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STEERING COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
(CDDH)

**Analysis by the Secretariat
of the replies to the questionnaire related to the
protection of victims of terrorist acts**

Introduction

1. In the framework of the CDDH terms of reference for the biennium 2018–2019, a Workshop on the protection of victims of terrorist acts will take place on 20 March 2019, at 91st meeting. This event is organised under the aegis of the French Presidency of the Committee of Ministers. In view of the Workshop, the CDDH asked member States to communicate their experience and good practices on the protection of victims of terrorist acts. 20 member States responded to the questionnaire sent to this end; their responses appear in document CDDH(2019)10 (bilingual).
2. The present document contains an analysis by the Secretariat of the information received.

1. Have victims of terrorist acts recognised a particular legal status in your country?

a. In particular, does any definition of “victim of terrorist act” exist in your legal system?

1. Four member States¹ indicated that victims of terrorist acts are recognised with a particular legal status allowing them to benefit from Government support². One respondent specified that, under certain conditions, EU citizens are entitled to government support³.
2. Three of the four above-mentioned member States have a specific definition of “victim of terrorist act”⁴.
3. One of these States specified that both natural and legal persons could be included in the definition of victims of terrorist acts⁵. Two of these States indicated that, despite the lack of a particular definition, the victims of terrorist acts have specific procedures under the scope of national solidarity mechanisms⁶.
4. A number of respondents specified that they do not have a particular legal status for victims of terrorist attacks. Such victims are accounted for in general definitions of victims of crime, without creating separate categories of victims⁷.
5. A number of States have fully transposed the EU Directive on Victims’ Rights (Directive 2012/29/EE) establishing, *inter alia*, minimum rights, support and protection of victims of crime, including victims of terrorist acts, into their national legislation⁸. A draft law on criminal procedure which is in line with this Directive is in the final stages of preparation in one State⁹.

b. Have relatives and dependents of those who have suffered bodily or psychological damage due to a terrorist act, recognised the status of victim?

6. Four States indicated that they only recognize relatives and dependents as victims of terrorist acts if their relative died as a result of a terrorist act¹⁰. One State mentioned that EU member States are bound by the Directive 2012/29 of

¹ Austria, Estonia, Monaco, Spain.

² Austria, Monaco, Spain.

³ Austrian Victims of Crime Act (*Verbrechensopfergesetz* – VOG, Federal Law Gazette No. 288/1972).

⁴ Austria, Estonia, Spain.

⁵ Estonia.

⁶ Belgium, Germany.

⁷ Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Montenegro, The Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland.

⁸ Cyprus, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal.

⁹ North Macedonia.

¹⁰ Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Spain.

the European Parliament, which makes a clear distinction between direct and indirect victims. This concept was evoked by several States¹¹.

7. Several respondents indicated that the rights of relative and dependents of victims of terrorist acts only extend to the granting of certain procedural rights in criminal proceedings¹².
8. Other member States have a variety of measures in place with regard to including relatives and dependents of those who have suffered bodily or psychological damage due to a terrorist act under the status of a victim : granting of victim status for affected relatives and dependents of someone who died as a result of a terrorist act or relatives who witnessed the crime¹³, the possibility for relatives and dependents to benefit from “national solidarity” status¹⁴ or hardship payments¹⁵, and receipt of identical support and services for members of the victims’ family and full inclusion in the definition of victims¹⁶.
9. Three member States provide for the inclusion of both natural and legal persons whose legal interest has been directly violated or threatened by terrorist acts in the category of victim¹⁷. The inclusion of provisions for recognising the status of victims in cases of psychological damage was explicitly evoked by only a small number of states¹⁸.
10. One respondent indicated the absence of any provisions in this regard¹⁹.

2. First urgent assistance to victims: is it ensured in your country the availability of appropriate (medical, psychological, social and material) emergency assistance free of charge to them?

