

**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COURSES AND ACTIVITIES ENDORSED BY THE WORLD
SOCIETY OF VICTIMOLOGY (WSV) (approved by unanimity by the EC on June 18
2026)**

Applicability:

The Code applies to all groups of people (Faculty, staff, students and postdoctoral scholars, individuals who perform services for the course/activities as professionals or volunteers).

1. Introduction and Purpose

a. Introduction

All members of the course/activity are responsible for sustaining the high ethical standards of the WSV, and of the broader community in which it might function. The WSV values integrity, diversity, respect, freedom of inquiry and expression, trust, honesty and fairness and strives to integrate these values into all its activities.

b. Purpose

In that spirit, this Code is a shared statement of our commitment to upholding the ethical, professional and legal standards we use as the basis for our daily and long-term decisions and actions. We all must be aware of and comply with the relevant policies, standards, laws and regulations that guide our work. We are each individually accountable for our own actions and, as members of the WSV, are collectively accountable for upholding these standards of behavior and for compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and policies.

2. Standards of Integrity and Quality

The WSV recognizes that it must earn and maintain a reputation for integrity that includes, but is not limited to, compliance with laws and regulations and its contractual obligations. Even the appearance of misconduct or impropriety can be damaging to the WSV. The WSV must strive at all times to maintain the highest standards of integrity and quality.

There are times when WSV activities and other conduct of its members are not governed by specific laws or regulations. In these instances, rules of fairness, honesty, and respect for the rights of others will govern our conduct at all times.

In addition, each individual is required to conduct these activities with the utmost honesty, accuracy and fairness. Each situation needs to be examined in accordance with this standard. No unethical practice can be tolerated, even if such practice is

"customary" outside the WSV or even if some of the goals it serves are worthy. Expediency should never compromise integrity.

3. Respect for Others

The WSV is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in spreading victimological knowledge and practice and facilitation of an environment that fosters this goal. Central to this commitment is the principle of treating each WSV member fairly and with respect, and embracing diversity and inclusion.

The WSV prohibits discrimination and harassment and provides equal opportunities for all members regardless of their ethnic origin, color, religious creed, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability, reproductive health decision-making, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, military status, veteran status or any other characteristic protected by law. Where actions are found to have occurred that violate this standard the WSV will take prompt action to cease the offending conduct, prevent its recurrence and discipline those responsible.

4. Compliance with Laws and Applicable Policies and Procedures

Members of the WSV must comply with applicable laws, regulations, and academic policies and procedures. EC members and course/activity directors are responsible for monitoring compliance. When questions arise pertaining to interpretation or applicability of policy, the WSV Executive Committee will be responsible to clarify.

Some professions and disciplines are governed by standards and codes specific to their profession. Those professional standards generally advance the quality of the profession and/or discipline by developing codes of ethics, conduct, and professional responsibility and standards to guide their members. Those belonging to such organizations are expected to adhere to this WSV code of conduct in addition to any professional standards. If a WSV member believes there is a conflict or contradiction between a professional standard and WSV policy, they should contact the WSV Secretary General.

5. Confidentiality, Privacy and Information Security

All members of the WSV are expected to comply with all applicable rules, laws, and regulations, contractual obligations, and policies pertaining to the use, protection and

disclosure of information. When disaffiliating from the WSV, members must return all sensitive WSV data unless an exception has been granted.

6. Financial Responsibilities and Internal Controls

Members of the WSV are expected to employ sound business practices and exercise prudent financial management in their stewardship of WSV related resources.

7. Use of WSV Resources

WSV resources must be reserved for activities purposes on behalf of the WSV. They may not be used for personal gain, and may not be used for personal use except in a manner that is incidental, and reasonable in light of the member's duties.

8. Conflict of Interest

WSV members owe their allegiance to the WSV and its mission to engage in the highest level high-quality practices.

A conflict of interest arises when a person's external activities, relationships, or personal interests — whether financial, professional, or institutional — could influence, or reasonably be perceived as influencing, their responsibilities toward the WSV. This includes situations such as holding consulting contracts with organizations whose work overlaps with WSV's mandate, participating in decisions in which the individual or a close associate has a direct stake, or using WSV's name or resources to advance personal interests without authorization. Individuals are expected to disclose any such situation and to recuse themselves from related decision-making processes when appropriate.

Elected officials are prohibited from using access to information obtained through their office to advance their personal interests.

Outside professional activities, private financial interests or the receipt of benefits or gifts from third parties can cause an actual or perceived conflict of interest.

Relationships between WSV and its sponsors must be free of any real or perceived impropriety or favoritism. WSV members should not solicit any gift, and should not personally accept any material gift, gratuity or payment, in cash or in kind, from any third party seeking to do or doing activities with the WSV.

9. Response to Governmental or Other Investigations

WSV is committed to cooperating with government investigators as required by law.

10. Reporting Suspected Violations

Adherence to this Code also requires that any suspected violations of applicable standards, policies, laws or regulations be brought to the attention of the Standards and Norms Committee in writing. Raising such concerns is a service to the WSV and does not jeopardize the member's position.

a. Reporting to Management

Members of the WSV should report suspected violations of applicable laws, regulations, this Code and policies and procedures. This reporting should normally be made initially through the usual channels, beginning with the Chair of the Standards and Norms Committee or, if for any reason it is not appropriate to report suspected violations to this person, individuals may go to another EC member or past EC members.

b. Confidentiality

Concerns may be reported confidentially, although the more information given, the easier it is to investigate the concerns.

c. Cooperation

All members of the WSV are expected to cooperate fully in the investigation of potential violations of this Code and applicable rules, laws, or regulations.

d. Non-Retaliation

WSV policy prohibits retaliation against an individual who in good faith reports or provides information about concerns or suspected violations. Retaliation is an adverse action taken because an individual has made a report or has participated in an investigation. An adverse action is any action that materially and emotionally affects that individual's standing. False accusations made with the intent of harming or retaliating against another person may subject the accuser to disciplinary action.

e. Consequences of Violation

Confirmed violations will result in appropriate disciplinary action up to and including being expelled from the WSV. In some circumstances, civil or criminal charges and penalties may apply.

11. Composition and Procedure of the Disciplinary Process

Alleged violations of this Code shall be reviewed through a fair, impartial and transparent process. The Standards and Norms Committee will carry out an initial assessment and, where warranted, refer matters to a Disciplinary Panel appointed by the Executive Committee.

The Disciplinary Panel should ordinarily comprise at least three EC members with appropriate expertise and without conflicts of interest relating to the matter under consideration. Individuals directly involved in the allegation or with personal or professional interests that may compromise impartiality shall recuse themselves from participation. Efforts will be made to ensure the panel's diversity, where appropriate.

Persons against whom allegations are made shall be informed of the complaint, provided a reasonable opportunity to respond, and may submit relevant information before any disciplinary decision is taken.

The Disciplinary Panel shall make recommendations regarding outcomes or sanctions proportionate to the nature and seriousness of the violation. Decisions may include education measures, warnings, suspension from activities, removal from positions of responsibility, or membership withdrawal from the WSV where appropriate.

An appeal process may be made available through an independent review mechanism determined by the Executive Committee.