



UNECE Conference on Improving Road Traffic Safety
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Setting Road Traffic Casualty Reduction Targets - sharing best practices and know-how

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European Federation of Road Traffic Victims (FEVR)

- Founded in 1991 in Geneva, UN consultative status
- 24 member organisations from 17 countries (14 EU) – co-operation and best practice exchanges between national associations
- Associate organisations worldwide
- Collaboration with many stakeholders

Main aims of member organisations:

- to offer support and advocacy for road crash victims
- to advocate for road danger reduction

- Greek member organisation Efthita; new organisation 'Kostas Kouvidis – You are what you do' joining
- Two FEVR assemblies in Athens and one in Rhodos

Why were victim NGOs set up?

- Steep rise in road traffic injuries
- Victims left without assistance
- Legal process offered no justice
- UN Resolution of 1985 on protecting victims' rights not followed by govts.
- Victim organisations compelled to fill void

Some Activities

- Ongoing assistance to victims – through a helpline, written information, case assistance, etc.
- Regular events – conferences, seminars, lectures, special days or weeks; August Road Victim Month by RoadPeace (UK)
- Response to relevant Govt. consultations and inquiries
- Ongoing monitoring of the services for victims and their needs
- Campaigns – on road victim treatment, lack of justice, road danger issues

From presentation to WHO in 2003

Requirement

- DOH priority for this public health issue
- Use of hospital, not police data
- Improvement of trauma management
- Far greater access to rehabilitation
- Research into effect on bereaved
- Post crash care to be included in the Government's Road Safety Strategy

- Coordinated Strategy by the Dept for Transport, Home Office, Dept of Health, Dept of Education, Dept of Pension & Work: -
- The Reduction of road danger, of road deaths and injuries and injury severities, impact on health, occupation and life – need to be the joint concern of all above departments at all times

- Way Forward with help from WHO
- * Usage of more appropriate terms - road violence, causing grievous injury, killing
- * Criminal justice to be considered a deterrent
- * Hospital and post hospital treatment/rehabilitation included
- * Effect on the bereaved recognised
- * Work of victim charities valued and funded

Examples of past campaigns by victim NGOs

- Study of facilities for pedestrians
- Commandments for courtesy at wheel
- Call for ethics in all related professions
- Citizen car
- Reduction of alcohol limit
- Testimonies to learner drivers
- Law change – to have the death mentioned in the charge
- Strict liability legislation
- Black boxes/data recorders
- 20mph speeds: “good for children, cyclists and the planet
- Under-reporting

Post crash issues to be included in road safety strategies

- Investigation – to consistent standards – minimum national, eventually international
- Criminal proceedings to bring justice
- Fair and just civil proceedings and thus damages
Strict liability laws to apply to vulnerable road users, removing the burden of proof from them
- Medical pre- and post hospital and longer-term care (physical and psychological) to consistent standards
- Same support services for road crash victims as for other victims

Global NGO meeting 7-8 May in Brussels, organised by WHO

- 70 road victim and road safety NGOs from 40 countries
- 75% set up by victims
- Declaration from NGOs for the Moscow Ministerial conference

NGOs recommend for Decade of Action for Road Safety

General Approach

The road is a network to link people, as well as a public domain

- Transportation policy to be drastically changed – first priority to safety and sustainable mobility
- Road design to consider the role of the public space
- All traffic related diseases to be taken into account, not only death and injuries in crashes, also those caused by pollution and car-based sedentary life-styles
- More appropriate terminology to be used in place of 'accident' to positively affect attitudes – such as Crash, Collision, Injury, etc.

NGOs recommend for Decade of Action for Road Safety

Prevention

- Governments to commit to providing resources for research and strict enforcement of traffic laws
- A sustainable financing mechanism for road safety to be set up within governments
- National road safety action plans to be integrated into transport plans
- Roads and traffic systems designed with safety and sustainability amongst their primary objectives
- Standards for traffic police training to be adopted and national training institutions for road safety specialists supported

NGOs recommend for Decade of Action for Road Safety

Post crash response

- Priority to improve emergency services
- Thorough investigation of crashes to identify all causes and apply all measures to prevent their recurrence (make use of existing research and lessons from other countries)
- Early rehabilitation to prevent trauma
- An effective, proportionate and dissuasive legal response to road law breaking and causing death and injury
- National situational reviews - to establish and monitor road collision investigation capacity, number of criminal prosecutions after road death and injury and standard of services for road crash victims

NGOs recommend for Decade of Action for Road Safety

Joint initiatives and actions

- Support for a national advocacy network
- World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims to be officially recognised and observed in every country on the 3rd Sunday of November – with main focus on remembrance
- A national memorial to road crash victims in the capital city of every country
- International Coalition Against Road Trauma ICART