

Press Release

November 2007

**World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims
is on the third Sunday of each November
this year on 18 November 2007 with the message:
*“Remember and Reflect; Remember and Respond”***

Each year, more than 1.3 million lives are claimed on the world's roads, with tens of millions injured – adding countless millions of bereaved and maimed to the enormous numbers of those already affected. The cumulative toll is truly tremendous.

All those killed and injured and their families and friends, together with those who help in the aftermath, will be remembered on World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. This special day was adopted by the United Nations on 26 October 2005 after road victim organisations under the umbrella of the European Federation of Road Traffic Victims (FEVR) had initiated, observed and publicised this day in many countries for more than 10 years.

This year, World Day will be observed on every continent – with relevant government departments, institutions and organisations joining the many road victim and trauma organisations in holding religious and secular events and ceremonies – from church services and prayers to marches, exhibitions, concerts and demonstrations. Countless newspaper articles have already announced the Day and its significance.*

Several worldwide initiatives are also being launched and promoted in 2007:

- **“A Light of Hope”** initiative – asking people the world over to burn a light in memory of road crash victims on World Day, but especially from 6pm to 8pm
A ‘Transfer of Light’ will take place between continents, in Europe from France to Italy, where many important public buildings, including the Capitol in Rome, will be lit ‘to symbolically light a very serious social problem from which the spotlight can’t be turned off until a solution is found’, then to Mexico
- **International Coalition Against Road Trauma (ICART)**, an informal network of organizations, institutions and individuals who wish to see road trauma, the major epidemic of the present times, managed, minimized and prevented. A national Coalition Against Road Trauma was launched on World Day 2004 in Portugal and it is envisaged that similar coalitions in individual countries will combine into the International Coalition ICART, being launched by FEVR.
- A call for **‘A Day without road crashes’** on World Day - this call comes from ASIRT in the US, where the Congress has this year officially recognised the World Day of Remembrance.

Brigitte Chaudhry, FEVR President, said on behalf of the Federation:

“We, who represent road crash victims and have struggled for the recognition of their plight and suffering for so many years, greatly welcome the present developments surrounding our World Day. Sudden violent deaths and injuries through road crashes deserve reflection and action by everyone in the world, so that they are brought to an absolute minimum, if not stopped altogether.”

Contacts:

Brigitte Chaudhry (English, German and Polish) 0044 20 8964 1800, president@fevr.org

Jeannot Mersch (French and German) 00353 621 145 167, merschi@pt.lu

www.worlddayofremembrance.org is under construction, launch planned January
Please send contributions to president@fevr.org or editor@worlddayofremembrance.org

Worldwide Awareness and Events

Messages will go out to politicians, the media, representatives of relevant professions and organisations, as well as the general public – informing them of World Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims, the enormous scale of the disaster and the urgent need to halt it - calling on them to honour the day and at the same time end the cruel disrespect towards road crash victims.

Posters and leaflets will publicise the day and the cause widely.

Religious and secular events will be held in the week leading up to and on World Day

Some events held throughout the world in 2007:

Italy – road victims will be remembered in Holy Masses at Catholic Churches throughout the Country. Two monuments will be dedicated to road crash victims, Crosses demonstrations and processions will be held, a theatre play performed, etc., and many civic buildings will be lit, as part of the global Light of Hope initiative, which will involve a Transfer of Light from Rome via France (for Europe & FEVR) to Mexico (America and symbolically the world). www.vittimestrada.org

Mexico – The Transfer of Light from Europe will be received at the Department of Health, with representatives of 10 Mexican road victim NGOs. The Dept of Health will release 100s of white balloons at Paseo de la Reforma and speak on WD on radio programme Hora Nacional, transmitted from 10-11pm to every single radio station in the country. A big soccer match at Azteca stadium will start with a 1 minute silence. During all week conferences are held in all universities of Mexico City – at the first conference a candle was lit for World Day and transferred from one university to next
USA – World Remembrance Vigil in Maryland; Call for Day without road crashes

www.asirt.org

Portugal- Ceremonies and events will be held in two main towns – Montijo and Evora, where processions will be accompanied by philharmonic orchestras, balloons with messages from victims launched, remembrance ribbons, postcards with crash image, and bookmarks with advice on eco-driving distributed.

