



March 2023

BRITISH FORCES VICTIM & WITNESS SUPPORT SERVICE



BFSWS

BRITISH FORCES SOCIAL WORK SERVICE &
COMMUNITY SUPPORT CYPRUS

The Code of Practice for Victims of Crime states that:

“Victims of crime should be treated in a respectful, sensitive, tailored and professional manner without discrimination of any kind. They should receive appropriate support to help them, as far as possible, to cope and recover and be protected from re-victimisation. It is important that victims of crime know what information and support is available to them from reporting a crime onwards and who to request help from if they are not getting it.”

BFSWS Victim & Witness Support Service is here to help anyone within the BFC entitled community affected by crime. This is not only those who experience it directly, but also their friends, family and any other people involved. It does not matter when the crime took place – you can get our support at any time.

Our free and confidential support service is for people affected by crime and traumatic events, regardless of whether you have reported the crime to the police. Our service is confidential and we will only share information about you without your consent if we are worried about your safety or that of someone else, or if we are required to by law.

Our staff and volunteers are trained to UK Victim Support Standards

Staff and volunteers provide a wide range of specialist services that help people affected by all types of crime from burglary, hate crime, fraud and theft to domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation and terrorism.

The support services offered are tailored to the needs of each person. These may include:

- Trained staff to talk to in confidence
- Information and advice
- Emotional and practical help
- Advocacy
- Help in navigating the criminal justice system
- Information on police and legal proceedings
- Personal safety services
- Signposting to other organisations who could help
- Someone to be with you during police interviews and appearances at court
- Help with applying for criminal injuries financial compensation
- Restorative Justice

It is important to note that some victims may not wish to report a crime, but are still entitled to support.

WITNESS SUPPORT

Our Witness Support service is there to help people asked to go to court as a witness or as the victim of crime. We prepare and give support to witnesses for their court appearance and help to remove worry and concern from the experience.

We can offer:

- Someone to talk to in confidence
- A visit to the court to look around the courtroom before the trial
- Information on court procedures
- A quiet place for you to wait before and during the trial
- Someone to accompany you into the courtroom when you give evidence
- Someone to be there afterwards to talk over what happened
- Practical help, for example with expense forms
- To put you in touch with people who can answer specific questions about your case (we cannot discuss evidence or offer legal advice)
- Ongoing support, even after the case is over



The impact of crime can be life changing, so we are proud to provide support to victims of crime and traumatic events to together move beyond crime. This may include signposting to services to Victim Support UK following departure from Cyprus.

If you would like support from the service, you can be referred:

- Via the Military Police (SIB or CJPJ)
- Via a healthcare professional
- Via a Unit Welfare Office
- Or you can self-refer by contacting us

For further information, please contact:

(00 357) 2596 3609

contactuscyprus@forcessocialwork.com



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