

**OPCV response to IER Recommendations**

Message from the Office for Public Counsel for Victims on 31 March 2021

H.E. Ambassador Paul van den IJssel  
H.E. Ambassador Michael Imran Kanu

Excellences,

Following the meeting held on 4 March 2021, the Office of Public Counsel for Victims liaised with the Registry Focal Point to discuss matters of common concern related to the IER recommendations on victims' issues.

The Office had the opportunity to review the Report which will be provided by the Registry and it generally agrees on the content thereof in relation to victims' issues.

For the time being, the Office will not present any report to the Review Mechanism since it believes that its involvement will be more appropriate when concrete proposals will be discussed.

However, the Office wishes to point out a matter in relation to the recommendation in the IER Report for the creation of a Defence's office. In this regard, the OPCV notes that a similar proposal for a Victims' office is not included in said Report and that this issue may become important depending on how a defence office will be eventually designed. The Office further notes that discussions on the creation of a Defence's office may also impact on victims' matters (*i.e.* legal aid) and therefore the OPCV should be involved in said discussions.

Finally, the Office wishes to express its gratitude for being consulted in this important matter and look forward to cooperating further during the next phases of this exercise.