www.aca-m.org

UK – In 35 towns and cities special services are held, involving emergency services and local and national politicians, also exhibitions and flower-laying ceremonies; nationwide publicity is highlighting the issue of road death and injury, and inviting participation in the global Light of Hope and Coalition against Road Trauma initiatives
www.roadpeace.org

Luxemburg – A remembrance and AVR Anniversary Ceremony will be attended by the Mayor and Ministers of Transport and of Public Works. 1000 trees will be planted in memory of the 1000 people killed since AVR was launched 15 years ago.

www.avr.lu

Spain – A multi-religious prayer ceremony will be held in Barcelona; media publicity. World Day Events also held in Madrid, Zaragoza, Valencia, Valladolid and Andalucia.

www.pat-apat.org

www.stopaccidentes.org

France – Esperanza, the organisation who initiated and is coordinating the Light of Hope project and will take part in the Transfer of Light between Europe and America, has also organised many events in the South of France: all public buildings in Port-Saint-Louis du Rhone will be illuminated, through media appeals people will illuminate houses, gardens, porches; soccer teams playing on Sunday will hold a minute silence and switch on their cell phone screens to symbolise the light of hope; major media publicity is calling to stop the indifference towards road crash victims.

Switzerland – Publicity in the media, Banners throughout the Kanton Zurich at main crash spots, Call for Black boxes in all vehicles.

www.roadcross.ch

Romania – by AVAC - Seminar with Ministers; procession of injured road crash victims in wheelchairs, children's painting exhibition on road safety; by Mr and Mrs Galavan - Exhibition 'RoadTears' (Lacrima Routiera), held for the 7th year, to highlight in particular the lenient treatment of road offences, with the slogan – "People are dying, many of them innocent; stop road traffic genocide".

Lebanon – Yasa - A special newsletter edition for World Day of Remembrance, Press Conference and Meeting for members; nationwide publicity.

Netherlands – A press Conference and Remembrance ceremonies are held in Vught, Middelburg and Leeuwarden, with participation of the following organisations: Wiplash Foundation, NAH zorg, VVN (Road Safety Association) and Team Alert.

www.verkeersslachtoffers.nl

Russian Federation– World Day and Events have been highlighted in many papers.

Poland – The church is calling to remember road crash victims and to help survivors, as well as to call for help and the presence of a priest for those injured in a crash.

India, Orissa – Testimonies of victims will be documented on video, to raise awareness of the need for improved road crash care and support for the bereaved and injured, lamps will be lit and flowers offered in memory of road crash victims.

Delhi – among other events, a large gathering will take place, and a minute of silence to remember road victims; thousands of posters and leaflets will publicise the disaster of road death and injury and the need to address it. www.irte.com

Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu – the Youth Task Force and Accident Research Centre, together with police and TV are holding a 4-day awareness event, wearing 'flex sheet' jackets of different colours with the name and age of victim and cause of injury or death – culminating with everyone gathering on World Day.

Thailand – about 300 people, including 50 wheelchairbound road victims, will gather in Bangkok, proceed from Amphorn Gardens to the UN building, head office of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), where Bangkok Governor Apirak Kosayodhin will give a speech, then take part in a flower-laying ceremony in remembrance of road crash victims.

