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# European ONLINE Platform to Assist Victims of Terrorism

## EPAVT

In response to the recent terrorist attacks in Europe and to promote the need to provide immediate, effective and coordinated psychological assistance to victims of terrorism, the Association of Victims of Terrorism, AVT is developing the **European ONLINE Platform to Assist Victims of Terrorism**. EPAVT is conceived as a one stop office for victims of terrorism willing to host all the required information on assistance and support.

EPAVT will be made public on the month of September 2017. This first year the platform will include:

- The **information about organisations of victim support** that if required, would be prepared to assist victims of terrorism in cooperation with public authorities in every EU member State. We would like to promote the need of specific training for them.
- A **database of institutions and ministries** providing support and compensation for victims of terrorism in every EU member State.
- A database of specialists working on the psychological assistance to victims of terrorism in all EU member countries.
- A database on major academic research on psychological treatments to victims of terrorism
- The **GUIDE "Psychological assistance to Victims of Terrorism. Efficacies of psychological treatments"**. The Association of Victims of Terrorism in Spain carried out relevant research between 2012 and 2015 together with Universidad Complutense on efficacies of psychological treatments for victims of terrorism. Research shows that cognitive behavioral therapy focused on trauma is effective and clinically useful for victims of terrorism who suffer PTSD.

To set off the cooperation among European professionals, Asociación Víctimas del Terrorismo AVT will organise an **international seminar on “Providing effective assistance to victims of terrorism”** in Madrid on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> June 2017. The seminar will count with the support of the Spanish Ministry of Interior and will be coordinated by AVT and the Complutense University of Madrid. It will be aimed at **experts in psychological assistance** to victims of terrorism, **academics**, representatives of victims of terrorism **support services** and **institutions** from all member States. Thanks to the financial contribution of the DG Just of the European Union AVT will cover the costs of the travel and accommodation of 36 representatives of European associations. We wish to obtain a balanced participation of qualified organisations from all EU member States in the seminar.



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The seminar is especially timely if we take into account the publication of the **Directive to Combat Terrorism**. For the first time a European Directive foresees that Member States must adopt measures of **protection, support** and **assistance** responding to the **specific needs** of **victims** of **terrorism**. The Directive establishes that Member States should ensure that a comprehensive response to the specific needs of victims of terrorism immediately after a terrorist attack and for as long as necessary is provided. Member States must comply with this Directive by 18 months after the date of its adoption.

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