

Our History and Mission

The Victim Support Foundation was established in 1985. From the beginning, it fulfilled the role of a state compensatory fund. It was created in connection with the preparation and subsequent adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the Declaration of 1985 of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, which recommended the creation of public compensatory funds: state, local, and private. The Foundation was founded on the belief that the state is responsible for the safety of its citizens and, consequently, for the damages suffered by victims of crime. The Foundation was created as a replacement for the state compensatory fund, for which, as argued, there were no public financial resources.

In 2022, the Foundation changed its statute. Currently, the compensatory function is one of its many tasks. The Victim Support Foundation, in pursuit of its mission, aims to improve the situation of individuals who have been victimized by crimes. In Polish society, these individuals constitute one of the groups whose needs are not adequately secured and in accordance with EU standards. Through educational, training, advisory, and publishing activities, we strive to update legal solutions supporting these individuals, raise awareness (popularize) of their problems and needs among the general public, and make them aware of their rights and how to exercise them. In exceptional situations, the Foundation's statute allows for financial support to be provided to victims of crime.

The Foundation's priority tasks are:

- 1) Training volunteers to support victims throughout the criminal proceedings, as well as informing them about their basic rights.
- 2) Promoting and reviving the currently almost defunct institution of state compensation, legally obliged to mitigate the phenomenon of primary victimization by financially supporting victims of crimes through the state.
- 3) Efforts to ensure that provisions relating to mediation in criminal proceedings serve victims and that this institution is beneficial for the victim.
- 4) Cooperation with governmental, local government, and non-governmental institutions and organizations in order to promote the rights of victims of crimes and improve their actual legal situation.