
THE VICTIMOLOGIST

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From the Editor's Desk

Managing Editor

Michael O'Connell

This edition of *The Victimologist* confirms my previous comment that this newsletter is an important medium for communicating with WSV members. In a letter to members, our recently elected President, John Dussich affirms his commitments for the next three-years. The minutes of the General Meeting of WSV members are also included as is the WSV submission advocating for action on the UNs Standards and Norms on Victim Issues.

For those who like to plan ahead, there is information of Tokiwa International Victimology Institute, Japan - the host of the next International Symposium on Victimology. There are highlights for those who like to keep up-to-date with research and publications, as well as other resources such as the film *The Forgotten Ones*, which was launched at the WSV International Symposium on Victimology in Orlando, USA.

The last edition introduced InterVict, a victimological research centre in the Netherlands. In this edition there is an overview of the *Centro Interdipartimentale di Ricerca sulla Vittimologia e sulla Sicurezza*, an inter-disciplinary victimological research centre in Italy. 

Letter from the WSV President

Dear Members of WSV,

The prospect of leading our Society for the next three years is an honour, a challenge and a commitment. The noble work that this Society has declared as its purpose is "*To advance victimological research and theory; to promote services and to increase the quality and accountability of those who provide such services; and, to advocate on behalf of victims through increasing awareness of victim issues in all institutions and the general public.*" In the pursuit of this purpose it will be my duty: to encourage all of you to **stay informed** with the developments of your society as it participates in the international meetings and activities for victim rights, to convince you to **stay engaged** in the tasks needed bring about needed changes in your own countries and with the other nations in your regions, and, to **stay motivated** with your leaders, legislators, researchers, academics and practitioners so that ultimately, victims are better understood, humanely cared for, and given adequate support to move from misfortune to recovery.

During the General Membership Meeting just held in Orlando, I promised to commit myself to five objectives: 1. to support efforts to bring about the passage of a United Nations' **Convention** on Justice and Support for Victims of Crime, Abuse of Power and Terrorism; 2. to improve the **Transparency** within the World Society of Victimology so that all members are aware of the operations and decisions made by all committees and officers of our Society; 3. to increase our **Membership** which is the life-blood of this organization without which we could not exist; 4. to develop a strong **Regional Structure** that is dynamic and sensitive to the cultures and needs of all the different nations which we serve; and, 5. to improve the quality and number of our Society's **Member Services** so that the value of being part of this organization is clearly felt and understood as being worthwhile. Help me to make these objectives a dominant part of our Society for the next three years!

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Newsletter of the World Society of Victimology



Letter from the President

I ask each of you to join with me in being part of this exciting, important and difficult journey. Keep me informed of your hopes for our future, let me know how our Society can be a more effective force for change in your country and tell me of your wish to participate in the ten committees we have created to carry out the tasks of the WSV. I expect each of you to find the will, the resources and the passion our Society needs to reach its destination

John P. J. Dussich, Ph. D.
President



Tokiwa International Victimology Institute

The Tokiwa International Victimology Institute (TIVI) will host the next International Symposium on Victimology, which is in 2009, on behalf of the World Society of Victimology.

The Institute aims to establish and maintain an institute that will serve as a resource for all victimological academic, research, training and service activities primarily for universities, government agencies, and non government organizations and institutes in Japan and foreign countries.

Its objectives are:

1. To conduct research and teaching activities in Victimology.
2. To maintain an active liaison with other similar institutes and organizations to exchange information and cooperate in any way possible.
3. To operate a victimological resource library with books, monographs, statistics, official documents, professional journals, brochures, audio and video tapes and disks.
4. To publish an annual international journal of victimology professional monographs, and introductory brochures of the institute.
5. To promote and create activities that encourage and support the professionalization of victimology and victim services.
6. To host educational and professional activities such as conference, symposia, courses, and similar events.
7. To perform contract research and surveys.
8. To manage all the events needed to fulfill the purposes of this institute.

To find out more, visit the Institute's website:
http://www.tokiwa.ac.jp/~tivi/index_e.html

FILM LAUNCHED AT WSV SYMPOSIUM THE FORGOTTEN ONES

In the film *The Forgotten Ones* victims, researchers, support groups and policy makers share their views and experiences. To watch this film visit

<http://juricam.rechten.uvt.nl/media/intervict/intervict1.wmv>

InterVict's first international conference a success

In October, 2006 guests from various European and non-European countries joined InterVict staff for InterVict first international conference. Presentations were made by - amongst others - Terry Waite, Mukhtar Mai and Leoluca Orlando. Ernst Hirsch Ballin, Minister of Justice elaborated on the government's role in victim empowerment, Marc Groenhuijsen chaired the meeting and added his views on challenges within victimology. Jan van Dijk presented the results of the 2005 International Crime Victims Survey. Both press and television networks covered the event. Please, visit this site the next few weeks for more information, reports and visuals that are still being processed at the moment.

