

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WHISTLEBLOWERS: RECOGNIZING HEROES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

June 23rd is recognized globally as the International Day of Whistleblowers, a crucial occasion to acknowledge their pivotal role in fighting corruption and promoting transparency. SELDI highlights the invaluable contributions of whistleblowers in exposing corruption and holding accountable those in positions of power. These individuals are often unacknowledged heroes who courageously come forward to reveal wrongdoing, fraud, and abuse, despite facing significant personal and professional risks. Their actions are instrumental in uncovering illicit activities that would otherwise remain hidden, thus safeguarding public interest and upholding principles of justice and integrity.

Despite their critical role, whistleblowers frequently encounter severe reprisals such as harassment, job loss, and legal challenges. This hostile environment discourages many potential whistleblowers from speaking out, allowing corruption to persist unchecked. Thus, it is essential to address this pressing concern: the protection of whistleblowers who report corruption. SELDI stresses the urgent need to advocate for enhanced protections and robust support systems for these brave individuals. In many jurisdictions, their protection remains inadequate. Instances of retaliation, insufficient legal safeguards, and inadequate reporting mechanisms present significant barriers to effective whistleblowing. When these challenges are not addressed, whistleblowers endure severe psychosocial impacts affecting their mental health, family stability, and overall quality of life.

On December 15th, the 10th Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) achieved a significant milestone by adopting a [resolution on protection of reporting persons](#). This resolution emphasizes the commitment of States Parties to implement Article

33 of the UNCAC and to develop measures that fully protect whistleblowers and others who report corruption, extending protections to their relatives and close associates when necessary. This crucial step acknowledges the vital role of whistleblowers and the challenges they face. The resolution's adoption was made possible through the efforts of Pištaljka, Serbia's leading whistleblower protection organization, the UNCAC Coalition staff, the UNODC, and over 100 supporting organizations and advocates.

The adoption of the whistleblower resolution marks a crucial step in global efforts to protect those who report wrongdoing. It renews international commitments to safeguard whistleblowers and promote confidential, accessible, and inclusive reporting channels. On this International Day of Whistleblowers, we urge States Parties and the UNODC to act on and support the resolution's implementation.

SELDI advocates for a multifaceted approach to strengthen whistleblower protections. This includes robust legal frameworks to prevent retaliation and the creation of independent bodies to handle reports. Public awareness campaigns are essential to educate people about the importance of whistleblowers, fostering a culture of transparency and accountability. This shift is vital for recognizing whistleblowers as defenders of the public good.

On this International Day of Whistleblowers, SELDI calls on governments, organizations, and citizens to recognize and support the courageous individuals who risk so much to expose corruption. SELDI remains committed to advocating for these changes and stands in solidarity with whistleblowers worldwide, acknowledging their indispensable role in the fight against corruption.