11. Fifteen member States indicated that free emergency medical and psychological assistance is provided to victims²⁰. These positive responses were generally in relation to immediate, first responder support, with one respondent mentioning the requirement under the EU Terrorism Directive (2017/541/EU) for EU member States to ensure that support services addressing the specific needs of victims of terrorism are in place in accordance with the Victims of Crime Directive (2012/29/EU) immediately after a terrorist attack and for as long as necessary. These services must be free of charge and include emotional and psychological support, advice and information on relevant legal, practical or financial issues. Under the Terrorism Directive, member States must ensure that

¹¹ Belgium, Croatia, France, Portugal.

¹² Denmark, Norway, Sweden.

¹³ Austria.

¹⁴ Belgium.

¹⁵ Germany.

¹⁶ Cyprus, The Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland.

¹⁷ Poland, Finland, Turkey.

¹⁸ Belgium, France.

¹⁹ Montenegro.

²⁰ Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Monaco, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.

adequate medical treatment is available to victims of terrorism immediately after a terrorist attack and for as long as necessary²¹.

12. However, beyond the provision of urgent medical/psychological support to victims, medical, psychological, social and material support, which extended beyond immediate need, varied greatly.
 - a. Extensive supports ranging from urgent medical need, support of families and relatives of deceased victims, longer-term medical and psychological compensations²², advances on financial support²³ and emergency accommodation²⁴ were reported.
 - b. One State indicated the availability of property and succession tax reliefs with regards to inheritance from deceased victims of terrorist acts²⁵.
 - c. One State indicated that its experience of terrorism led to the amendment of the municipal health and care act to clarify municipal duties concerning the provision of urgent psycho-social assistance²⁶. Longer term support was available under the status of “national solidarity” entitling beneficiaries (including non-nationals and non-residents) to pensions and reimbursements of medical fees²⁷.
 - d. Another State outlined the availability of pensions to families of deceased victims or persons suffering permanent disability resulting from terrorist acts²⁸, while two respondents report the coverage of funeral costs of victims²⁹.
13. One State indicated that national legislation does not recognise victims of terrorist acts as a special category and it does not have any provisions for medical, psychological or social assistance in the case of terrorist acts³⁰.

3. Have victims of terrorist acts access to a specific information point concerning their rights?
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14. With regards to the first point of contact for victims of terrorist acts in receiving specific information concerning their rights, two members States indicated that the criminal investigation and prosecutions authorities are responsible for first informing victims of their rights under the Code of Criminal Procedure³¹.

²¹ Sweden.

²² Belgium, France, Montenegro, The Netherlands, Poland.

²³ Belgium, France.

²⁴ Monaco, Poland, Switzerland.

²⁵ France.

²⁶ Norway.

²⁷ Belgium.

²⁸ Spain.

²⁹ Montenegro, Spain.

³⁰ North Macedonia.

³¹ Austria, Estonia.

15. One respondent outlined work currently underway in order to create a single-entry point, in the Federal prosecutor's office, for such purpose³².
16. Two member States outlined a variety of information services available to victims, such as a telephone hotline³³; one developed a "one-stop shop" for all terrorism-related issues under the control of the Directorate General to Support Victims of Terrorism of the Ministry of Home Affairs³⁴; the other made available of information leaflets for family members of deceased or wounded persons and a dedicated information page on the Government's website³⁵.
17. In 2018, one responding State established a Commissioner for the victims and bereaved of terrorist offences to serve as the main information focal point under the Federal Ministry of Justice and for Consumer Protection. This has led to the development of a brochure in various languages with information for victims of terrorist acts³⁶. Similarly, an information booklet was also reported by another respondent³⁷.
18. Several States indicated the absence of terrorism-related information points and outlined that the provision of information terrorism victims was conducted in a less centralised and more general fashion across a number of State departments³⁸.

4. Have victims of terrorist acts a right in medium and long-term to medical, psychological, social and material assistance which leads them, as far as it is practicable, to resume the normal course of their activities and lives which they enjoyed before the terrorist act?

19. Most responding States have mechanisms to assist victims of terrorist acts. However, the long- or short-term nature and breadth of the medical, social and material assistance available as victims resume a normal life varies considerably. Some member States indicated the availability of a range of general support services in order to help victims resume the normal course of their activities, without this being specific to victims of terrorist acts, but falling under general victims of crime or social welfare provisions³⁹, and would therefore not be unconditional or free of charge to specifically assist such victims⁴⁰.

