

# Towards a victim-centred criminal justice system. Talking about trauma

Join our online event on **17<sup>th</sup> September 11AM (EEST/Helsinki Time)** to be inspired by knowledge and ideas from experienced professionals in the fields of law, criminology, and psychology.

We will first discuss structural issues for developing more victim-centred criminal justice systems, such as legislation, multidisciplinary cooperation, and how to provide victims with information on their rights. Then, we move on to understand how trauma can manifest in the criminal justice system and how criminal justice actors can in practice provide justice in a trauma-informed manner.

## **11.00 - 11.10 Opening Remarks**

**Raija Toiviainen**, Prosecutor General, Finland

## **11.10 - 11.20 The Justice Programme and its support for victims' rights projects**

**Marieta Tosheva**, Legislative Officer, DG JUST, European Commission

## **11.20 - 11.30 RE-JUST Project**

**Silvia Antoaneta Berbec**, President Association Pro Refugiu, Romania

## **11.30 - 12:10 Panel 1: Strategies for more victim-centred criminal justice systems**

Reforming legislation to ensure victim-centered approaches

/ **Dr Maria Yordanova**, Senior Research Fellow, Center for the Study of Democracy, Bulgaria

Multidisciplinary cooperation and referrals

/ **Elena Gómez**, Legal Expert, Dinamia S. Coop, Spain

Ensuring access to information for victims

/ **Anja Wells**, criminologist & migration scientist &

**Katrin Lehmann** Social worker, SOLWODI Deutschland e.V, Germany

Questions from the audience

/(5min break)

## **12.15 -12:45**

### **Keynote: "Why understanding memory and trauma enhances the delivery of justice?"**

**Dr Julia Korkman**, Adjunct professor, co-leader of research group in legal psychology, Åbo Akademi University,

Questions and discussion

## **12.45- 13.15**

### **Keynote: "Why the victim should be at the core of the criminal process?"**

**Johanna Niemi**, Professor of procedural law, Faculty of Law, University of Turku

Questions and discussion

(5 min break)

**13.20-14.30 Panel 2: Practical skills for encountering traumatised victims**

Trauma-informed encounters

/ **Gabriela Ionescu**, Psychologist, Association Pro Refugiu, Romania

Trauma-informed interview techniques

/ **David R. Thomas**, Program Manager II, International Association of Chiefs of Police, The US

Self-care for justice professionals

/ **Sirpa Partinen**, psychologist, Finland

Questions from the audience and discussion

**14:30 Closing remarks**

**Dr Natalia Ollus**, Director of the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI)

The event is moderated by Inka Lilja, HEUNI

Register here: <https://bit.ly/heuniseminar>

**Speaker introductions**



**David R. Thomas**

David R. Thomas is going on his 35<sup>th</sup> year of providing training and technical assistance to law enforcement at the state, local, national, and international levels. He is a retired police officer who taught at Johns Hopkins University, served the Air Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program as a Highly Qualified Expert before working in his present position as a Program Manager II, International Association of Chiefs Police.



**Johanna Niemi**

Niemi is the Professor of procedural law at University of Turku, and the Minna Canth Academy professor 2015-2019. She has researched and led research projects on different aspects of violence against women and the criminal process, including rape, domestic violence, protection orders and sex-buying. Her recent work includes Niemi et al. (eds), International Law and Violence against Women: Europe and the Istanbul Convention. Routledge 2020.



### **Raija Toiviainen**

Toiviainen, Master of Laws, is the Prosecutor General of Finland. She started at the Office of the Prosecutor General in 1997 and has since served as State Prosecutor and Head of the International Unit.

Toiviainen was appointed Deputy Prosecutor General in 2016, and later served as temporary Prosecutor General.



### **Julia Korkman**

Adjunct professor Julia Korkman is co-leading the research group in legal psychology at Åbo Akademi University; [LePÅ](#). Dr Korkman delivers expert training in legal psychology and lectures to professionals in various fields, e.g. the legal system and police, conducts investigative interviews in criminal investigations, and is responsible for the first national [Specialisation course in Forensic Psychology](#). She is particularly interested in investigative interviewing and memory within the legal context. Furthermore, Dr Korkman is a certified expert of the [Justice Rapid Response](#) roster since 2021, and also the President-elect of the European Association of Psychology and Law.



### **Silvia Antoaneta Berbec**

Berbec is the President of Pro Refugiu Association and lawyer in the Bucharest Bar. She is specialised in Criminal Law, Public International Law, Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. Over the years she has been actively involved in actions that can enhance access to justice for vulnerable individuals with a focus on asylum seekers, refugees, victims of gender-based violence, victims of human trafficking, victims of hate crime, racism and xenophobia.



### **Dr Maria Yordanova**

Dr Maria Yordanova joined the CSD in the late 1998 and has since directed the CSD Law Program. Previously, she was Assistant Professor of Comparative Constitutional Law and Systems at the University of National and World Economy in Sofia and senior legal advisor at the United Bulgarian Bank Ltd.



### **Elena Gómez**

Gómez is working as legal expert at Dinamia. Gómez is an expert in Migration, Asylum and International cooperation with ten years of work experience in Non-Governmental Organisations and Public Administration. Gómez is specialised in the design and implementation of national and international projects to strengthen, support and disseminate actions aimed at the promotion of human rights, intercultural mediation, integration and management of diversity.



### **Gabriela Ionescu**

Psychologist, Cognitive Behavioral Psychotherapist, specialized in working with survivors of torture and psychological trauma (victims of crimes, refugees, victims of domestic violence, victims of human trafficking etc). She writes articles and gives presentations on topics related to psychological trauma, aimed at specialists who interact with victims of crime (specialists in the legal, social, health fields, police structures, etc.)



### **Sirpa Partinen**

Partinen is specialised in cognitive psychotherapy, psychology and coaching.

Currently, Sirpa Partinen works as a Psychotherapist at Tsäänssi and offers self-care for justice professionals. As a therapist, Sirpa Partinen describes herself as motivating, active and supportive.

### **Marieta Tosheva**

Legislative Officer, DG JUST, European Commission



### **Katrin Lehmann**

Social worker, SOLWODI Deutschland e.V, Germany



**Anja Wells**  
Criminologist, Migration scientist



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