

# Statement of NGOs Advocating for Road Victims and Road Safety to the First Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety

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Advocacy NGOs representing road victims and road users have a particular interest in an improved road safety situation, indeed a fatality free global road transport network. Many such NGOs were set up by people who have suffered bereavement or injury through a road crash and who were motivated by their personal suffering to help other victims or engage in road safety activities.

In May 2009, more than 100 representatives of 70 NGOs from 40 countries came together for the first time in Brussels at a meeting hosted by the World Health Organization. Using their unique expertise and perspective, participants compiled 33 recommendations to improve road safety in five subject areas. Below is a summary of their key recommendations to Governments.

## GENERAL APPROACH

**The road is a public domain as well as a network to link people.**

**Therefore NGOs call on Governments to:**

- change drastically transportation policy, giving top priority to safety and sustainable mobility
- address traffic-danger related injuries and mobility as a public health and human rights issue
- design roads taking account of the role of the public space and rights and needs of vulnerable road users
- Avoid use of the word "accident" to the extent possible as it implies an event which happens without apparent cause

## PREVENTION

**It is our duty to reduce road casualties to as close to zero as possible.**

**Therefore NGOs ask Governments to:**

- lead by example in managing risks
- provide resources for research and strict enforcement and reform of traffic laws
- establish a sustainable financing mechanism for road safety
- adopt global standards for traffic police training, driver training and licensing

## POST CRASH RESPONSE

**Serious post crash response is a vital component of effective road safety policy and includes: immediate rescue interventions, thorough investigations, criminal and civil proceedings if appropriate, long-term rehabilitation and support.**

**Therefore NGOs expect Governments to guarantee:**

- improved emergency services and early rehabilitation to minimize road trauma
- national standards of social, medical and legal care to injured victims and bereaved families
- thorough investigations in order to identify all preventable causes and ensure justice for victims
- an effective, proportionate and deterrent response to traffic law violations involving death or injury

## WORLDWIDE LEARNING

**It is essential to return to sustainable mobility modes in face of the enormous cost in human lives and the effect of pollution on climate change.**

**Therefore NGOs ask that Governments pay particular attention to:**

- accommodating and integrating all different modes of mobility in the design of all roads
- providing safety and comfort for vulnerable road users

## JOINT INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS

**NGOs offer Governments their cooperation, expertise and joint initiatives, in return for partnership, secure funding, and support for their work.**

**The NGOs propose:**

- national advocacy networks – to ensure nationwide advocacy for road safety and road victims
- joint observance of the World Day of Remembrance, a Day initiated by victims, as an opportunity for highlighting the consequences of road danger and impact of road death and injury
- establishment of a national memorial to road victims in the capital city of every country
- establishment of an International Coalition Against Road Trauma (ICART), made up of national Coalitions Against Road Trauma