³² Belgium.

³³ France, Spain.

³⁴ Spain.

³⁵ France. For its part, Turkey indicated that the Ministry of Justice is constructing the website which will include information regarding the rights of victims of crime, including the victims of terrorism.

³⁶ Germany.

³⁷ The Netherlands.

³⁸ Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, North Macedonia, Portugal, Switzerland.

³⁹ Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Switzerland.

⁴⁰ Monaco, Norway, Sweden.

20. However, a few member States have specific schemes of assistance for victims of terrorist acts in place such as the aforementioned national solidarity status⁴¹, which provides for reimbursement of medical and psychological care or the provision of pensions. Furthermore, victims receive support throughout legal proceedings, as well as extensive information on their rights and entitlements.
21. Another particularly developed support scheme for victims of terrorist acts in a responding State relates to the existence of an Inter-ministerial Committee for the ongoing support of victims which intervenes at the departmental level through the establishment of local committees to assist victims as they access necessary social, legal, medical and psychological supports for resuming normal lives⁴². Additionally, another responding State reported the existence of an extensive support scheme of medical, psychological, rehabilitation, legal and material support financed from an Assistance Fund for Victims and managed at the level of local governments, municipal and district level⁴³. In some cases, counselling and assistance in communicating with State authorities and legal representatives was available for victims for as long as necessary⁴⁴.
22. In terms of specific psychiatric care, one member State reported the establishment of a National Network of Psychologists specialised in victims of terrorism and a dedicated team of social workers operating under the Directorate General of Support for Victims of Terrorism, an entity which provides specific and tailored support in family social intervention, accompanying victims throughout criminal proceedings, labour integration, psychological support and remembrance and recognition efforts for victims⁴⁵.
23. Two responding States apparently do not provide free emergency assistance or specific provision for victims of terrorism⁴⁶.
24. Finally, one State reported on legislative provisions which were underway to create a system of judicial and other tailored services for victims⁴⁷. Pending completion of this process, the Ministry of Justice has drafted a Victims' Outreach Guide to provide instructions to officials of assisting people in vulnerable situations.

5. In cases of foreign and non-resident victims, does your country cooperate with the victim's State of residence or/and nationality in receiving such assistance?

25. At the EU level, Directive/2004/80 facilitates victims' access to financial aid and compensation across member States. A number of respondents indicated their compliance with this Directive⁴⁸. However, one respondent stipulated that, in order to avoid different standards of compensation or treatment dependent on

⁴¹ Belgium.

⁴² France.

⁴³ Poland.

⁴⁴ Estonia.

⁴⁵ Spain.

⁴⁶ Montenegro, North Macedonia.

⁴⁷ Turkey.

⁴⁸ Austria, Belgium.

the nationality or residency status of victims, they would apply a common standard to all victims, in line with the rights of the nationals and residents of the responding country, with regard to compensation⁴⁹. This State also applies the status of “national solidarity” to foreigners and non-residents.

26. Several States indicated that all victims of terrorist acts committed on their territories, would benefit from the same compensation and assistance as their own nationals, regardless of their nationality or place of residence⁵⁰. Some countries determine the obligation to assist or not, as well as the level of assistance for victims of terrorist acts committed on their territories, on a case-by-case basis⁵¹.
27. One State reported the existence of a Central Contact Point under the Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs for assisting foreign nationals who were victims of violent or terrorist acts on their territory⁵².
28. One State mentioned the Council of Europe 1983 Convention on Victims of Violent Crimes as the standard they apply when co-operating with the competent authorities of States whose citizens were victims of terrorist acts on their territory⁵³.
29. Two States indicated that they do not have any systems in place for cooperating with other countries in relation to support and services for foreign victims of terrorist acts⁵⁴. One respondent stipulated that this falls under the scope of their general international anti-terrorism efforts⁵⁵, including working in conflict areas and cooperating with other countries.

