



Gema Varona

Curriculum Vitae

Gema Varona is a research professor in Victimology and Criminal Policy at the Faculty of Law of the University of the Basque Country (San Sebastián, Spain) and Director of the Basque Institute of Criminology at that University, promoting international projects in education exchange and research. She is also professor at the International Master for the Sociology of Law. Member and chair of different working groups of the European Society of Criminology and the European Forum for Restorative Justice. Former coordinator of the degree in criminology and current co-director of Post-graduate studies in Victimology at her University, former member of the Ethics Committee for Research at that University, she was pioneer in developing her PhD in Criminology (1997) and, since then, she has authored books on migration and human rights, restorative justice, juries and the construction of juridical truth, women local safety audits, political violence, sexual abuse in organisations and evaluation of public policies for victims of different crimes. For her criminological background, she was elected member of *Jakiunde*, the Basque Academy of Sciences and Arts. See her extended CV and publications at: <https://www.ehu.eus/es/web/ivac/gema-varona-martinez> and <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2794-2239>

My role as a member of the WSV Executive Committee

I was co-opted for the WSV executive committee in 2018 and elected as member in 2022. I have been working in different committees since then and elected President of the WSV in 2024. Please, at this webpage, see the strategic plan presented and the annual reports by the presidency.

What inspires you to work for victims' rights?



I do not study victims, I work with victims and study very diverse and complex processes of victimisation and de-victimisation. Victims have their different and changing voices. My participatory action research with them has tried to learn from them and try to understand and explain their experiences with interacting individual, group, social, legal and structural factors, particularly those experiences that are mainly hidden at the first sight. My standpoint is a critical victimology, based on interdependent human rights, where the concept of victim-survivor is not pathological or reduced to individual suffering, and it is not antagonist to offenders' rights. It looks for understanding and social justice in a globalised world.

Contact information

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