

Commission Announces New Victims' Rights Strategy



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European Law Forum: Prevention • Investigation • Prosecution

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News

On the occasion of the European Day for Victims of Crime on 22 February 2020 and following the xenophobic/racist attacks in Hanau/Germany on 19 February 2020, Commission Vice-President *Věra Jourová* and Commissioner for Justice *Didier Reynders* [announced a new Commission strategy for victims' rights \(2020-2024\)](#) by summer 2020. According to the Commissioners, 75 million people fall victim to crime every year across Europe. Although the EU has robust victims' rights legislation in place, *there are still too many victims whose rights are not equally guaranteed when a crime is committed in an EU country other than their own. The EU must therefore aim to guarantee equal rights, regardless of where in the EU a person falls victim to a crime.*

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The new victims' rights strategy will:

- Empower victims;
- Strengthen cooperation and coordination between national authorities;
- Improve protection and support to victims;
- Facilitate access to compensation.

Support and protection of victims is currently ensured by the EU through the Victims' Rights Directive (2012/29/EU), sector-specific regulations (e.g., protection of victims of human trafficking, child sexual abuse/child pornography, and terrorism), and a legal scheme that facilitates access to compensation in situations where the crime was committed in an EU country other than the victim's country of residence.

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