

**CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO PARTICIPATE IN THE  
EU VICTIMS' RIGHTS PLATFORM**

**Brussels, 15 December 2020**

On 22 September 2020, the Commission inaugurated the EU Victims' Rights Platform<sup>1</sup> as one of the key actions of the EU Strategy on victims' rights (2020-2025)<sup>2</sup>. The Platform is composed of the European Commission and representatives of EU level networks, bodies, agencies and representatives of civil society organisations whose work is relevant for victims' rights to ensure a horizontal approach to victims' rights.

The Commission is launching this **Call for Expression of Interest** to give a possibility to additional representatives of relevant civil society organisations interested in the implementation of the EU Strategy on victims' rights to join the EU Victims' Rights Platform. This call for expression of interest is limited to EU level umbrella organisations.

To apply, please read the document below, check that you fulfil the criteria, fill in the form in the Annex and send it to [EC-COORDINATOR-VICTIMS-RIGHTS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EC-COORDINATOR-VICTIMS-RIGHTS@ec.europa.eu) no later than **Friday, 12 February 2021, noon (CET)**.

### *Context*

The Commission adopted on 24 June 2020 its first EU Strategy on victims' rights (2020-2025). The main objective of this strategy is to ensure that victims of crime, no matter where in the EU or in what circumstances the crime took place, can fully rely on their rights. The strategy deals with all victims of all crimes. However, special attention is paid to the most vulnerable victims, such as victims of gender-based violence, victims of hate crime, child victims, LGBTIQ victims, victims of terrorism and victims of trafficking in human beings.

The strategy outlines actions that will be conducted by the European Commission, Member States and civil society.

The EU Strategy on victims' rights is based on a two-strand approach: empowering victims of crime and working together for victims' rights. The strategy presents 5 key priorities: (i) effective communication with victims and a safe environment for victims to report crime; (ii) improving support and protection to the most vulnerable victims; (iii) facilitating victims' access to compensation; (iv) strengthening cooperation and coordination among all relevant actors; and (v) strengthening the international dimension of victims' rights.

Under the strand "working together on victims' rights", the strategy calls for **strengthening cooperation and coordination** in ensuring victims' access to their rights at national and EU

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<sup>1</sup>[https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/research\\_and\\_innovation/law\\_and\\_regulations/report\\_high-level\\_conference\\_on\\_the\\_eu\\_strategy\\_on\\_victims\\_rights\\_2020-2025\\_22\\_september\\_2020.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/research_and_innovation/law_and_regulations/report_high-level_conference_on_the_eu_strategy_on_victims_rights_2020-2025_22_september_2020.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0258>

level. At national level, it is vital to bring together all persons coming into contact with victims of crime. They include police, judicial authorities, court staff, victim support services, practitioners and compensation authorities.

At EU level, the Commission set up the Victims' Rights Platform and appointed the European Commission Coordinator for victims' rights.

The Platform brings together for the first time the main EU actors relevant for victims' rights, including networks, agencies, bodies and civil society organisations such as the European Network on Victims' Rights (ENVR), the EU Network of national contact points for compensation, the European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET), the European Judicial Training Network, the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, Eurojust, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL), the Fundamental Rights Agency, the European Institute Gender Equality (EIGE). The European Commission Coordinator for victims' rights will ensure the smooth functioning of the Platform.

### ***Main objectives of the Platform***

The main objective of the Platform is to ensure a more horizontal approach to victims' rights among EU-level stakeholders relevant for victims' rights. The Platform serves as a forum to discuss and exchange practices to develop EU victims' rights policy and notably to ensure a comprehensive and coherent approach to the implementation of the EU Victims' Rights Strategy.

The members of the Platform will meet at least once per year. In addition, the members will be called to *ad hoc* meetings to deal with particular subjects related to victims' rights. Such topics may include *inter alia* child victims, victims of terrorism, victims of hate crime and other aspects specifically mentioned in the EU Victims' Rights Strategy (e.g. physical protection of victims, access to justice for irregular migrants or access to justice for victims in detention).

The Victims' Rights Platform is a dynamic, living body, open to different relevant organizations at EU level, including civil society. The participation in the network is voluntary. Membership is however limited to those organizations that are active at EU level. National or local organisations cannot be members of the Platform. For the purpose of this call of interest, in order to be considered as an EU level umbrella organisation/network or association, you must include/represent the interests of national or local organisations from at least 6 EU Member States in relation to your specific area of expertise.

### ***Role of the members of the Platform***

All members of the Platform have a double role – vis-à-vis the Platform and vis-à-vis their own organization.

For members of the Platform who represent EU level victim support organizations, this double role will include:

- to be the voice of victims at EU level and to ensure that specific needs of particular groups of victims are taken into account in relation to other members of the Platform;
- to contribute to the implementation of the Victims' Rights Strategy in practice and to mainstream/take into account the victims' rights policy within their own organization, in relation to their national or local organizations and in direct relation with victims across the EU.

### ***Personal data protection***

The submission of a proposal under this call involves the collection, use and processing of personal data. This data will be processed in accordance with [Regulation 2018/1725](#). It will be processed solely for the purpose of evaluating your application.

### ***Criteria for participation in the EU Victims' Rights Platform***

To become a member of the Platform, the organisation must:

- be **legally based** in one of the EU Member States;
- be an **EU level umbrella network/organisation/association**<sup>3</sup> relevant for the implementation of the actions laid down in the EU Strategy on Victims' Rights (2020-2025);

**In addition, you will need to appoint a representative** who is fluent in English to represent the organisation at the forum of the EU Victims' Rights Platform and in contacts with the European Commission.

To apply, please complete the following form and send it to [EC-COORDINATOR-VICTIMS-RIGHTS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EC-COORDINATOR-VICTIMS-RIGHTS@ec.europa.eu) no later than **Friday, 12 February 2021, noon (CET)**. Unfortunately, the Commission is not in a position to consider late applications.

Applications will be **examined and selected** by the European Commission aiming to ensure a participation of members in diverse areas related to victims' rights, as presented in the EU Strategy on victims' rights (2020-2025).

The list of successful applicants will be published on the Commission [website dedicated to the Victims' Rights Platform](#) in due time following the application deadline.

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