

Questions to Filippo Randi

1. Do you organise an event for WDR in your Country to which families bereaved by road crashes & seriously injured victims are invited?

Joint answer to questions 1 and 2.

Definitely. Our association is composed by a central office in Rome and numerous regional or provincial offices located throughout the territory. At a central level, we collect the thematic and graphic inputs of FEVR and WDR and provide them to the offices that organize local events of various kinds. For example, in some cities historical monuments are illuminated in memory of the victims, interviews are given to the press and television, banquets are organized in the main squares, sometimes together with other organizations, such as the Red Cross, sport events are arranged. Those who wish, recite prayers in memory of the victims in the churches of their city. These are just a few examples.

Through the involvement of AIFVS, who followed up on the recommendations of FEVR, the National Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims was also officially recognized by the Italian institutions, with the Law n. 227/2017.

We have summarized some (not all) of the World Day initiatives on our website: <https://www.vittimestrada.org/articles.php?lng=it&pg=21354&mnuid=20693&tconfig=0#z2>

2. Do you attend an annual WDR event in your own Country?

See answer above

3. What supports have been put in place by your NGO for those affected by road crashes?

In a nutshell, AIFVS acts through its highly effective campaigning work aimed at sensitization of public opinion, through appeals and proposals to institutions, through human, legal and psychological support.

To those who request it, for instance, AIFVS offers a free first level legal opinion and can put families in contact with experts, known and affiliated to the association, who do not take advantage of moments of serious difficulty for family members. The AIFVS may also, at the request of victim families, take part in the civil prosecution in

Court, as an offended party as aid to the victims and for achieving a right sentence. The same can be said for psychological support, where AIFVS has agreements with psychologists experienced in post-trauma. The human side is also fundamental, the victims feel lonely and could find in the members of the association somebody trustful to talk to, feeling deeply understood.

4. How do you feel FEVR NGO members, working together, can improve the needs of the traumatised victims of road crashes and their families?

Joint answer to questions 4 and 9.

First of all, through a network of associations it is possible to discuss, share information and collect best practices. By doing this with a structured approach, like I intend to adopt, it certainly gives rise to examples that in various countries can turn into proposals for institutions (I mentioned the "road homicide law" in my letter). We have recently received requests from compatriots whose family members have been involved in crashes, including fatalities, in Austria, Germany and Malta. We were unable to provide adequate legal support and this led to the idea of creating a network of FEVR-affiliated lawyers in various European countries. There are no limits and closures in modern Europe, the more our network is cohesive, dynamic and full of concrete proposals, the better we will be able to help the families of victims.

5. Describe the active role you play in your NGO?

I am part of the board of the association and as such I take care of the related activities, for the part due to me. Lately I've been involved in organizing and coordinating virtual meetings, we have had many, have supported forums with driving school orgs, have worked on the rewriting of our new Statute and on the long process to get it approved by the associates.

As a FEVR delegate, before participating at specific FEVR assemblies we have discussions about the agendas of individual meetings and what contributions AIFVS could provide for particular meetings and what issues AIFVS might want to open up for discussion at FEVR level. AIFVS is always very keen for FEVR to give priority to activities related to justice, due to the ongoing serious lack of justice experienced by road victims that greatly concern us. After my attendance, I provide feedback to the board and we discuss how certain issues can be taken forward.

I am always strongly involved in World Day events, which I already described in my letter.

At present, I am organizing a round table dedicated to the theme of justice in which members of the association, lawyers, medical-legal doctors and representatives of various institutions will participate. The event will be held at a foundation

(<https://alinaartfoundation.com>) where an exhibition of paintings organized by the mother of a 26-year-old young woman killed by a pirate car is set up.

6. Your letter of acceptance gives extensive information – it would be interesting to know through which kind of information or channels you found AIFVS after the death of your mother?

I learned about AIFVS from a friend of my family whose father was hit and killed by a car while he was on his bicycle. As mentioned in my letter, by speaking with the people I met through the association I felt less alone in the bereavement I was experiencing and I had not only human comfort but also advice on how to deal with the next stages, the path of overcoming mourning, and honest and competent legal support. AIFVS participated in the criminal prosecution and managed to increase the sentence for the accused (non-executive penalty, however).

7. Why is the issue of justice for road victims important to you?

I believe it is important for the community, it is a matter of human rights. Victims and their surviving relatives do not have equal rights as defendants, killings committed on roads are no less violent than other violent deaths, but compared to them they are not punished in the same way. Laws must be strengthened and penalties must be increased, otherwise road crimes will go on forever. I believe that if the law violation that causes deaths and injuries on the road is treated as a crime, the deaths and injuries on the road will be reduced.

8. Why do you believe that organisations and institutions that work for prevention of crashes value an organisation representing victims and represented by victims?

I believe that in the context in which the associations of road victims operate, the fact of maintaining a strong component of direct victims in managerial roles gives credibility and authenticity to the association. The reasons that push the family members of victims to commit themselves to the cause are, in fact, authentic and in our long experience this factor has always been recognized by national and international organizations and institutions.

9. You write that you want to see improved networking among member associations – please share some thoughts on how you might try to achieve this?

See answer to point 4

10. You mention a strong FEVR with a strong board – what in your view would be the attributes of a strong FEVR Board?

First of all, I imagine a board made up of "people" and "personalities", people who have experienced pain and have become spokespersons, determined, credible and remarkable personalities, both personally and professionally. After that, I believe it is important to establish an agile and dynamic communication and constantly follow up on actions taken. If the presence and pressure drop, it is normal for people and associations to feel less motivated to continue in their actions. This certainty comes from my professional experience, in which planning, executing and controlling techniques are constantly adopted.

11. If a board member was found to be uncooperative and negative in attitude and action – how should this problem be resolved in your view?

In short, the negative attitude (do you mean conflict?) or lack of cooperation cannot be resolved if you oppose and want to make a prejudicial decision about who is right and who is wrong, who wins and who loses. Conflict, however, is transformable and, to some extent, negotiable. I have had numerous confirmations of this in my professional experience. It can transform itself from clash to satisfying different needs, needs and desires. I would try to resolve it with an open dialogue, listening and reasoning, I would try to stay focused on the subject of the problem by maintaining a respectful communication and sticking to the contents as much as possible. However, if this negative attitude of a member is harming the Federation, persists over time and appears irrecoverable despite the efforts, it is good and recommended to discuss it in the Board who will certainly be able to take appropriate decisions.