
THE VICTIMOLOGIST

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From the Editor's Desk

Managing Editor

Michael O'Connell

This double edition of *The Victimologist* comprises some reports and articles that members drew to my attention, which were received with thanks. I reiterate my plea, however, for members to send me items for inclusion in our newsletter. I am particularly keen to develop the 'Around Our World' theme, so that *The Victimologist* better reflects the depth and breadth of the World Society of Victimology.

It is with sadness that I dedicate this editorial to two long-serving members of the World Society of Victimology. Irvin Waller and Marlene Young have resigned from the Executive Committee due to changes in personal circumstances. Both will be missed. Both though have new challenges in their lives. Irvin will continue with his interests in advancing theory and practice in crime prevention, including the prevention of criminal victimisation. Marlene will maintain her victim assistance activities, including I.O.V.A. I take this opportunity, on behalf of all, to say Thank you; and, may they continue to inspire people, like me.

As well, the Executive Committee welcomes Annette Pearson who resides in Columbia. She brings a wealth of experience and knowledge on victim assistance and restorative justice. 

The Treatment of Victims in the Criminal Justice System and Its Impact

Jo-Anne Wemmers

Katie Cyr

*International Centre for Comparative Criminology,
Research Group Victimology and Restorative
Justice, Université de Montréal*

During the 80 and 90s, new laws and new programs were introduced in Canada in order to improve the treatment of crime victims. This study aims at providing systematic information about how victims in the province of Quebec are treated in the criminal justice system since the introduction of these new measures. The results show that victims are not systematically informed about the services available to them. Almost half of all of the victims of violence who were interviewed indicated that they never received information about the provincial victim compensation program. The majority of victims were not informed about the developments in their case. Almost all victims (91%) would have liked to have been informed about the developments in their case and 70% of the respondents were dissatisfied with the information that they received. Moreover, their dissatisfaction grew over time. These results indicate that the information services that are in place fail to meet victims' needs. Confronted with the reality of a system that neglects them, victims become disillusioned and dissatisfied with their treatment in the criminal justice system. Altogether the results show that victims' experiences in the criminal justice system can either help or hinder their healing process. The victims who felt that they were not treated fairly by authorities and the victims who felt that their credibility was questioned are more likely to suffer symptoms of Post traumatic stress (PTSD) and to have low self-esteem.

The full report is available in English and French at:

<http://www.cicc.umontreal.ca/recherche/victimologie/victimologie.html>

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Newsletter of the World Society of Victimology



Special Report **World Society of Victimology** **Addresses United Nations'** **Commission on Crime** **Prevention & Criminal Justice in** **Vienna**

Representatives of the World Society of Victimology's (WSV) UN Liaison Committee addressed the 16th Session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Vienna, Austria during the week of April 23-27 2007. These addresses called for the support of Commission members for a full United Nations' Convention for Victims, as well as for their commitment to aiding victims and to the reduction of victimization around our world.

WSV representatives at this session included: President Dr. John Dussich; UN Liaison Committee Chair and Vice President Dr. Irvin Waller; Vice President Dr. Marc Groenhuisen, and Executive Committee member Dr. Hidemichi Morosawa.

Copies of the documents presented to the Commission, including statements, press releases, and other documents, as well as President, Dr. Dussich's report on the venture, are available on the WSV website home page: <http://www.worldsocietyofvictimology.org/> See also <http://www.worldsocietyofvictimology.org/publications.html>

Restorative Justice in Scottish **school**

Scottish Government Study

Restorative Practices in Schools Reports Highly Positive Results

The Scottish Executive (government) released results this week of an evaluation of two years of implementation of restorative practices (RP) in 18 schools in three local authorities (LA's). The report's executive summary states: "The evaluation indicates that RP, as they are developing in the pilot LA's and schools, can offer a powerful and effective approach to promoting harmonious relationships in school and to the successful resolution of conflict and harm."

Gwynedd Lloyd, head of educational studies at University of Edinburgh, one of the report's authors (a plenary speaker at the fall 2006 IIRP international conference), noted the study found that a whole-school restorative approach was more successful than a focus just on conferencing in response to behavioural offences, and that implementation was more effective when all school staff were trained in restorative approaches, as opposed to only those staff who are specifically charged with handling behavioural issues.

