



# WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

**MORE THAN 1.35 MILLION  
PEOPLE DIE ON THE ROADS  
EACH YEAR**



**World Health  
Organization**



**Global Alliance of  
NGOs for Road Safety**



15 November 2020 – Every year in the month of November, countries across the world commemorate the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. Fifteen years ago, in 2005, the Day was officially endorsed by Member States of the United Nations as an annual

and “appropriate acknowledgement for victims of road traffic crashes and their families” across the world. In 2020, World Remembrance Day calls on the world to; *Remember* those who lost their lives to the roads;

*Support*

those who are in grief and those who endure long-lasting consequences of the trauma they experience and

*Act*

to prevent these crashes and respond to their detrimental impact.

This year, the Day comes at a monumental time with the adoption of the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021–2030 by United Nations General Assembly resolution A/74/L.86 ‘Improving global road safety’. The resolution endorses a global target of reducing road traffic deaths and injuries by at least 50% by 2030, requests WHO and the United Nations regional commissions, in cooperation with the UN Road Safety Collaboration to develop a plan of action for the Second Decade and calls for the commemoration of the World Remembrance Day every year.

It also comes at very unusual time, when the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the whole world. Since the early months of 2020, we have been witnessing country measures to suppress the virus and control its spread. Lockdowns, shift in modalities of work and suspension of all activities led to reduced motorized road transport, fewer green-house gas emissions, less noise and air pollution, as well as greater opportunities for active transport including walking and cycling. As governments focus their attention on addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, other priorities, including road safety, have been scaled back. However, people continue to move using motorized and non-motorized modes of transport, crashes still kill people on the roads and lives still need to be saved.

The WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region has the third highest estimated road traffic death rate across the world. Road traffic injury is a problem for all countries of the Region, regardless of their income level. Middle-income countries account for over 80% of regional road traffic deaths. On the other hand, high-income countries have an estimated overall death rate that is higher than its less affluent neighbours and that is about 3 times the global rate for countries of similar income. Road traffic injury is the eighth leading cause of death among all age groups and one of the 5 leading causes of death among adolescents and young adults aged 15–29 in the Region.

**ROAD TRAFFIC INJURIES ARE  
#1 CAUSE OF DEATH  
FOR PEOPLE AGED 5-29 YEARS**

Related links

[World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims](#)

[Video on the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims 2020](#)

[Global status report on road safety 2018](#)

[Regional safety in the Eastern Mediterranean region, facts from Global status report on road safety 2018](#)

[Policy brief: reducing injury, disability, death and economic losses through road safety in the Eastern Mediterranean Region | Arabic](#)

[Road safety in the Eastern Mediterranean Region: highlights from WHO's Global status report on road safety 2018](#) (*Information for the media*)

## **Road safety infographics**

[Road traffic injuries: Facts from the Eastern Mediterranean Region](#)

[Drink-driving](#)

[Motorcycle helmets](#)

[Child restraints](#)

[Seatbelts](#)

[Speed](#)

[WHO fact sheet on road traffic injuries](#)

[SaveLIVES: a road safety technical package](#)

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