WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD TRAFFIC VICTIMS

15 NOVEMBER 2015

- Project -
1. WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD TRAFFIC VICTIMS

The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (WDR) is commemorated on the third Sunday of November each year – to remember the many millions killed and injured on the world’s roads, together with their families, friends and many others who are also affected.

Road deaths and injuries are sudden, violent, traumatic events, the impact of which is long-lasting, often permanent. Each year, millions of newly injured and bereaved people from every corner of the world are added to the countless millions already suffering as the result of a road crash.

The burden of grief and distress experienced by this huge number of people is all the greater because many of the victims are young, because many of the crashes could and should have been prevented and because the response to road death and injury and to victims and families is often inadequate, unsympathetic, and inappropriate to the loss of life or quality of life.

This special Remembrance Day is intended to respond to the great need of road crash victims for public recognition of their loss and suffering.

2. HISTORY OF WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Road victims establish this day
From 1995, Road Victim Advocacy NGOs under the umbrella of the European Federation of Road Traffic Victims, FEVR, observed this Day (initiated by UK’s RoadPeace in 1993) – first as European Day of Remembrance, but soon as World Day when NGOs from South Africa, Argentina and Israel joined.

WHO and UN promote global recognition
In 2003, the World Health Organisation hosted a meeting of road victim advocacy NGOs and discussed UN recognition of the World Day.

The ongoing support by WHO and the call during the UN GA in 2004 for a global day on which to highlight the worldwide road casualty toll led to the endorsement of the World Day in UN Resolution 60/5, adopted by the General Assembly on 26 October 2005, as “the appropriate acknowledgement for victims of road traffic crashes and their families”. Member States and the international community are urged to recognize the World Day.
World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims is important because:
- it attracts attention of people and represents an initiative and a call to country for implementation of national programs,
- it connects and unites victims of road traffic accidents around the world,
- it communicates to society that the consequences of accidents are unacceptable,
- the lack of information about road traffic victims creates indifference among people,
- remembrance and public discussion about road traffic victims creates a common prevention in this field and because
- silence is a collective denial of the truth.

3. ZAVOD VARNA POT (SAFE JOURNEY INSTITUTE)

Zavod Varna pot (Safe Journey Institute) is a civil, non-profit, humanitarian and apolitical organization.

It has been established by road traffic victims, experts and others who expect and demand a safe, tolerant and efficient road traffic system. We co-create a system where each element is the most important one. We therefore offer help to road traffic victims and run various different preventive-educational activities for children, youngsters and adults.

Safe Journey Institute is a member of the European Federation of Road Traffic Victims (FEVR) and a signatory of Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 commitment, European Road Safety Charter, Brussels NGO Declaration and European Youth Declaration for Road Safety. Our activities have been included in the National Program for Road Safety in the Republic of Slovenia as well as in the Extra-curricular activities’ program of the National Education Institute of the Republic of Slovenia.

4. ROAD SAFETY

World Health Organization (WHO) Assessment is that 1.24 million people are killed on the world’s roads annually. This means at least 3,390 deaths daily. About 50 million people are injured in road crashes and 5 million of them become permanently disabled.

Only 28 countries, covering 7% of the world’s population, have comprehensive road safety laws on five key risk factors: drinking and driving, speeding, and failing to use motorcycle helmets, seat-belts, and child restraints.

In 2010, the European Union renewed its road safety commitment, to the objective that by 2020, compared to 2010, the number of fatalities on the roads is halved.

In EU in 2014 25,845 people were killed in road crashes and approximately 203,500 people were seriously injured (9th Annual Road Safety Performance Index (PIN) Report).
The United Nations and the World Health Organization (WHO) have set a global goal of reducing the number of deaths and injuries in road traffic by signing the "Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011 - 2020" Declaration, endorsed by governments, UN agencies, multilateral institutions and NGOs. The latter brings a commitment of personal responsibility to all who can in any way contribute to road safety.

In Slovenia, from 1991 to 2014, 7043 people died in road crashes, over 326,083 people were injured.

