

WORLD SOCIETY OF VICTIMOLOGY



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President's Report (October 2026)

Overview based on the 3-year strategy (2024–2027), presented in 2024 by the President

Gema Varona and published on the WSV webpage



Source: The Rights Studio

Reporting period: September 2025 – 1 October 2026 (*in red: pending issues to be stressed for the last year of mandate)

This second annual report of the mandate follows the structure of the three-year strategy and of the September 2025 report, so that the Executive Committee (EC) and the general membership can track continuity, progress and pending matters. As in the first year, all activities have been carried out engaging the Secretary-General, the Committees and WSV members at large, and integrating all lines of interest without losing a common and workable focus.

I. Public awareness: WSV webpage sustainability and use in coordination with social media

1. Sustainable webpage. The webpage has remained fully operational throughout 2026 (as agreed at the EC meeting of 12 September 2025, item “WSV webpage running for 2026”, led by the President with Faride Peña). Given the continued lack of a WSV budget for this purpose, the Presidency has again supported the

	running costs from her own research funds. A sustainable financing model for the webpage beyond the Presidency's funds remains pending. The Communications Committee has additionally advanced the updating of the website, its maintenance for 2027 and proposals for a podcast series and other contents for the members-only section (EC meetings of 18 June and 10 August 2026). 2. Membership payments. The credit card and PayPal payment channels linked to the Society's German bank account, consolidated in 2025 with the Treasurer, Peter Schafer, and the generous volunteer help of Pamela Kerschke, have operated throughout the year, but credit card payment has only been really possible recently, thanks to the SG collaboration, easing new memberships and renewals. The membership list has been kept updated by the Chair of the Membership and Advancement Committee, Bhanu Prakash Nunna, our SG, respecting all privacy requirements — an essential precondition for the 2027 electoral roll.
II. Support to practice	3. Code of conduct. <u>In 2026, the Standards and Norms Committee approved, and the Society published, the WSV Code of Conduct,</u> applicable to WSV-endorsed activities and courses, in accordance with the Training and Education (Victimology Course) Policy of the Procedures Manual, which requires eligible courses to have a code of conduct shared with students and staff. 4. Courses and training. The alliance with the Dubrovnik course — a priority announced in the 2025 report — was renewed: the President lectured at the XXXX International Post Graduate Course on Victimology, Victim Assistance and Criminal Justice (IUC Dubrovnik, 18–30 May 2026). The design of WSV online courses as a source of revenue, debated in EC meetings, remains to be developed. Practice guides on the principles of justice, rights and treatment of victims in open access in various languages also remain a future line, although collaboration with several organisations and victimology groups continues.
III. Policy making	5. Diverse territorial scales. Contacts with Victim Support Europe (participation in the workshops and labs of the VSE Annual Conference, Paris, June 2026), the European Forum for Restorative Justice (Working Group on Organisations, and the 13th International EFRJ Conference in Poznań), the victimology community of the

	European Society of Criminology (Athens 2025 and Warsaw 2026), and academic and practitioner networks in Asia, Africa and the Americas have been maintained and deepened, always presenting the Society's purposes. 6. Broad notion of victimisation. The broad notion of victimisation — in relation to justice, public health, peace, safety, security, welfare, economy and public services — has again informed all interventions, including new frontiers such as environmental and organisational/institutional victimisation (Cambridge Conservation Initiative Dialogue; INLAR Symposium on Apologies and Law, Ghent), thereby going beyond the Global North and the classical frontiers of victimology, as the strategy proposes. 7. Sections. Following the revision of the Standards and Norms Committee proposal at the EC meeting of 12 September 2025, the regulation of the Iberoamerican section and similar regional sections has continued to be developed as a vehicle for member participation between Symposia, always respecting the WSV basic standards and procedures.
IV. Debate/networking	8. Events. The President has attended and contributed to online and in-person events in Europe, Asia and the Americas (see the list of international conferences below), always with the horizon of the 19th International Symposium on Victimology (ISV), announced in all fora and in the signature of e-mails. Where participation was in person, all travel and related costs were paid from the President's own research funds, at no cost to the Society. 9. 19th ISV (Montreal). Preparation of the 19th ISV have proceed. Proposals of keynote speakers were gathered from all EC members (EC meetings of 30 January and 18 June 2026), for selection by the EC as the Procedures Manual requires. <u>A mediation process, developed with the help of the Secretary-General and EC members, Ms. Faride Peña and Ms. Sarah Agneta Simmons, addressed the composition of the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) and related issues for the ISV.</u> A draft position on international crimes and the participation of delegates in the next ISV — acknowledging the engagement of colleagues in conflict zones who, at high risk, work for peace and

