

EU action: SUPPORT for Victims

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"We can't help him alone..."
"Everyone seems to have lost interest in helping me..."
"I can't function..."

Under the new EU legislation, all EU countries would have to ensure that services are in place to meet **victims' practical and emotional needs**.

What would this mean in practice?

▪ Emotional/psychological support (free and confidential)

Often both victims and their families need specialised help to cope with the physical and psychological after-effects of what they've been through.

▪ Immediate practical help

After a traumatic experience, people sometimes find it hard to carry on with normal life. Victims should not be left to confront their problems alone. They can need help with practical things like finding a locksmith after a break-in or guidance about funeral arrangements. In cases of domestic violence, temporary shelter and moral support can mean survival.

▪ Long-term help

It's not always enough to patch a person up and send them on their way. Victims can need continuous support, ranging from professional help to gain the confidence needed to testify in court to advice on how to get compensation.

From this...

"A man broke into my apartment and raped me in my own bed. I went to the police but no one offered me counselling, or helped me with practical things like changing my locks. I feel so lost and scared, I cannot afford to move or buy a new bed. I sleep on the floor."

...to this

"My partner abused me for years before I went to the police. They listened to me and helped me find a shelter. The staff at the shelter were a great help, they made me see that it wasn't my fault and helped me find a new place to live. I feel much stronger now."