Ireland – in Donegal a mass will be dedicated to all who lost their lives; afterwards 94 balloons will be released outside the chapel, so that the relatives left behind can remember their relatives who died on Donegal roads.

www.jmcraven.com/parc

Japan – a Symposium will be held in Tokyo and a memorial service with floral tributes, followed by a discussion on how we can prevent second victimization by the criminal justice process, and exchange of information about the legal system in respect of road crashes in other countries

www.chousho-kaiji.com

Belgium – APPER and PEVR: Publicity on TV and radio, column in paper; A stand at the Dutch organisation's memorial event; presentation of the 'B-box' to police, containing vital information to hand out to road crash victims.

www.pevr.be

Australia – by the Road Trauma Support Team Victoria - held 2 weeks later on 2 December a multifaith ceremony, involving also the laying of 337 dinner settings on the steps of Parliament House in memory of those killed on Victoria's roads in 2006, to symbolise that they won't be joining their families for Christmas celebrations.

Sutherland, NSW – by Enough is Enough of the Road Trauma Support Network – Remembrance Ceremony for injured and bereaved road crash victims.

South Africa – Louis Trichardt in Limpopo will mark World Day with an event at the Rabali Stadium in Nzhelele, organized by the Departments of Roads and Transport, and Health and Social Development; an appeal for blood donation will also be made.

Fiji Coral Coast – the National Road Safety Council will mark World Day with events at Namata on Saturday, with theme 'Road deaths shatter lives' and a minute silence.

Why the need to remember and acknowledge the loss and suffering?

Road deaths and injuries are not treated as seriously as other transport disasters, and road victims receive little help and acknowledgement. FEVR's study into the impact of road crashes has revealed an enormous level of suffering, which was found to be compounded by the casual treatment of road death and injury by the legal system, the authorities, and society as a whole.

Why does the worldwide scale of road death and injury concern us all?

The global scale of more than 3,500 road deaths daily must concern us wherever we are, since we all travel to other countries and cannot avoid using the roads – therefore we need to make a concerted effort to address all the causes of crashes, for which the prerequisite is a serious crash investigation in every case. FEVR is calling for minimum national investigation standards, with aim of international ones.

UN calls for recognition of World Day

The UN, in Resolution 60/5, *Invites* Member States and the international community to recognize the third Sunday in November of every year as the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims as the appropriate acknowledgement for victims of road traffic crashes and their families.

*** Articles announcing World Day 2007:**

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L16116893.htm>

<http://www.caycompass.com/cgi-bin/CFPnews.cgi?ID=1026473>

<http://www.regnum.ru/news/914206.html>

<http://www.ami-tass.ru/article/29134.html>

<http://www.nr2.ru/society/149524.html>

<http://www.volga-inform.ru/allnews/914028/>

<http://motoryzacja.interia.pl/wiadomosci/bezpieczenstwo/news/pamietajmy-o-ofiarach-wypadkow,1010353,324>

http://www.nationmultimedia.com/2007/11/16/national/national_30056303.php

http://www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca/en/safety_year/day_remembrance.html

<http://www.intuition-in-service.org/november.cfm>

<http://www.journalist-association.eu/archive/news.php?newsid=3924>

<http://portugalresident.com/portugalresident/showstory.asp?ID=22716>

<http://mediaroom.victas.uca.org.au/>

<http://www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/events/pages/18511.html>

http://espanol.ucanr.org/Calendario/November_2007.htm

<http://www.unic.org.in/displaymore.asp?subitemkey=832&itemid=712&subchnm=&sabc>

<http://openspace.org.in/calendar>

<http://www.goforgreen.ca/events/index.html>

http://www.acicr.ualberta.ca/pages/cal/documents/Calendarofdesignateddates2007_007.pdf

http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/healthyliving/documents/Events_Calendar2007final2.pdf

<http://www.hinduonnet.com/thehindu/thscrip/print.pl?file=2007111651920300.htm&date=2007/11/16/&prd=th&>

<http://www.buanews.gov.za/view.php?ID=07111416151003&coll=buanew07>

<http://www.newsandstar.co.uk/news/viewarticle.aspx?id=564591>

http://www.eppingforestguardian.co.uk/news/redbridgenews/display.var.1835447.0.reddridge_day_of_remembrance_for_road_traffic_victims.php
<http://www.bbts.ie/Portals/623/August%2012th%202007.pdf>