	understanding — was tabled for structured discussion at the EC meeting of 10 August 2026. The 40th anniversary of the 1985 UN Declaration on victims has continued to inform the Society’s activities with the help of the UN Liaison Committee Chair, Dawn Beichner. 10. Awards. <u>In August 2026, the Awards Committee, convened by the Secretary-General in accordance with Appendix 6 of the Procedures Manual, opened the triennial awards cycle ahead of the 19th ISV</u>: giving notice of the dates for nominations from the membership for the Hans von Hentig Award, the Benjamin Mendelsohn Young Victimologist Award, the Irene Melup Certificates of Appreciation and Honorary Membership, for report to, and final decision by, the full EC by e-ballot. In parallel, the EC has examined the proposal of a new Book Award, the revision of the Students’ Papers Competition budget, and the proposal of an Early Scholars Committee (EC meeting of 10 August 2026).
Other basic objectives, in collaboration with the SG and the kind help of other EC members	Clarification of the guiding regulations in force followed a rigorous two-step process: the items in red of the Procedures Manual were revised in depth at the EC meeting of 21 November 2025 and the Manual was finalised by vote, and published on the WSV website, at the EC meeting of 30 January 2026. Governance continuity was also secured: a new Vice-President was nominated and elected by e-mail vote following the EC meeting of 21 November 2025, and vacancies in the EC were addressed on 30 January 2026. The long-standing issue of the 2024 ISV certificates was brought to a final decision after fourteen months (EC meeting of 21 November 2025). The notary requirements in Germany regarding the non-profit status of the Society and the card/PayPal membership payments, led by the Treasurer, have remained a standing priority at every meeting. The President has continued drafting the agendas, organising the online meetings and recording for the minutes of the EC, whose full minutes are available from the SG.
Gratitude and recommendations	With deep gratitude for the work done during this second year of the mandate, EC members are encouraged to collaborate further with basic tasks and with activities for all members at large beyond the three-yearly Symposia, including through the sections initiative.

Priorities for the final year: resources and outputs	First, the 2027 elections: under the Basic Statute and the Procedures Manual, the SG must solicit nominations during this third year for the EC positions to be vacated, and conduct the mail ballot in good time for the results to be available before the 19th ISV. Second, raising resources for the WSV and making membership worth it all year round remain pending, through participation in the Committees, the sections, the awards cycle and the Montreal Symposium.
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International conferences attended as WSV President (September 2025 – 1 October 2026)

All in-person participation listed below was funded entirely from the President's own research funds, at no cost to the Society.

1. 2025 Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology, Athens, 3–6 September 2025 and round table for the tenth anniversary of the Revista de Victimología/Journal of Victimology.
2. IIRP World Conference “Artful Integration: Exploring the Art and Science of Restorative Practices”, Chattanooga (USA), 19–22 October 2025.
3. International Congress of the Spanish Society of Legal Psychology, Madrid, 23–25 October 2025.
4. XXII Congreso Nacional de Criminología “50 years of Criminology in Mexico”, León, Guanajuato (Mexico), 5–8 November 2025: invited lecture “A look into the future of Victimology from Mendelsohn's work”.
5. International Victim Assistance Week, O.P. Jindal Global University (India), 28 November 2025: invited lecture “Restorative Justice and Community-Based Victim Support Models”.
6. Luso-Spanish Congress “Antisocial recreation on the Internet: New forms of criminality and prevention”, University of Lisbon, 5–7 December 2025: invited paper “Cyberspaces as loci of de-victimisation and individual and organisational responsabilisation”.
7. INLAR Symposium “Apologies & Law: Intersections, Tensions, and Transformation”, Ghent (Belgium), 23 April 2026: invited paper “The role of apologies to respond to institutional/organisational harm”.

8. International Conference “Criminal Law in the Anthropocene Era”, Instituto de Derecho Penal Europeo e Internacional, Ciudad Real, 8–9 May 2026: invited lecture “Restorative Justice and Transitional Justice”.
9. XXXIX International Post Graduate Course on Victimology, Victim Assistance and Criminal Justice, Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik (Croatia), 18–30 May 2026: invited lecture “Institutional/Organizational Victimization: Institutions as Locus of Harms and Reparations. Study Cases” (22 May 2026).
10. Victim Support Europe Annual Conference, Paris, 2–3 June 2026: participation in the workshops and labs on strengthening victims’ rights and supporting frontline professionals.
11. 13th International Conference of the European Forum for Restorative Justice “Echoes of Restorative Encounters”, Poznań (Poland), 11–12 June 2026: invited contributions to the workshop “Comparative Case Studies using Restorative Justice for Organisational Harm: The Appreciative Evaluation Tool” and to the panel “Posidonia oceanica and blue restorative justice”.
12. Dialogue “Repairing Harm to Enable Ecosystem Restoration”, Cambridge Conservation Initiative and the Endangered Landscapes & Seascapes Programme, Cambridge (UK), 13–14 July 2026: invited talk “Challenges for real transformation”.
13. 3rd International Conference on Global Criminology and Victimology (ICGCV-2026), Parul University, Vadodara (India), 27–31 July 2026: invited lecture “Wrongful convictions in Spain: A case study to illustrate eclipsed victimization by the criminal system” and invited pre-conference workshop “Competitive victimhood: How to work with different groups of victims towards victim-expanding solidarity?”.
14. 2026 Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology, Warsaw, 9–13 September 2026: poster “Mapping threshold concepts and terms for operationalization in identifying and responding to institutional/organisational harm” and individual paper “Victim identities: when society, organisations and institutions provoke further harm”.

