

**ISO: LV**

**COUNTRY: Latvia**

MINISTRY: Ministry of Justice

OFFICE: The Legal Aid administration

NOTES: There is no specialized state support service for victims of terrorism, there are different institutions where victims and relatives can seek information and support, according to their scope of actions.

The Legal Aid Administration is the institution subordinated to the Ministry of Justice responsible for the provision of legal aid and compensation to victims of crime who have obtained the status of low-income or needy persons.

PHONE:

Legal Aid Administration:

ASSOCIATION SKALBES +371 24551700

MAIL:

ASSOCIATION SKALBES: skalbes@skalbes.lv

ADDRESS:

ASSOCIATION SKALBES: Adrese: Kungu iela 34, Rīga

WEB SITE:

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE: <http://www.jpa.gov.lv/>

ASSOCIATION SKALBES : <http://www.skalbes.lv/>

Name of the law:

link to the law

Specific Law: NO

FOLLOW UP:

The Criminal Law Department of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Latvia has provided the following information answering the questionnaire presented by EPAVT.

**1. The Name of the Office that in your country will be responsible to provide support services for victims of terrorism.**

There is no specialized state support service for victims of terrorism, there are different institutions where victims and relatives can seek information and support, according to their scope of actions, for example:

- association "Skalbes" can provide victims of crime with emotional and psychological support, and also provide information on the victims' procedural rights (such as rights in criminal proceedings, the right to compensation for damage, state compensation, etc.) and possible services and information of other existing victim support services;
- medical information and support– SEMS, hospitals, GPs;
- information on compensation and legal support– Legal Aid Administration;
- psychological support – various NGOs.

**2. The telephone number that can be made public to provide with specific information for victims of terrorism.**

Association "Skalbes" ( helpline 116 006 ) provides:

- emotional and psychological support to all victims of crime;
- information on the victims' procedural rights (such as rights in criminal proceedings, the right to compensation for damage, state compensation, etc.) and possible services for victims of crime;
- information on existing victim support services.

**3. The Email that can be made public to provide with specific information for victims of terrorism.**

Association "Skalbes" (email: skalbes@skalbes.lv) provides:

- information about emotional and psychological support to all victims of crime;
- information on the victims' procedural rights (such as rights in criminal proceedings, the right to compensation for damage, state compensation, etc.) and possible services for victims of crime;
- information on existing victim support services.

There is also a webpage [www.cietusajiem.lv](http://www.cietusajiem.lv), which is created to provide useful information in all cases when someone has become a victim of crime or has been a witness of a crime.

Website provides information about institutions and organizations that can provide necessary help and support irrespective of the type of offense, time when it occurred and whether the crime has been reported or not.

**4. What kind of information will this service provide?**

- (a) Information regarding specific emotional and psychological support. YES
- (b) Information regarding legal, practical or financial matters. YES
- (c) Assistance with claims regarding compensation for victims of terrorism. YES
- (d) How to become a party in criminal proceedings. YES

**5. Will this office assist victims of terrorism in obtaining information from the country in which the terrorist attack took place if they are residents in your country and not in the Member State where the terrorist offence was committed?**

Yes

**6. Do you foresee a specific law for victims of terrorism or do you foresee a modification of an already existing law?**

Latvia does not have a specific law for victims of terrorism. All the regulations are set out in the Criminal Procedure Law.

**7. Will the treatment be identical for national victims and foreign victims?**

Yes.

**8. Do you foresee to cover urgent expenses of victims for travel expenses, funeral expenses, repatriation of bodies, etc?**

Immediate financial loan for travel expenses for the return to Latvia can be provided by a Latvian diplomatic representation abroad/MFA Latvia only in the event if there are no other options of financial support (by social services, family, friends). If after a detailed and careful assessment by consular authorities the person is eligible for the receipt of financial loan the person concerned or the person's family members are asked to sign a loan agreement. The person signing the agreement must pay back the full amount within 3 months. There is no separate funding allocated in the Foreign Ministry's budget to cover funeral expenses and costs related to the repatriation of bodies.

In large-scale crisis, expenses related to evacuation (transportation means), medical treatment of victims or repatriation of bodies, funeral expenses may be covered from the State budget (funds provided for in a separate budget program "Funds for Unforeseen Events").

**9. Do you intend to train psychologists to provide specific assistance to victims of terrorism in the short and long term?**

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**10. Would the sharing of national experiences (France, Spain) via seminars or specific training be practical for you?**

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**11. What information must a victim of an attack provide to your national authorities to obtain attention and support?**

A person must be recognized as a victim by an investigator, a public prosecutor, or a member of an investigative group, with a decision. Therefore, the victim should provide the information regarding the harm, that is, a moral injury, physical suffering, or a material loss, which was caused by a criminal offence.