



# RIGHTS OF VICTIMS OF CRIME

## WHO IS A 'VICTIM'?

- a person who has suffered harm, including physical, mental or emotional harm or economic loss which was caused by a **criminal offence**; or
- **family members** of a person whose death was directly caused by a criminal offence and who have suffered harm as a result of that person's death.

## RIGHT TO LEGAL AID FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

Any victim who has been served with the notice of first hearing or admitted into the proceedings, or in cases where the prosecution lies with the injured party, may avail himself/herself of the right to legal aid. The victim may request an advocate for legal aid in writing or orally.

## DURING THE TRIAL

Victims may be admitted to criminal proceedings and may be assisted by a lawyer. They have the right to examine or cross-examine witnesses. The victim may also produce evidence during such proceedings, if the court allows during such proceedings.

**Victim Support Unit:** Under Maltese legislation, the Government should provide specialised assistance to victims of crimes including:

- information, advice and support;
- emotional and psychological support; and
- advice relating to secondary victimisation or intimidation.

**Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme Regulations:** victims of criminal injury may apply for **compensation** if the crime giving rise to such injury has been subject of criminal proceedings or was reported to the police.

## HOW?

[https://servizz.gov.mt/en/Pages/Police\\_-\\_Justice-and-Defence/Justice/Administration-of-Justice/WEB106/default.aspx](https://servizz.gov.mt/en/Pages/Police_-_Justice-and-Defence/Justice/Administration-of-Justice/WEB106/default.aspx)

**Further information on how to benefit from these rights:**

**Legal Aid Malta**, 21, Chateau de la Ville,  
Archbishop Street, Valletta  
legalaidmalta.mjcl@gov.mt | Tel: 2567 4330

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**Need more info? Contact aditus on 2010 6295 | [www.aditus.org.mt](http://www.aditus.org.mt) | [www.criticalinstitute.org](http://www.criticalinstitute.org)**

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