6. Has your country undertaken specific measures to effectively investigate terrorist acts without delay ensuring that investigators receive specific victim-sensitive training on the needs of victims?

30. A number of States reported the existence of extensive and dedicated measures to investigate terrorist acts and provide victim-sensitive trainings.
31. Of all the States who indicated having tailor-made procedures for investigating terrorist acts, measures included the appointment of a magistrate specialized in terrorist investigations to conduct investigations⁵⁶, a deadline of 6 months for carrying out investigations and the possibility to collect evidence through surveillance and other means for proceedings related to terrorist offenses⁵⁷, the

⁴⁹ Belgium.

⁵⁰ France, Monaco, Switzerland.

⁵¹ Denmark, The Netherlands.

⁵² Germany.

⁵³ Switzerland.

⁵⁴ Estonia, Norway (while noting the exception of the right of EEA citizens to receive support and services in line with the EU directive on patients' rights).

⁵⁵ Sweden.

⁵⁶ Belgium.

⁵⁷ Croatia.

establishment of specific structures to facilitate cross-departmental cooperation by the authorities⁵⁸, the centralization of investigations at the specialized Assize Court, the conducting of investigations into terrorist acts by specialist police⁵⁹, and specialist training for prosecutors in investigating cases involving terrorist acts⁶⁰.

32. In relation to the provision of victim-sensitive training on the needs of victims to investigators tasked with investigating terrorist acts, although a large number of respondents indicated having procedures in place to sensitively deal with and communicate with victims throughout investigations and legal proceedings⁶¹, only seven respondents indicated the existence of specific victim-sensitive training for investigators on the needs of victims⁶².

<p>7. Has your country recognised a proper position of victims in criminal proceedings?</p>
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33. While all States provide victims with the possibility to assert their rights, this varies from one judicial system to the other, with some respondents offering their nationals a relatively wide scope for participation in criminal proceedings, while others allow participation more restrictively.
34. In relation to the first group of States, examples included, *inter alia*, the rights of victims to be represented, access files, receive written updates on their case, participate in the examination of witnesses and the questioning of defendants⁶³.
35. One respondent made a distinction between a victim's rights as either a criminal or a civil plaintiff. As a plaintiff in a criminal trial, the victim can be informed of the progress of criminal proceedings. If the victim is a civil party, certain rights are accessible to him/her, such as consultation of the accused's file and the request for additional evidence from the judge, as well as to be heard by the court⁶⁴.
36. Two States indicated that they are currently improving the status of victims in criminal proceedings. One informed that a project for judicial reform 2018-2022 is underway, including provisions for simplifying legal procedures for victims of terrorist acts⁶⁵, with another State is currently revising its Code of Criminal Procedure with a view to improving the protection of victims during criminal proceedings⁶⁶.

⁵⁸ In Denmark, the NOST (*Den Nationale Operative Stab*) ensures cooperation and coordination across intelligence services, police and other authorities to coordinate their work in a crisis situation.

⁵⁹ France.

⁶⁰ Poland.

⁶¹ Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany.

⁶² Croatia, Estonia, Monaco, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain.

⁶³ Austria, Cyprus, Estonia, Germany, Montenegro, North Macedonia Norway, Poland, Sweden, Turkey.

⁶⁴ Belgium.

⁶⁵ France.

⁶⁶ Switzerland.

8. Have victims of terrorist acts a right to a fair, easily accessible, and timely compensation, including for loss of earnings?

37. While most States reported having some form of compensation scheme for victims of terrorist attacks, the majority did not report dedicated funding schemes for them, but rather their inclusion in broader compensation schemes. Furthermore, seven of them specified that compensation is a subsidiary service which applies when the offender fails to provide compensation or as a supplement to compensation received through insurance or through compensation provided by the offender⁶⁷.
38. Some States specified a limited number of criteria under which victims could qualify for compensation schemes, for example, in the event of physical damage, damage to a victim's health, injury or death⁶⁸. One respondent indicated that non-pecuniary damage is not granted by the Law on Compensation for Victims of Terrorist Acts⁶⁹.
39. A number of States reported extensive compensation schemes with automatic qualification for compensation for victims of serious crimes, including terrorist acts, regardless of damages received by the perpetrator⁷⁰. One respondent reported that loss of income is compensated according to the number of recorded absences from work over a maximum period of 18 months⁷¹.
40. The legal basis for victims' compensation is under preparation in one country and will amend the Law on Criminal Procedure with the aim of regulating the conditions for victims' access to compensation⁷². Imminent changes were also signalled by another respondent (Norway) emerging from the publication on criminal injuries compensation by a government-appointed committee.

