victims of  
road traffic  
offences'



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? I



Is everything worth to sell the news?



What impact does it has 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.

# 3 roundtables

- ▶ 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?

# Esther Busquets, professor of Ethics as a key speaker.

- ▶ 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 examples 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 preceeded 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 should 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 maximum respect.



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.



**Workplace  
Violence**

An illustration of two men in business suits. One man is shouting with his mouth wide open and his hand raised to his ear, while the other man is leaning in towards him, looking down. The background is white, and the illustration is framed by a blue bar at the top and a red bar on the right side.

Care and Compliance Group is a division of the  
Institute for Professional Care Education, LLC,  
2015

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 other to raise awareness of the big carnage that **crimes** mean for society.



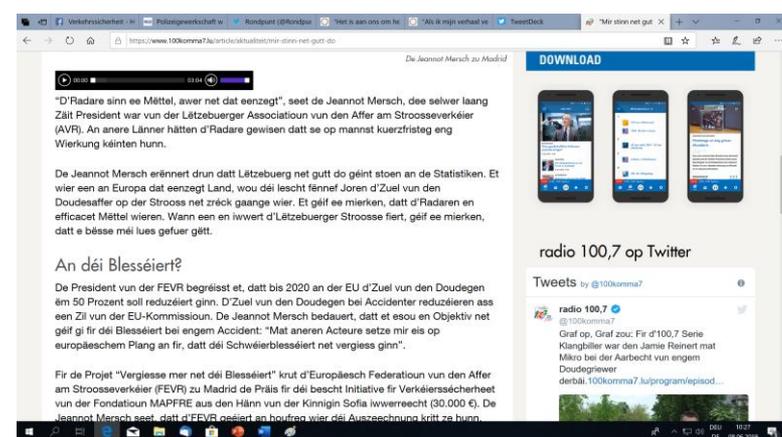
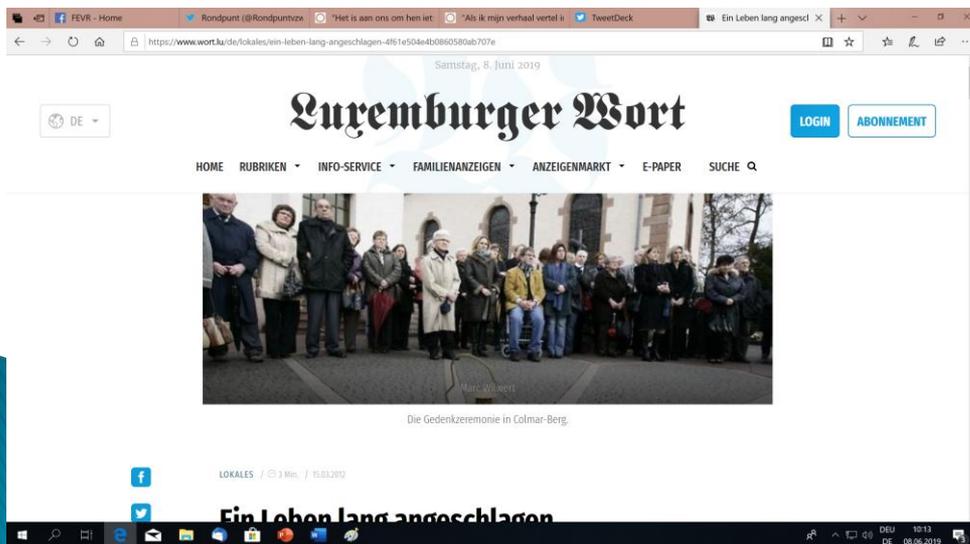
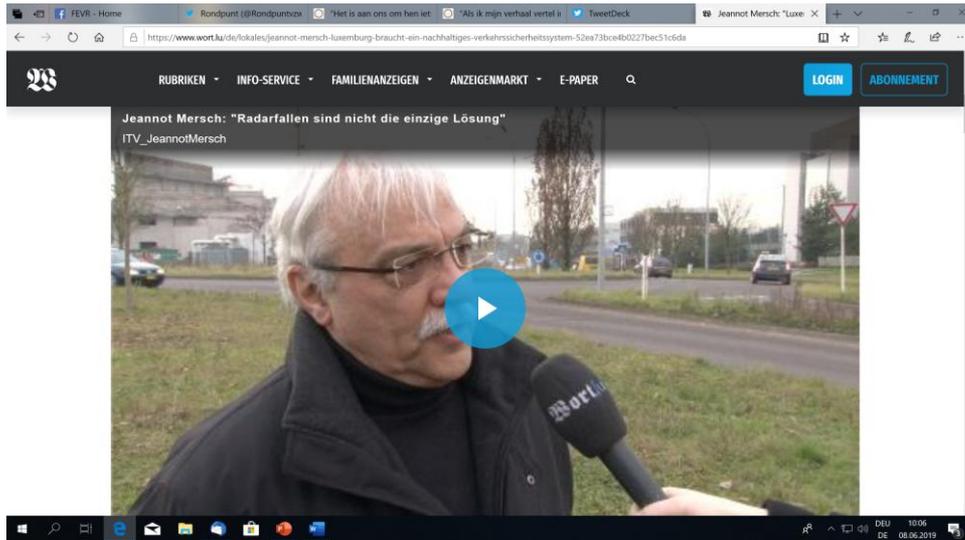
# Dealing with media intrusion

- ▶ 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 ?