InterVict now hosts International Victimology Website

The Dutch Ministry for Justice has relinquished responsibility for the International Victimology website, which is not hosted by the InterVict. The webmaster of the site www.victimology.nl requests all those working in the field of victimology and human security to send relevant information to her. The site contains a source of information on key international, regional and national instruments and useful resources for tracking down victimology evidence and expertise. This resource, freely available on the Web, has been created for researchers, policy makers, specialists working in victimology or victim assistance, and professionals in allied fields.

Draft United Nations Convention on Justice and Support for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power

The latest version of the Draft UN Convention on Justice and Support for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power is now presented on the Intervict website:

<http://www.tilburguniversity.nl/intervict/UNdeclaration/>



European Sourcebook of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics - 2006

The *European Sourcebook of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics* was recently published. It has been prepared, in close co-operation with many national correspondents, by a group of committed European Criminology scholars.

You can freely access and download the electronic version (PDF files, either total text or single chapters) on the website of the Research and Documentation Centre of the Dutch Ministry of Justice (RDC / WODC).

URL: http://www.wodc.nl/eng/Onderzoeken/Onderzoek_416.asp

Victims of abduction: patterns and case studies: New South Wales, Australia

Although incidents of abduction/kidnapping are relatively infrequent compared with other types of crime, the recorded rate of kidnapping/abduction in New South Wales, Australia is markedly higher than that in other Australian States. In order to provide further insight into this offence, the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) studied 238 reports of abduction¹ recorded by the NSW Police between January and June 2004.

The cases studied suggest that, in cases of abduction, there is a large gap between public perception and fact. Out of the 238 cases of alleged abduction reviewed, only 57 per cent involved actual abduction.

Thirty-two per cent of victims experienced an attempted abduction, the experience of four per cent of victims did not concur with the legal definition of abduction, while in seven per cent of cases either no abduction took place or a false report was given to police.

The three dominant motives for actual abductions were identified: sexual desire (35%), robbery (29%) and retribution (24%). In cases of robbery involving abduction, victims are often abducted and forced to reveal their bank details so the offender can steal their money. Cases of retribution, on the other hand, often involve past or present intimate partners. Only three cases of abduction for ransom were recorded. In two of these cases the offenders believed the victims owed them money and threatened to harm the victims and/or their families if the money was not paid by a certain date.

The report can be downloaded as a PDF at:

[http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/bocsar/ll_bocsar.nsf/vwFiles/CJB94.pdf/\\$file/CJB94.pdf](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/bocsar/ll_bocsar.nsf/vwFiles/CJB94.pdf/$file/CJB94.pdf)

Victims' Rights Working Group Bulletin

The French, Spanish, Russian and Arabic translations of the Summer 2006 Victims Rights Working Group Bulletin. The bulletin's new name is "Access" in English (as in "Access to Justice"), "Recours" in French and "Acceso" in Spanish are particularly welcome.

French version: <http://www.vrwg.org/Publications/04/FR06.pdf>

Spanish version: <http://www.vrwg.org/Publications/04/SP06.pdf>

Russian version: <http://www.vrwg.org/Publications/04/RUS06.pdf>

Arabic version: <http://www.vrwg.org/Publications/04/AR06.pdf>



Centro Interdipartimentale di Ricerca sulla Vittimologia e sulla Sicurezza (C.I.R.Vi.S)


Prof. Augusto Balloni,
Director
University of Bologna

In 1991, the "Centro Interdipartimentale di Ricerca sulla Vittimologia" (or C.I.R.Vi., Interdepartmental Center for Research on Victimology) was born at the University of Bologna, thanks to the interest of a variety of departments, including Sociology, Psychology, Sciences of Education and the Institute of Forensic Medicine. The department of Legal – Economical and Business Disciplines, and the department of Economical Sciences joined later. During 2000, the centre took its current name, C.I.R.Vi.S (Interdepartmental Centre for Research on Victimology and Security).

Given its interdisciplinary line, C.I.R.Vi.S promotes the study of and research on crime, security and victimisation from different perspectives. Thus, for instance, it is able to treat significant victimological themes in an integrated and comprehensive manner.