9. Has a specific fund to this end been created in your country?

41. Eleven States indicated that no specific fund for victims of terrorist acts exists but that compensation for victims is instead financed through the general State budget⁷³.
42. Other States specified that funding for victims of violent crimes, including terrorist acts, comes through the Victims of Crime Act⁷⁴, the Criminal Injuries

⁶⁷ Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden.

⁶⁸ Croatia, Denmark, Estonia.

⁶⁹ Turkey.

⁷⁰ Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Monaco, Montenegro, Poland, Spain.

⁷¹ Spain.

⁷² North Macedonia.

⁷³ Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.

⁷⁴ Austria.

Compensation Board⁷⁵, or under the Compensation for Victims of Violent Crimes Act⁷⁶.

43. One State reported on a dedicated compensation fund exclusively for victims of terrorist acts⁷⁷.

10. Irrespective of their nationality, have victims of terrorist acts a right to alternative measures to mitigate, once they have come back to their country of residence, the harmful consequences of a terrorist act occurred in your country?

44. A number of States indicated that they would cover compensation payments, health and psychological costs, damages and other applicable payments for non-nationals and non-residents, under the same conditions as those received by their nationals⁷⁸.
45. Several others had a number of conditions attached to receipt of support by non-nationals and non-residents. One respondent indicated that qualification for support by non-nationals would be contingent upon the existence of bilateral agreements and principles of reciprocity with other States⁷⁹.
46. A number of States indicated that the availability of such measures would only be available to residents of their country⁸⁰. Three States specified the availability of mitigating measures, to the same extent as those available to their own nationals and residents, to residents of other EU member States⁸¹.

11. Have victims of terrorist acts a right to specific protection measures in case they participate as witnesses in criminal proceedings concerning the terrorist act which caused their condition of victims?

47. All States that responded to the questionnaire propose protective measures for victims when they are witnesses. Some States do not have specific legislation for victims who are witnesses of terrorist acts, as they are dependent on the common witness protection regime⁸². Others have created specific mechanisms for victims of terrorist acts in order to avoid a second victimization.
48. Where the testimony of a victim may potentially generate risks for the victim or his or her relatives with regard to their physical or mental health, physical

⁷⁵ Denmark.

⁷⁶ Norway, Portugal.

⁷⁷ France.

⁷⁸ Belgium (under their « national solidarity » scheme), Denmark (on the condition that they meet the same requirements as Danish nationals in order to receive legal support and compensation), France, Germany, Monaco, Norway, Poland, Spain, Switzerland.

⁷⁹ Turkey.

⁸⁰ Estonia, The Netherlands (only in relation to some types of support which were mentioned by the respondent as areas which should be provided for in their country of residency for practical reasons i.e. psychological support).

⁸¹ Poland, Portugal, Sweden.

⁸² Germany, Monaco, North Macedonia, The Netherlands.

integrity or life, States shall provide special protection⁸³. In addition, some States consider minors as automatically protected witnesses⁸⁴.

49. On the other hand, one State has a special regime which extends the protection system applicable to collaborators of justice to victims of terrorist acts⁸⁵. Measures to protect witnesses can take various forms, such as, *inter alia*, anonymization, which all States offer (even the partial one, like in Poland), the possibility of a borrowed identity⁸⁶, *inter alia* the physical protection⁸⁷, relocation to a secret location⁸⁸, and the management of a change in appearance through cosmetic surgery⁸⁹. In addition, during the criminal proceedings, it is possible to close the hearing to the public and remove the accused from the room⁹⁰, to give testimony by videoconference⁹¹, to use technologies that modify the witness' voice⁹², and avoid a possible encounter of the witness with the accused person⁹³. Alternatively, the victim may be assigned a designated police officer as a contact person⁹⁴.
50. Furthermore, a specialized system for witnesses who are victims of terrorist acts is possible. It provides professional reintegration measures or protection in prison and psychological follow-up if needed⁹⁵. Lastly, some States prosecute the disclosure of the identity of a protected witness⁹⁶, and offer them special procedural rights as private accessory prosecutors⁹⁷.

