



Senior Victims' Rights Officers

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Got a question?

If you do not see your question here, contact us at ovra@un.org

What is the role of the Victims' Rights Advocate?

The system-wide role of the Victims' Rights Advocate is to put the rights and dignity of victims, their experiences, and needs at the forefront of the United Nations' fight against sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations staff and related personnel. Victims of these wrongs often suffer severe trauma. The Victims' Rights Advocate seeks to ensure that this is acknowledged, that their right to support and assistance is provided in line with each victim's individual needs, which will vary, including as a result of intersecting discriminatory factors. The Victims' Rights Advocate prioritizes raising the voices of victims, so they are not forgotten.

The Victims' Rights Advocate interacts and works with all parts of the United Nations system, including agencies, funds and programmes.

The Victims' Rights Advocate visits countries where the United Nations is present to gain first-hand understanding of how sexual exploitation and abuse are addressed. The Victims' Rights Advocate connects with victims directly, to learn about their individual needs and hear their opinions on prevention and res t.ed1e measures so their ideas can idform our work.


What are the roles of the Senior Victims' Ri

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to external service providers, through established gender-based violence and child protection referral pathways, taking account of their quality to prevent further harm or traumatization to the victim. Where necessary, the United Nations supports the development of new services. In peace mission settings, in the absence of any other immediately available means, timely victim support, which may include medical or psychosocial services and travel and accommodation expenses may be provided through mission budgets (A/70/729, para. 77).



Victims also have the right to longer-term assistance, such as comprehensive health care, psychological support, access to legal assistance, livelihood support, skills training. United Nations Trust Funds, in particular the [Trust Fund in support of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse](#), can be accessed to fund projects implemented by United Nations entities or non-governmental organizations which provide longer-term assistance. United Nations entities which work with victims of sexual exploitation and abuse may have dedicated funding within their own programmes for this purpose. They sometimes contribute towards joint contingency funding at the country level.

Does the United Nations provide compensation or reparations for victims?



How do victims report cases of sexual exploitation and abuse to the United Nations?

Victims confide in people they trust and believe will guide them to the assistance they need. They do not distinguish among different United Nations entities when they report or seek assistance. Accordingly, they may not report to the United Nations entity to which the alleged perpetrator is affiliated, or report to multiple entities.



Why is a system-wide tool to track victims important, and what are the challenges to introducing such a system?

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Which entity is responsible for conducting a personal risk assessment of victims and witnesses?

Victims and witnesses have a right to be protected from any harassment, intimidation, and retaliation for reporting allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse. If such acts are reported to the United Nations, the Organization is obliged to take action to protect the victim or witness from further trauma or additional victimization, in accordance with their wishes, through cooperating with State authorities or non-governmental organizations. The United Nations will cooperate with Member States to facilitate the availability of protection measures in national proceedings.

In line with the Comprehensive Strategy, protection measures may involve the provision of emergency and safe shelter. This may entail the development of an immediate safety or protection plan to address the risk of retaliation, possible breaches of confidentiality or further violence against the victim. The safety response should set out roles and responsibilities, as well as