<http://www.lib.uct.ac.za/govpubs/index.php?html=/govpubs/DaysNov.htm&libid=19>

http://www.halesowennews.co.uk/mostpopular.var.1760965.mostviewed.service_for_world_road_victims.php

<http://www.fundraising.co.uk/calendar.php>

<http://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/content/news/story.aspx?brand=ENOnline&category=News&tBrand=ENOnline&tCategory=news&itemid=NOED18%20Oct%202007%2009%3A02%3A48%3A670>

http://www.kentononline.co.uk/aroundkent/details_news.asp?village=16380&story=399913

<http://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/content/news/story.aspx?brand=ENOnline&category=News&tBrand=ENOnline&tCategory=news&itemid=NOED18%20Oct%202007%2009%3A02%3A48%3A670>

<http://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/news/Remembering-traffic-dead.3397577.jp>

<http://www.prnewswire.co.uk/cgi/release?id=212379>

http://www.newspress.co.uk/DAILY_LINKS/arc_nov_2007/161107dft.htm

http://www.unac.org/en/news_events/un_days/international_days.asp

http://uk.news.yahoo.com/tcm_ireland/20071116/tie-road-accident-victims-to-be-remember-6c17b45.html

<http://sv.wordpress.com/tag/roadpeace/>

http://nationmultimedia.com/2007/11/15/national/national_30056245.php

<http://www.roadsafe.com/news/newsletter.aspx?num=17>

<http://blog.ism.ie/>

<http://www.zazaboo.com/>

<http://www.townsville.qld.gov.au/calendar/searchresult.asp?idx=yes&EventCategory=notabledays&StartDate=01-November-2007&EndDate=30/11/2007>

<http://www.sinnfein.ie/news/detail/21615>

http://www.wrescue.org/uk/Events_Calendar/

http://www.unis.unvienna.org/unis/en/calendar_days_weeks_07.html

<http://www.coventry.anglican.org/news/pressreleases/opt/1/item/144>

<http://www.un.org/ga/president/61/statements/statement20070424.shtml>

<http://www.doaj.org/doaj?func=abstract&id=204928>

<http://www.enoughisenough.org.au/assets/File/pdf1/RoadTraumaSupportNetworkJune2007.pdf>

<http://www.caribbeanredcross.org/importantdates.htm>

<http://blog.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=blog.view&friendID=99731577&blogID=324694298>

<http://www.st-james-piccadilly.org/news.html>

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/health-pubs-calendar-index.htm#nov>

<http://www.aamva.org/Publications/TWiR/2007/Month10/Day08/>

<http://www.coventry.anglican.org/developmentevangelism/starttheweek/opt/1/download/142>

<http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/news/daysdates.htm>

<http://www.acicr.ualberta.ca/updates/documents/Nov2007.pdf>

http://www.oxfamireland.org/events/calendar/2007_11.shtml

<http://www.who.sk/data/obsah.php?sr=ddni.php&typ=d>

http://www.heraldseries.net/display.var.1813221.0.service_remembers_crash_victims.php

<http://cork2005.ie/ourservices/corporateaffairs/minutesofordinarymeetings/councilminutes2307071.pdf>

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001507/150772M.pdf>

<http://www.compassionatefriends.org.za/forthcoming%20events.html>

<http://www.ahmadnia.net/blog/archives/2006/12/901.php>

<http://www.radiofiji.com.fj/fullstory.php?id=5623>

http://www.motoamichetti.it/Forum/forum_posts.asp?TID=12578&get=last

<http://www.drivealive.org.za/drivealive/website/viewnews.asp?NewsID=27>

http://www.makeroadssafe.org/news/na/2007/World_Remembrance_Day_Observed_on