The C.I.R.Vi.S undertakes many activities but has keenly organised seminars and conferences on criminality, security and victimization to stimulate informed discourse. The seminars and conferences (often in collaboration with other agencies and universities) have covered:

- in 1993, "Victims, crimes, civil rights and responsibility";
- in 1997, "Criminology and Security";
- in 2000, "Supporting victims networks" and "Victims and security";
- in 2005, "Victims, crime and social defence"

The C.I.R.Vi.S also conducts very important research activities that are focused on the victims and consequences of victimization, especially with respect to interventions that help, support and assist victims of crime. In 2000, for example, it conducted a large victimisation survey working with the victims of crime in the town of Bologna. As well, the C.I.R.Vi.S promotes the creation of victim support centres in our Italy. It in addition contributes to training people who work in victim support, encourages the development of courses on victimology, criminology, sociology of deviance, criminal law, psychology and so on. In 2004, for example CI trained the "vigile di quartiere" (or "community policeman") for the Municipality of Forlì on the victims' rights and needs; and in 2005, trained social workers of the "Casa della solidarietà" ("House of Solidarity") in Casalecchio di Reno on like topics. 

WSV MEMBERSHIP MEETING 24 AUGUST 2006

1. **President's Report**

Marlene Young presents 3 key activities, which have been the focus of her attention as President over the past 3 years.

1. A Strategic Plan was developed and will guide the activities of the Society for the next 5 years. The Strategic Plan outlines 5 purposes of the Society: 1) research 2) services 3) education and training 4) 5).
2. The Society has been active in the push to establish an international Convention, which would compliment the UN Declaration.
3. Organization of the 12th International Symposium on Victimology

2. **Secretary General's Report**

Irvin Waller reports on developments over the last 3 years.

- the Basic Statutes of Incorporation have been modified. The EC's Committee structure has been modified. The aim is to facilitate the active involvement of the membership in the Society's activities. Modifications were presented to the members and voted on in a mail ballot. All modifications were accepted.
- The Procedures Manual has been improved. In it are the Terms of Reference for each of the Committees.
- The vote for the new EC members was conducted by e-mail and regular mail. 67 envelopes were received of which 64 were accepted. The following persons were elected to the EC from 2006 to 2012:
 - Groenhuijsen
 - Young
 - Friday
 - Chockalingam
 - Winkel

The following person was elected to the EC from 2006 to 2009:

- Ren

3. **Treasurer's Report**

Due to a death in the family, the Treasurer, Paul Friday was unable to make his report to the members. As soon as possible, the report will be made available on the Society's website.

4. **UN Liaison Committee**

Chair of the Committee, Irvin Waller, announces that the Draft Convention is available on the INTERVIC website. Members are invited to comment on the Draft. Members who wish to translate the Convention are invited to do so.

5. **The New EC Officers**

President, John Dussich
Vice-President, Marc Groenhuijsen
Vice-President, Irvin Waller
Treasurer, Paul Friday
Secretary General, Jo-Anne Wemmers

6. **Announcement by the new President**

John Dussich presents his objectives for the Society as newly elected President:

1. To support the Convention
2. To improve transparency within the Society. This includes the publication of all EC minutes in *The Victimologist*
3. To increase the membership
4. To develop a strong regional structure
5. To improve services for members

7. **Report of the Publications Committee**

Committee Chair, Jo-Anne Wemmers announces that an agreement has been reached to offer the *International Review of Victimology* to WSV members at a 40% discount.

The new Managing Editor of *The Victimologist*, Michael O'Connell is introduced to the members. Michael reports on the up-coming issues. The Dutch Ministry of Justice will no longer send the newsletter to members. Therefore, *The Victimologist* will be sent to as many members as possible by e-mail. The Managing Editor requests that members continue to send him articles for *The Victimologist*.

8. **Comments and Questions from the Members**

- The EC is encouraged to take measures to enhance the collaboration of African and Eastern European members in the Society as well as their participation at the international symposia.
- Members from Latin America announced the establishment of the Latin American Society of Victimology. This newly established Society plans to become a regional member of the WSV.
- Report of the Regional Meetings held 20 August 2006, Dame Helen Reeves, Chair.
 - Members want to have a membership directory
 - They want to know the policies of the WSV
 - They want a more active society

Members are encouraged to participate in the various Committees. 🌐

ACTION ON UN STANDARDS AND NORMS ON VICTIM ISSUES

WORLD SOCIETY OF VICTIMOLOGY

SUBMISSION

TO

**UN COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND
CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

April 27, 2006

Marlene A. Young

Honourable Chair and Member States, I am privileged to be President of the World Society of Victimology (WSV).

I call upon you to do an act of justice for victims by calling for an Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts to prepare actionable recommendations for your next meeting as to how the UN Standards and Norms on Victim Issues can be effectively implemented.

There are likely more than one and one half billion victims of crime, abuse of power and terrorism every year. That number is beyond most people's comprehension. Some quick mathematics will tell you that such a number translates into some 3,000 victimizations each minute of the day – so that by the time I finish my remarks at least 9,000 people will have been victimized. They will have been raped, assaulted, catastrophically injured or killed. And, those will be only the primary victims.