ANNEX: EC meetings during the reporting year (minutes available from the SG)

12 SEPTEMBER 2025 (online)

- Welcome (2 minutes).

- Priority on the notary process in Germany and note on the membership payment via credit card/PayPal (German bank) (Peter) (10 minutes).
- Reports by Committees (please, if you are so kind, to be delivered at least five days before the EC) (all Committee Chairs, SG and President) (20 minutes).
- Grants by the WSV and other institutions/organisations for the 19th ISV (Sarah and Jo-Anne) (10 minutes).
- Meeting in Montreal in 2026: 14–18 June, 2026 (Jo-Anne) (15 minutes).
- Online-courses ideas to get revenues for the WSV (Gema with the help of others) (10 minutes).
- Revision of the proposal of the Standards and Norms Committee on the regulation of the Iberoamerican section and similar sections (Janice, Faride, Lorena and Gema) (15 minutes).
- WSV webpage running for 2026 (Gema and Faride) (10 minutes).
- Follow-up of Janice's certificate for the Indian Symposium in 2024 (Bhanu and Beulah) (5 minutes).
- Other issues (5 minutes).
- Fixing the next date for the EC meeting in December (2 minutes).
- Farewell (2 minutes).

21 NOVEMBER 2025 (online)

- Welcome.
- Again, priority on information on the notary process in Germany and the payment of memberships via card (Peter, 5 minutes).
- Approval of last minutes (see recording of our last EC meeting in September, link circulated via Microsoft Teams) (Bhanu, 5 minutes).
- Approval of reports by the Communication Committee and the update by the Membership Committee, to be sent before the EC meeting (Faride & Bhanu, 10 minutes).
- Nomination and voting via e-mail of a new Vice-President (10 minutes).
- Discussing the ideas previously sent via e-mail by each EC member on the organisation of courses by the WSV with the aim, among others, to raise some

revenues/memberships in accordance with its non-profit status and appointment, if so, of a coordination or working group to further develop this action, if agreed (Gema, 15 minutes).

- Proposal of a Code of Conduct for courses endorsed/organised by the WSV (brief ideas on the rationale and concrete proposal sent to all via e-mail before the EC meeting to save time) (Jo-Anne, 10 minutes).
- Proposal for a Book Award (brief ideas on the rationale and functioning sent to all via e-mail before the EC meeting to save time) (Jo-Anne, 5 minutes).
- Revising the items in red of the Manual of Procedures (circulated in attachment for careful reading) (Gema & Janice, 40 minutes).
- Debate on ideas previously submitted via e-mail to all EC members on the possibility of grants for the next ISV (Sarah, 5 minutes).
- Final state of affairs after 14 months and decision on the 2024 ISV certificate issue (voting if necessary) (Bhanu, Beulah & Janice, 5 minutes).
- Others (4 minutes).
- Farewell (1 minute).

30 JANUARY 2026 (online)

- Welcome (1 minute).
- Approval of the last outcome minutes to be sent by our SG (2 minutes).
- Vacancies in the EC (5 minutes).
- Notary process (Peter, 5 minutes).
- Voting to finalise, and publish on the WSV website, the Procedures Manual (statements in red in the Word document already sent) (50 minutes).
- Membership report (5 minutes).
- Code of Conduct proposal for courses (15 minutes).
- Online courses organised by the WSV for the members-only section of the webpage (5 minutes).
- Scientific Committee/SPC (Bhanu, Beulah and Jo-Anne, 10 minutes).
- List of members of the SPC (proposal sent by Jo-Anne, in attachment) (5 minutes).
- Proposal of ISV keynote speakers (proposals to be sent before the EC) (5 minutes).

- Awards Committee (Gema, Jo-Anne, 5 minutes).
- Potential scholarships for the next ISV (Sarah, 5 minutes).
- WSV social networks (4 minutes).
- Farewell (2 minutes).

18 JUNE 2026 (online)

- Welcome.
- Approval of the last EC outcome minutes.
- Notary process.
- Proposal of keynote speakers for the Symposium.
- Awards Committee (proposal of a Book Award) and Early Scholar Committee proposals.
- New Chair of the Standards and Norms Committee: Code of Conduct and members in good standing.
- Podcast series for the WSV website and other contents for our members.
- Other matters.
- Farewell.

10 AUGUST 2026 (online)

- Welcome and check-in.
- Approval of last EC outcome minutes.
- Notary process.
- Bank payment.
- Awards Committee.
- Awards (Book Award?) and Students' Papers Competition (revising budget).
- Proposal of an Early Scholars Committee.
- Position on international crimes and participation of delegates in the next ISV (draft circulated for discussion, inspired by the ESC statement on Gaza, acknowledging the engagement of colleagues in conflict zones who, at high risk, work for peace and understanding, with compromise and not indifference or tokenism; proposals or

amendments to the draft to be sent in advance to contribute to a fair and concrete debate).

- Communications Committee: updating website and 2027 maintenance. Podcasts.
- International crimes notes and the next ISV.
- Other issues: reminder to all Chairs of the drafting and delivering of their annual reports for the autumn EC meeting.
- Farewell and check-out.