You can read the report at:
<http://www.safersanerschools.org/library/scottishstudy.html>

Asian Post-Graduate Course **on Victimology & Victim** **Assistance**

The World Society of Victimology (WSV) in cooperation with the Tokiwa International Victimology Institute (TIVI) conducted an Asian Post-Graduate Victimology Course, July 30 – August 10, 2007. Participants came from the Asia-Pacific nations including Australia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand and Sri Lanka. The faculty included academics and officials from Australia, South Africa, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan and the United States.

Graduates received diplomas and (courtesy of the Tokiwa International Victimology Institute) a CD containing a compilation of lectures and students' presentations, as well as photographs.



Some students and some staff enjoy a visit to the prefecture's Police Academy

Periodicals & Other Publications

The Criminology, Victimology and Security Review --- Rivista di criminologia, vittimologia e sicurezza

Augusto Balloni
Publisher and Editor in Chief

Augusto Balloni is very pleased to announce that the first edition of *Rivista di Criminologia, Vittimologia e Sicurezza* (The Criminology, Victimology and Security Review - Official Organ of The Italian Society of Victimology) has appeared. He hopes it will enrich the discussion on criminology, victimology and security.

As editor, he wishes to receive Italian and foreign papers from anyone involved in the study, the research and the field project on criminology, victimology and security.

The review is available at the website:
www.vittimologia.it/rivista.

E' con molto piacere che comunico l'uscita del n.1 della *Rivista di Criminologia, Vittimologia e Sicurezza*, organo ufficiale della Società Italiana di Vittimologia (S.I.V.), che auspico possa fattivamente contribuire ad un arricchimento del dibattito nell'ambito delle discipline criminologiche, vittimologiche e della sicurezza.

Tale rivista è disponibile online al sito:
www.vittimologia.it/rivista

Mi preme inoltre ricordare che sarei molto lieto di poter annoverare contributi italiani e/o stranieri provenienti da tutti coloro che, a vario titolo, sono coinvolti nei percorsi di studio, di ricerca e nei progetti operativi riguardanti i settori della criminologia, sicurezza e vittimologia.

C'est avec grand plaisir que je communique la parution du 1er numéro de la *Rivista di Criminologia, Vittimologia e Sicurezza* (Revue de Criminologie, Victimologie et Sécurité), organe de communication officiel de la Société Italienne de Victimologie (S.I.V.). Je souhaite que cette revue représente un espace de débat enrichissant pour les disciplines criminologiques, vittimologiques et de la sécurité.

Cette revue est disponible en ligne sur le site Internet:
www.vittimologia.it/rivista

Je tiens à vous rappeler que je serai très heureux de recevoir des contributions d'Italie comme de l'étranger de la part de tous ceux qui, à un niveau ou à un autre, sont engagés, en tant que chercheurs et professionnels, dans les domaines de la criminologie, de la vittimologie et de la sécurité.

Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice

This soon to be released (peer reviewed) journal, which is edited by P.A.J. Waddington and Peter Neyroud, defines itself as a leading policy and practice publication aimed at senior police officers, policy makers, and academics.

Each edition will contain in-depth comment and critical analysis on a wide range of topics including current British Police policy, police reform, political and legal developments, training and education, specialist operations, accountability, and human rights.

More information at:
http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/policing/

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Juror attitudes and biases in sexual assault cases

Natalie Taylor (2007)

This report (number 344 in the Trends and issues in crime and criminal justice series) presents findings from two recent studies conducted by the Australian Institute of Criminology which show that juror judgements in rape trials are influenced more by the attitudes, beliefs and biases about rape which jurors bring with them into the courtroom than by the evidence presented. You can read the report at:
<http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/tandi2/tandi344.html>

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Homicide in Finland, 2002-2006

Janne Kivivuori et al (2007)

The authors provide results on the recent development of homicide in Finland (see:
<http://www.optula.om.fi/41599.htm>)

Violence Against Women in Finland

Mima Piispa et al (2006)