These numbers do not take into account the families and friends who will also suffer loss, pain and trauma as a result of the violation of a loved one. A psychiatrist in the United States once said that for every person killed there are three people whose relationship with that person will cause them to suffer for the rest of their lives. I ask you to consider whether only three people would grieve and suffer if you were to die? I suggest that for most people the extended circle of pain after such a death involves hundreds.

Yet there is little being done to provide victims themselves or their loved ones with dignity, compassion or justice in the aftermath of crime.

As proposed by the World Health Organization, the public and victims deserve policies that prevent victimization by tackling risk factors that cause it. But they deserve more.

- They deserve recognition.
- They deserve protection.
- They deserve information and assistance in the criminal justice system – from the time the crime happens until the end of the case

and even in the aftermath of case disposition.

- They deserve reparations for the totality of harm done by the offender.
- They deserve vindication.
- And, they deserve a commitment from society to search for the truth.

Law enforcement must be first in aid with the help of victim support and crisis intervention. Prosecutors must provide opportunities for victim involvement. Public officials should create laws and policies that allow for victims to be heard. Judges should listen and respond with care. All who work with victims should be trained and educated in effective interventions.

This Commission is committed to the prevention of victimization and principles of justice for victims as one of its fundamental priorities. It has recommended guidelines on prevention and on child victims and witnesses. It has adopted a Handbook for practitioners and a Guide for Policy Makers on those principles of justice. It collaborates with WSV on a website that shares legislation and good practices.

Despite these laudable initiatives, victims remain in the shadows even in affluent countries. Yet victims are the central reason for your work and must be treated as such.

We call on you to establish ways to monitor the effectiveness of your decisions in reducing victimizations. We call on you to set aside ten percent of the resources of the Secretariat to implement the standards and norms on victim issues and to call on Member States to do the same.

We call upon each and every one of you individually to learn more about the victims in your country and region and develop a better understanding of their plight.

In August of 2006, the WSV will hold its 12th International Symposium on Victimology. We have experts from every region of the world coming to share the latest knowledge on how to support victims and provide real remedies. We will share the latest research and ways to education and train lawyers, judges and others. The meeting will occur in Orlando, Florida from August 20-25th. You may pick up further information on this historic event at the information table next to the document centre. We will provide simultaneous interpretation between English and Spanish.

I am also pleased to announce the launching of a new organization established to deliver training and services on behalf victims. The International Organization for Victim Assistance will seek partnerships throughout the world to develop networks, provide technical assistance on best practices, methods and techniques that implement services, and promote policy formation on victim rights. Again, you

can find more information on this organization near the document centre.

We urge the Commission to join with us to take practical steps to assist member States in their efforts to meet the needs of victims.

These steps include:

- Testing, promoting and multiplying best practices;
- Training and technical assistance for lawyers, law enforcement, prosecutors, judges and others who must assist victims;
- Implementing national legislation and institutions that will bring UN Standards and Norms into practice;
- Ensuring that the special needs are met of women, children and other vulnerable to chronic victimization;
- Fostering a global network of centres of expertise to support national initiatives.

It has been twenty years since the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power. There have been a few lone voices that have tried to be heard on behalf of victims and their loved ones calling for action on those principles. There have been a few sporadic gestures that have been taken to implement those principles. But, for the most part the shadows of darkness grow deeper as crime, abuse of power and terrorism expand their grip for generations among those who are victims.

Please heed the cries of those 3,000 people a minute who are victimized and take the next step in our response by calling for an Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts to prepare actionable recommendations for your next meeting on how to best implement the UN Standards and Norms on Victim Issues. 🌐

Statement on UNODC Strategic Plan

On 28 April, 2006 Marlene Young also, on behalf of the World Society of Victimology, made a submission to the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. A copy can be obtained by writing to the Editor of *The Victimologist*. 🌐

Victims - Support and Assistance

Since the 1980s, the Council of Europe has integrated the victims' perspective in its work and has produced and updated a set of legal instruments to assist states in dealing with victims' needs. A new book brings together these standards and is intended to provide a handy, comprehensive reference document.

To order the book in hardcopy or as a PDF visit:

http://book.coe.int/sysmodules/RBS_page/admin/redirect.php?id=36&lang=EN&produit_aliasid=2116 🌐

The Victimologist

<http://www.worldsocietyofvictimology.org/>

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Further information on WSV is available at www.worldsocietyofvictimology.org and membership inquiries should be addressed to Paul Friday, Treasurer at pfriday@email.uncc.edu

An agreement has been reached to offer the *International Review of Victimology* to WSV members at a 40% discount - more in the Next Edition of *The Victimologist*.

As well, in the **NEXT EDITION**:

- Comments on the International Victimology Symposium & Post-graduate Course on Victimology & Victim Assistance
- International news: compensation for victims of terrorism in England & Wales; victims' rights in Nepal; victim support in Japan

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