12. Have the victims ensured the access to an effective remedy to claim against an unlawful violation of their private and family life?

Les victimes disposent-elles d'un recours effectif qui leur permette de porter plainte contre une atteinte illicite de leur vie privée et familiale ?

51. All the States that responded to the survey try to protect the private and family life of individuals. Depending on the State, this concept of protecting the privacy of victims is more or less inclusive⁹⁸. Other States offer more extensive

⁸³ Montenegro, North Macedonia.

⁸⁴ Estonia (minors under 14 years may not be cross-examined), Sweden (special status when under 18 years old), Austria (minors have the right to be interviewed by a person of the same sex), Finland (the victim's statement may be recorded).

⁸⁵ France.

⁸⁶ France, which also offers the status of collaborators of justice.

⁸⁷ Estonia.

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

⁸⁹ Estonia, Turkey.

⁹⁰ North Macedonia, Austria.

⁹¹ Portugal.

⁹² Montenegro.

⁹³ Austria.

⁹⁴ Denmark.

⁹⁵ France.

⁹⁶ *Ibid.*

⁹⁷ Germany.

⁹⁸ In Austria, the law only specifies the revealing of the identity of a victim as unlawful.

protection. Indeed, a victim's privacy concerns both his or her identity and the non-disclosure of details likely to cause secondary victimisation or sensitive elements of the case of which the victim is not yet aware⁹⁹.

52. In addition, in criminal proceedings, respect for the presumption of innocence, the rights of the defence and the dignity of persons are conditions for the revealing of information to the general public. Similarly, a respectful treatment of the deceased, by limiting his exposure to the public and the media as much as possible, may be ensured by the State¹⁰⁰.
53. Moreover, the investigation might be kept secret; a revelation breaking the secrecy of the investigation is criminally reprehensible¹⁰¹.
54. Some States provide a non-exhaustive definition of the protection of personal rights in their Civil Code¹⁰² in order to be more flexible according to the context.
55. There are two main types of legal recourses: a civil or a criminal legal proceedings¹⁰³. Some States only offer recourse to a civil court when privacy's infringement occurs¹⁰⁴.
56. The media must respect the secrecy of the investigation and the non-disclosure of information on the private lives of victims. However, since freedom of the press is a highly developed in some countries, if media violate the privacy and family life of individuals, they may lodge a complaint¹⁰⁵.

13. Have the victims ensured the access to an effective remedy to claim against an unlawful violation of their private and family life?

57. In order to better protect the rights of victims, the journalistic ethics should be strengthened, especially having in mind the reach of the new means of communication.
58. To this end, some States have initiated a methodology¹⁰⁶ and specific measures¹⁰⁷. Other States have published brochures to raise awareness of

⁹⁹ Belgium.

¹⁰⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁰¹ France.

¹⁰² Poland (Article 23, Civil Code).

¹⁰³ France (civil proceedings are possible. However, in the event that the secrecy of the investigation is breached by the disclosure of confidential information, then criminal proceedings are possible), The Netherlands, Switzerland (in these two countries, both recourses are available).

¹⁰⁴ Estonia.

¹⁰⁵ Belgium (it is possible for the victim to lodge a complaint with bodies such as the *Raad voor Journalistiek* or the *Conseil de déontologie journalistique*) or Finland (guidelines are set by the Mass Media Council, a person whose rights have been infringed may report the matter to this body) and France (the violation of a person's dignity by any means of dissemination constitutes a crime punishable by a fine). In Norway, an imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year is possible.

