

## **Integrated Response to Mass Shootings and Firearms Misuse Incidents**

Victimology Society of Serbia (VDS) is implementing a project entitled *Integrated Response to Mass Shootings and Firearms Misuse Incidents*. As part of the project, a research study is being conducted with the goal of mapping the needs of survivors, i.e. both direct and indirect victims, as well as first responders in cases of mass victimization, and identifying existing resources for crisis response. Special attention will be given to support resources available to victims of firearms misuse incidents. Based on the collected data, recommendations will be developed to improve responses to crisis situations involving firearms misuse. These recommendations will include systemic victim support measures and will be applicable to other cases of mass victimization as well.

In order to achieve this goal, the research will include three components:

1. **Desk Research**, aimed at examining existing procedures and responses to crisis situations involving firearms misuse both in Serbia and internationally, as well as existing victim support services for (direct and indirect) victims of mass victimization in Serbia.
2. **Empirical Research**, with the aim of gathering data on the needs of survivors, both direct and indirect victims, as well as those who are the first to respond after mass victimization events, and identifying existing crisis response resources, particularly for firearms misuse incidents in Serbia. To collect the necessary data, interviews will be conducted with several groups of respondents: indirect victims (family members of those killed, people who were present at the scene but not physically harmed); direct victims (individuals who survived the mass victimization, such as those injured); first responders and professionals who provided or are capable of providing help and support following firearms misuse-related mass victimizations, decision-makers and media representatives.
3. **Development, verification, and finalization of recommendations**, aimed at:  
a) Improving crisis response, particularly victim support, in situations involving firearms misuse; and b) Establishing the foundation for broader research on victim needs, available support resources, and prevention of firearms misuse incidents.

The project is being implemented from April 3 to July 20, 2025, and is part of the project [\*Reduce Risk-Increase Safety III\*](#), conducted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).