In June 2015 Slovenia received 2015 PIN Award, an EU award for road safety because of 22% reduction of road deaths between 2010 and 2014 and 61% reduction of road deaths between 2001 and 2014. "Slovenia deserves huge credit for its commitment to robust targets, establishment of a dedicated road safety agency and a detailed plan of action," said the European Transport Safety Council (ETSC).

Just a few weeks later, we again recorded disastrous news: 13 persons killed in just 8 days. A harsh reality showed us that we cannot rest but continue to work hard to achieve a common goal: Vision 0!

Safe Journey Institute had joined the global movement in 2007 and since then each November marked the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. We have been supported by a number of governmental and non-governmental organizations all across Slovenia.

With our activities we have given names to plain statistical numbers. We have given a piece of ourselves – desiring to achieve road safety for all.

In 2015, we are joining organizations across the world for the ninth consecutive year by commemorating World Day of Remembrance and adding a stone to the road safety mosaic.
5. PLANED ACTIVITIES

The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (WDR) is commemorated on the third Sunday of November.

Central commemoration of the World day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims in Slovenia will be held on Saturday, 14 November 2015 at 5 p.m. in the Red Hall of the City Hall in Ljubljana.

2015 is a very important year – it is the 10th Anniversary of the UN recognition of World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims and also the 20th Anniversary of Global Remembrance.

This is the reason this year slogan is:
»It’s time to Remember - Say NO to Road Crime!«

Planed activities (9th to 15th November 2015):

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<th>DOGODEK</th>
<th>KRAJ</th>
<th>DATUM in ČAS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Commemoration of inauguration of a National Memorial to road traffic victims</td>
<td>Cemetery Nove Žale, Ljubljana</td>
<td>Friday, 13.11.2015, at 11 a.m.</td>
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<td>Sacred mass for victims of traffic accidents</td>
<td>The cathedral of Ljubljana – St. Nicholas</td>
<td>Saturday, 14.11.2015, at 4 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central commemoration of the World day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims</td>
<td>City Hall Ljubljana</td>
<td>Saturday, 14.11.2015, at 5 p.m.</td>
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<td>Presentation of poems: “Winter Opus” from the “Gift of Life” collection by author Breda Marija Kovše, Zavod Varna pot ambassador</td>
<td>City Hall Ljubljana</td>
<td>Saturday, 14.11.2015, at 5 p.m.</td>
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<td>Presentation of poem “Traffic hero” by author Anja Lebeničnik, Zavod Varna pot ambassador</td>
<td>City Hall Ljubljana</td>
<td>Saturday, 14.11.2015, at 5 p.m.</td>
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<td>Other activities in municipalities across Slovenia</td>
<td>Different locations</td>
<td>Throughout the week</td>
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Other activities:

- A call to cooperating organizations, municipalities and press release regarding WDR
- The Prime Minister Miro Cerar, The President of the Republic of Slovenia, Borut Pahor and other representatives of the Government of RS, were asked to support the project.
- A call for religious leaders to address the tolerance and respect for rules and road users and the celebration on that day.
- Invitation to Parliament Members, diplomats and other political institutions to light candles in memory of the victims of road accidents.
- A call through the media to drivers and other road users that the World Day of Remembrance for the victims of road accidents is characterized as "Accident-free Day" (Sunday, November 15).

6. PROMOTION AND MEDIA TOOLS

Activities will be promoted through:

- Zavod Varna pot website: [www.varna-pot.si](http://www.varna-pot.si), with information about national and local activities, partners of the project and other.
- Posters
- Photo reports on sites: [www.varna-pot.si](http://www.varna-pot.si), [www.worlddayofremembrance.org](http://www.worlddayofremembrance.org), partner organizations and media.
7. CONCLUSION

The message “Remember and Reflect, Remember and Respond” represents the essence of the World Day of Remembrance.

Observation of this day provides an opportunity to draw the public’s attention to road traffic crashes, their consequences and costs, and the measures which can be taken to prevent them. The day also provides an opportunity to remind governments and society of their responsibility to make roads safer.

Change does not happen by itself. It’s the result of the spirit, decision and responsibility of the individual and consequently the whole of society! Support us on this journey.

For further information you can contact us by phone +386 (0)599 55 022 or e-mail: info@varna-pot.si.

Regards,

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