¹⁰⁶ Belgium (the State, in consultation with partners from the journalistic world, has established a methodology in order to advise victims in their first contact with the media).

victims' rights¹⁰⁸. Some States, usually those which did not experience a major terrorist event, have not developed a framework for these practices¹⁰⁹.

59. France has established a public authority in order to monitor the application of certain rules of conduct¹¹⁰. Others countries have created various institutions or legislation to improve the ethics of the journalists¹¹¹. Campaigns are organized to raise awareness of the society, media and journalists, about the rights of victims¹¹².

14. Has your country set up any mechanism to co-operate with civil society representatives, and especially those of the associations related to victims of terrorist acts?

60. MA majority of States have developed cooperation with non-governmental entities assisting victims of terrorism. In one of them, an Inter-ministerial Federal Task Force on Victims of Terrorism has been in place since May 2017 to coordinate work with two associations strongly present in the field¹¹³. Similarly, in another State, contracts are concluded with non-governmental organisations assisting victims socially and legally¹¹⁴.
61. Further, in one State having the stronger participation of civil society organisations¹¹⁵, the State has entrusted victim assistance to a number of associations¹¹⁶. The ones are subsidized by the courts of appeal and offer free and confidential services in providing the psychological and social follow-up of victims.
62. Similarly, in one State having a federal structure, assistance to victims is primarily the responsibility of its various federal states¹¹⁷. Another State has established a close cooperation with its Red Cross¹¹⁸.
63. States often work closely with the association of victims of criminal offences, allowing legal and psychological support for victims, including of terrorism¹¹⁹.

¹⁰⁷ Norway (Creation of a Code of the Norwegian Press Ethics).

¹⁰⁸ Croatia, Poland.

¹⁰⁹ Estonia, Turkey.

¹¹⁰ France, the *Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel* (CSA) is able to impose fines on persons who have violated certain rules of conduct. During the attacks of 11 February 2015, 36 breaches of radio or television channels were notified and dealt with by the CSA. The Act of 21 July 2016 also elaborates a code of conduct on audiovisual coverage of terrorist acts.

¹¹¹ Denmark (the Danish Press Complaints Commission determines the ethics of the journalistic behaviour in question) and Spain (the 2011 law expressly aims to protect the dignity of victims of terrorism. Publications aimed at humiliating or degrading a victim or his or her family are prohibited and repressed).

¹¹² Poland.

¹¹³ Belgium.

¹¹⁴ Austria.

¹¹⁵ France.

¹¹⁶ The main interlocutor is *France Victimes*.

¹¹⁷ Germany, with reference to the *Länders*.

¹¹⁸ Croatia.

¹¹⁹ Monaco.

64. However, other States, often less exposed to terrorism, have not developed specific policies. In one example, although forums are organised between representatives of associations and the Ministry of Health and Care Services, there is no real policy of cooperation between civil society and the public authorities¹²⁰. In another one, the State directs users to non-governmental organisations via its website¹²¹. Some States have not established mechanisms for cooperation between civil society and the State¹²².

15. Has your country undertaken measures in order to attain societal recognition and remembrance of victims of terrorist attacks?
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65. When it comes to measures to attain societal recognition and remembrance of victims of terrorist acts, there were many examples of ceremonies of homage to the victims¹²³, silent marches¹²⁴, monuments installed¹²⁵, medals in recognition of victims of terrorism¹²⁶, suggestions of creation of national museums¹²⁷, and local and regional centres¹²⁸. Some States commemorate 11 March as the European day of Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism¹²⁹ (the day of attacks in Spain in 2004). Other countries commemorate the Day of Victims of Crime¹³⁰.

¹²⁰ Norway.

¹²¹ Denmark.

¹²² North Macedonia, Estonia.

¹²³ Belgium, France, Spain.

¹²⁴ France, The Netherlands.

¹²⁵ Belgium.

¹²⁶ France.

¹²⁷ France, Norway.

¹²⁸ Spain.

¹²⁹ Spain, France. The terrorist acts in the Spanish central railway station of Madrid-Atocha took place on 11 March 2004.

¹³⁰ Poland.