The authors provide results on the Finish part of the International Violence against Women Study, comparing 1997 - 2005 data. You can read an 8 page summary in English language at
<http://www.optula.om.fi/37962.htm>

IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, THEN PLEASE VISIT THE WORLD SOCIETY OF VICTIMOLOGY'S NEW WEBSITE

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

Around Our World -- Developments in Victim Assistance

Australia

Victim-letter Notification System Begins In South Australia

Michael O'Connell

Commissioner For Victims' Rights

Victims' rights in South Australia are enshrined in the *Victims of Crime Act 2001* as the Declaration of Principles Governing Treatment of Victims in the crimina-justice system. There is no mandatory requirement to tell victims they have rights, although the South Australia Police has since 1988 maintained a policy that victims who report crimes will be given an Information booklet that, amongst other things, outlines victims' rights.

Three surveys have asked victim-respondents whether they were given the booklet. In two surveys, which included mainly victims of violent crime, about 55 percent of victims could recall getting the booklet. In another survey, which included only victims of burglary, about 80 percent of victims could recall getting the booklet. Clearly, all victims are not told their rights; hence, they are unlikely to exercise their rights.

According to the Declaration in South Australia, a victim should be informed, on request, about the progress of any investigation and prosecution as well as the outcome of the court proceedings. The South Australia Police victim policy states [s police officer] should, wherever possible, abide by all victims of crime rights.....[An officer needs] to keep the victim informed of the progress of the investigation'. Furthermore, the Director of Public Prosecution's Policy and Guideline, Victims of Crime, states information as to the proceedings and the victim's role must be given at an early stage and there is a continuing obligation to keep the victim informed. Where possible, information about the proceedings and legal implications should be given by the prosecutor...Victims must be informed of the outcome of finalised court proceedings in a timely fashion.

Three surveys of victims of crime show many victims want to be kept informed. One survey showed that about 80 percent of victims wanted to be kept informed and that over 60 percent of these victims asked to be kept informed. Alas, about 25 percent of the victims who asked did not get the information that wanted.

To alleviate concern that victims are not told their rights and/or victims do not get information they want, a victim-letter notification system has been devised. For this purpose, a daily extract of data from the Police Brief Enquiry And Management System (BEAMS) is downloaded into a form letter that is printed in the office for the Commissioner for Victims' Rights. The letter, which is triggered when the first court date is entered on BEAMS, contains the Police (Investigation & Prosecution) Reference Number, the victim's name and address, the defendant's name and court appearance details. It also includes information on the court companion and witness assistance service, as well as explains the victim's right to make an impact statement.

Between late August and mid December 2007, about 5,000 letters were sent to victims. Anecdote suggests that more victims are exercising their rights to information and to participate by an impact statement than before the letter system began. The system shows that through co-operation institutions can advance victims' rights without necessarily incurring significant burden on existing resources.

Government of South Australia
Attorney-General's Department

Commissioner for Victims' Rights
G.P.O. Box 464
ADELAIDE S.A. 5001

Reference: 5th July 2007

If calling please ask for Michael O'Connell
Telephone: +61 8 8207 1969
Email: oconnell.michael@agd.sa.gov.au

Victim's Name
Victim's Address

Dear Victim's Name

The South Australia Police and I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about a decision regarding a criminal prosecution involving you as a victim of crime.

The accused in this case is identified as Name of Accused Person

The matter is currently listed to begin at MAGISTRATES COURT SITTING AT CHRISTIES BEACH, 96 DYSON ROAD CHRISTIES BEACH SA 5165 on the day of JULY 2007 at 9:30AM. This case may not be finalised on this date.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ATTEND COURT ON THIS OCCASION. If you do attend, please let the court orderly and/or the prosecutor know because you may not be allowed in the court room.

As a victim of crime, if the accused is found guilty, you have the right to make an impact statement about any injury, loss or damage resulting from the crime. Sometimes you can read your impact statement in front of the offender, before the court passes sentence. The court can take information about the effects of the crime and your personal circumstances into account when deciding the sentence, including ordering the offender to compensate you. Please talk to the investigating officer or the prosecutor if you have a question about compensation.