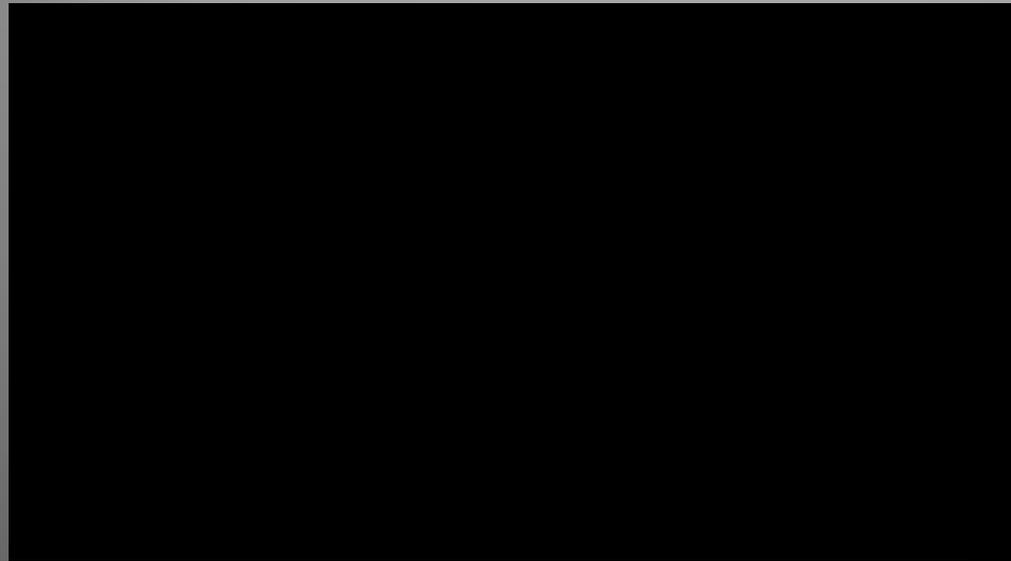
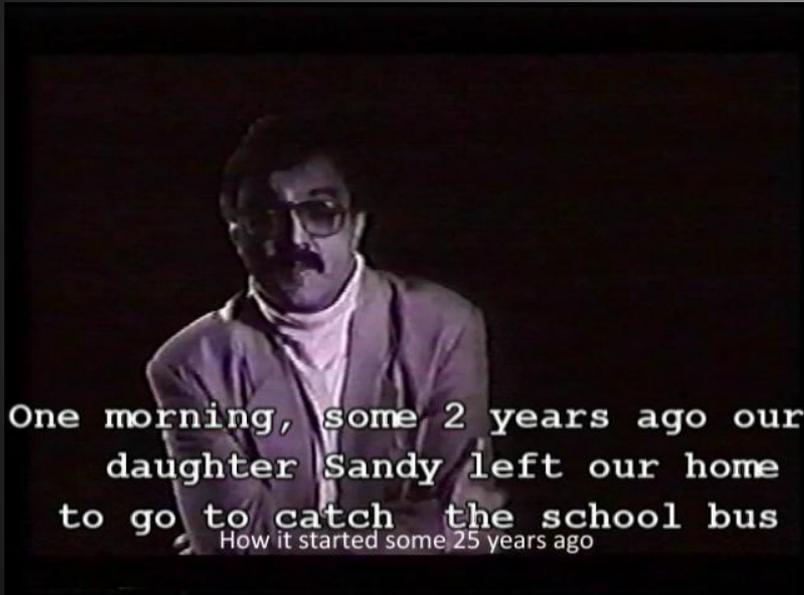


# Some useful advice



- ▶ 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.

# Video



# Video 2



***Dok Show April 2004***  
***DOK TV Luxemburg***

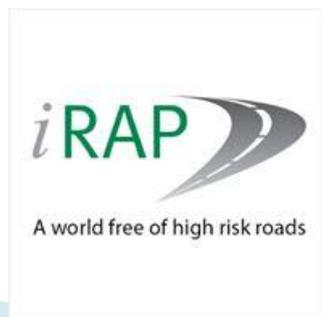
# WDoR World Day of Remembrance



we live  
**VISION  
ZERO**



# Collaboration



# Discussion- Comments- Suggestions

- ▶ **Thank you - merci**