



Support in England and Wales for families bereaved through murder and manslaughter abroad



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We recognise that there can be additional challenges for you and your family when you are bereaved through murder or manslaughter abroad. The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) has a dedicated Murder and Manslaughter Team to help you understand the procedures in place in another country. The FCDO also works in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and Victim Support Homicide Service (VSHS) which can help you, and your family, with additional emotional or practical support.

If you live in England and Wales, have been bereaved through murder and manslaughter abroad, you can self-refer and or provide the FCDO or another agency/organisation with consent for your details to be shared with VSHS, you will be assigned a VSHS caseworker who can talk through what type of support can be offered.

VSHS specialist caseworkers work within the framework of the Victims' Code of Practice to provide support to bereaved families, regardless of where the person died or the date of bereavement.

Each caseworker is trauma trained and utilises their training to provide emotional and practical support. This support is based on a comprehensive assessment of your specific needs, and a support plan in collaboration with you. VSHS can also commission a range of specialist support services from other organisations to support you.

* If you live in Scotland or Northern Ireland you can contact Victim Support Scotland and Victim Support Northern Ireland directly. Their contact details are at the end of this guidance.



Support you can access

A VSHS caseworker can provide:

- **Emotional support** to help you cope and recover from the psychological effects of a traumatic bereavement.
- **Understanding of the barriers and issues** you may face after a traumatic bereavement.
- **Assessments and referrals**, with your consent, to bereavement and trauma therapists, for immediate family members.
- **Advocacy on your behalf** on issues relating to your bereavement. Such as accommodation, finance (eg debt), employment, welfare, benefits, family and education. This may include, where you consent, referrals to other services where appropriate.
- **Help to get legal advice and translation services**, as well as support to understand the legal proceedings.
- **Repatriation of the deceased.** We can provide practical advice and emotional support to help you through this difficult time.
- **Financial support.** We can make financial contributions decided on a case-by-case basis. VSHS can make a financial contribution towards travel and repatriation of the deceased to the UK. VSHS may be able to make a contribution to travel costs if you have to be present overseas for any legal proceedings.

In addition, the Peer Support team offer opportunities for you to speak to other people who have been through similar experiences, in groups, in one-to-one sessions, or via our online support room. Your caseworker will be able to make the referral for Peer Support for you.

Should you wish to, you can also have the chance to train to provide peer support to others, if and when you feel ready to do so.

A VSHS caseworker cannot:

- **Request information from police or courts overseas, about investigations or cases.** The FCDO may be able to request this for you, but in some countries you may also need a lawyer or legal representation. Your VSHS caseworker can discuss options with you.
- **Be involved in or interfere with police investigation or judicial processes where the murder or manslaughter has taken place.** FCDO cannot do this either. For example, while the FCDO may be able to share information or concerns you have with the relevant authorities, they cannot influence how those local authorities investigate, or prosecute, a crime. VSHS can help you identify a lawyer if you require legal assistance.



VICTIM SUPPORT

NATIONAL HOMICIDE SERVICE



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

How to contact us

You can contact Victim Support
Homicide Service **England and
Wales** at:

www.victimsupport.org.uk

Alternatively, you can also contact
VSHS on **0300 3031984** or email
HSsupport@victimsupport.org.uk
to discuss a referral.

You can contact the Foreign,
Commonwealth & Development
Office **24/7 any day of the year**
on **020 7008 5000**.

victimsupport.org.uk

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Published by Victim Support
President: HRH, The Princess Royal

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Charity registration: 298028 Company no: 2158780
Registered in England. Limited by guarantee.
Registered office as above.