You can get more information about victim impact statements from the Police or at the Commissioner for Victims' Rights website: www.voc.sa.gov.au

Yours Faithfully,

Michael O'Connell
Commissioner for Victims' Rights

Working Together to Advance Victims' Rights

Canada

Ottawa -- The Government Expands Services To Help Children Overcome Trauma Child Victim/Witness Centre Program Helps Children Through Court Process

The Government in Ottawa is expanding the province's innovative Child Victim/Witness Centre program, Attorney General Michael Bryant announced today. He said, "The expansion of this program to all regions of the province will provide effective support services and court preparation for children, including many who have been abused or exposed to domestic violence."

The government currently funds Child Victim/Witness Centres in London and Toronto. The expansion, which includes an investment of \$1 million, will allow for a new centre in Ottawa and fund two existing centres in the Regions of Peel and Waterloo. The new centre in Ottawa, to be operated by Catholic Family Service, Ottawa, will provide the following services free of charge:

- Educating children on court proceedings and the role of witnesses
- Providing updates to children and parents or guardians on the progress of cases
- Assisting with the preparation of victim impact statements
- Offering support and assistance through each stage of the court process, including accompanying children into the courtroom
- Explaining the verdict.

Children will be referred to the centre by community partners such as police, Crown prosecutors and Victim/Witness Assistance Program staff.

The Child Victim/Witness Centre program complements the work of the Victim/Witness Assistance Program, which provides information, assistance, referrals and support to victims and witnesses of crime, throughout the criminal court process, in all 54 court districts across the province.

The service expansion responds to the release of the "Best Practices in Child Victim/Witness Programs" report. The government commissioned this report to provide information on the effectiveness of the province's Child Victim/Witness programs. The executive summary of the report is available on the ministry website at www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca

Nishnawbe Aski Nation

The Nishnawbe Aski Nation will receive about \$700,000 (Canadian) over three years to provide services to male victims in northern Aboriginal communities who have suffered sexual abuse.

Around Our World -- Crime Statistics

Australia

An examination of serial murder in Australia
Jenny Mouzos and David West

This report (number 346 in the *Trends and issues in crime and criminal justice series*) explores the serial murder phenomenon in Australia using data collected as part of the Australian Institute of Criminology's National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP) and earlier research undertaken

at the AIC (Pinto & Wilson 1990). It reports on the characteristics of offenders and victims, including the offenders' modus operandi, and finds that the profile of serial murder in Australia is similar to that found in international research. The report suggests, among other things, that further research on the profile of long term missing persons and serial murder victims should be undertaken.

You can read the report at:
<http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/tandi2/tandi346.html>



Canada

Canadians say victims' rights should be stronger

A recently-released national poll (conducted by Ekos Research Associates Inc. for the Canadian Government) shows more Canadians hold "higher levels of confidence in the criminal court's ability to respect the rights of an accused than for helping victims of crime." Though respondents over all felt that victims' rights should be strengthened, Quebecers in particular supported a tough-on-crime agenda. When asked whether crime in their neighbourhood would increase, decrease or remain the same over the next five years, overall nationally, 36 percent of respondents believed it would increase. "In Quebec, 29 percent believe crime will increase, whereas in Alberta, 47 percent believe it will increase," states the executive summary. (The poll involved 4,503 telephone interviews with adult Canadians and carries a margin of error of plus or minus 1.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.)

Europe

Crime in Europe

A recent report (Tavares & Thomas 2007) on the development of crime in the European Union states:

- It is possible to compare trends in total crime over the period 1995-2005 for only about half of the EU Member States. In these 14 countries, the general trend visible in police records for this period suggested an increase of about half a percent per year. In most countries a peak was reached about 2002 and since then the figures have fallen slightly.
- The types of crime which have featured increasingly in the police records include robbery, violent crime and drug trafficking. The incidence of each of these types of crime rose by 4 to 5% per year in the period 1995-2005.
- Types of crime which have become less prevalent include property offences such as domestic burglary and theft of motor vehicles. Police records suggest a decrease of 3% each year for domestic burglary in the countries where consistent figures could be obtained.
- The annual rate for homicides as recorded by the police in the period 2003 to 2005 was about 1.8 per 100 000 population, but rather higher in capital cities (average 2.2).
- The prison population has been rising steadily in the period 1995-2005 to reach an average rate in EU Member States of 124 prisoners per 100 000 population for the years 2003-2005.

To read more information published by EUROSTAT see:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1090,1&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

Swedish National Police Crime Statistics for the Year 2005

An English language summary of the Swedish Police Crime Statistics, 2005, prepared by BRA (the National Council for Crime Prevention), can be read at:

http://www.bra.se/extra/pod/?action=pod_show&id=6&module_instance=11

German Police Crime Statistics for the Year 2006

The Bundeskriminalamt (Federal Criminal Police Office) in Wiesbaden released an electronic version of the Polizeiliche Kriminalstatistik for Germany, 2006. This is in German language only at <http://www.bka.de/pks/pks2006/index.html>

United Kingdom

Statistical Bulletin -- On the attitudes of the British people towards crime in England and Wales

The Home Office Statistical Bulletin 19/07 - Attitudes, perceptions and risks of crime: Supplementary Volume 1 to Crime in England and Wales 2006/07 can be downloaded at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/whatsnew1.html>

United States

2006 National Crime Victimization Survey

The Bureau of Justice Statistics has published the main findings of the 2006 National Crime Victimization Survey - Criminal Victimization, 2006 (2007) See : <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/cv06.htm>

Sexual Victimization in State and Federal Prisons Reported by Inmates, 2007

The Bureau of Justice Statistics has also published data from a Prison Inmate Survey conducted in 146 State and Federal prisons between April and August 2007 on sexual victimization among prisoners. See:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/svsfpri07.htm>



Conferences

Nordic Conference on Victimology and Victim Support - Victims and violence – our responsibility

The third Nordic Conference on Victimology and Victim Support will be held on 3-5 March 2008 in Helsinki, Finland. More information can be found at: <http://www.victim2008.fi/EN/index.php>

Victims of Terrorism Conference, the Netherlands

The INTERVICT, Tilburg University, the Netherlands will convene a conference on Victims of Terrorism, on Monday 10 and Tuesday 11 March 2008 at Tilburg University. The organizers have assembled a challenging and innovative programme to focus on the definition of adequate judicial and psycho-social responses to victims of terrorism and its implication for setting standards. Against this backdrop, delegates will get an opportunity to explore the possibilities of restorative justice approaches. A programme, list of speakers, registration form and other information can be found at:

<http://www.tilburguniversity.nl/intervict/conference/2008/>
For any additional questions, please contact the conference manager, Kathelijn van Heeswijk (k.verschueren@uvt.nl).

Building restorative justice in Europe

The 5th biennial conference of the European Forum -- 17-19 April 2008 -- Verona, Italy. The conference theme is 'Building restorative justice in Europe -- Cooperation between the public, policy makers,

practitioners and researchers'. To learn more, see: <http://www.euforumrj.org/Activities/conferences.htm>

Rethinking Rape Law: Akayesu 10 years on

An international conference will be held to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Akayesu judgment of the Rwandan Criminal Tribunal, which is internationally renowned for its expansive definition of rape based on coercive circumstances. This international conference will examine rape law from national, international and European perspectives. It will review the conceptual foundations of rape law, debate strategies for reform, consider developments in countries reviewing rape laws and assess the role of women judges, lawyers and activists in securing lasting change

For more information visit the conference web page: <http://www.dur.ac.uk/law/research/groups/glad/activities/reformrape/>

For further information, contact: Professor Clare McGlynn, Department of Law, Durham University, 30 Old Elvet, Durham DH1 3ET. Tel 00 44 (0)191 334 6855/2800.

Email: Clare.McGlynn@durham.ac

Crime and criminology: research and action

The XV World Congress of the International Society for Criminology will be held on 20-25 July 2008 in Barcelona, Spain. The Congress will (amongst other matter) examine the current state of crime and its control in the main regions of the world (the selected areas are: transnational crime, urban crime, victims and criminal justice, etc.). For more information see: <http://www.worldcongresscriminology.com/index.asp?pagina=presen&idioma=en>



The Victimologist -- Newsletter of the World Society of Victimology



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