
THE VICTIMOLOGIST

Volume 11, Issue 2

April-June, 2008

From the Editor's Desk

Michael O'Connell

This edition of *The Victimologist* begins with an overview on the Standards for Terrorism Victims Conference held in Tilburg (the Netherlands) in March, 2008. Our colleagues at Intervict intend to publish most papers, so you will soon be able to learn more about this successful conference. Next, two articles from Australia outline advances in victims' rights. The first covers a new restorative justice initiative. The second covers amendments to the declaration on victims' rights and the powers of Australia's inaugural Commissioner for Victims' Rights. These are followed by a section highlighting Internet resources; then the usual 'around our world' covers publications, statistics and conferences, including the WSV International Symposium at Tokiwa University, Mito, Japan.

STANDARDS FOR VICTIMS OF TERRORISM

Intervict hosted the conference "Standards for Victims of Terrorism", in Tilburg on Monday 10 and Tuesday 11 March. Speakers of international academia, governmental bodies and NGOs enlightened the audience developing standards for assistance to victims of terrorism, amongst other important matters. Kenneth Feinberg, for example, talked about the practical implications of the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund, the complexity of an initially non-formalized procedure and the enormous emotional impact of speaking to families of those that had died in the 9/11 attack and to survivors. Feinberg had to decide on a just and justifiable compensation for every individual victim or claimant. The Dutch Minister of Justice, Ernst Hirsch Ballin, stressed the importance of international cooperation, as did Stefano Signore on behalf of the European Commission; both mentioned the commitment of their respective governmental bodies to the cause under discussion. Four workshops -- access to justice, compensation, psycho-social assistance and restorative justice -- were convened. The second day focused mainly on restorative justice practices in relation to the context of terrorism. Brendan McAllister, for instance, spoke about his experiences in Northern Ireland. Later three victims told their personal stories of terrorism and their ways of coping. The conference closed with a vote on the proposal for a *Tilburg Declaration on EU Recommendations for Assistance to Victims of Acts of Terrorism* (see <http://www.tilburguniversity.nl/intervict/newsletter/proposaltilburgdecl.pdf>). Intervict staff intend to publish the plenary addresses, presentations and photographs of the conference website (see: <http://www.tilburguniversity.nl/intervict/conference/2008/>).

Page

In This Issue

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Standards for Victims of Terrorism |
| 2 | Restorative Justice – Recent Developments in Victoria, Australia Strengthening Victims' Rights in South Australia |
| 3 | Around Our World – Australian Radio Program on Restorative Justice |
| 4 | New Web Resources |
| 5 | Around our World - Publications |
| 7 | Statistics Conferences |
| 8 | WSV International Symposium 2009 - details |
| 9 | President's Letter to Chinese President |



Newsletter of the World Society of Victimology



WSV Newsletter

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE – RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

Restorative justice can help reduce re-offending and improve the experience of victims of crime in the criminal justice system, Deputy Premier and Attorney-General Rob Hulls said recently as he opened the 2008 Law Week Restorative Justice Conference in Victoria, Australia. “While restorative justice is a relatively new concept for justice in Victoria (Australia), there is growing evidence of its benefits, including promoting victims’ healing and producing promising results for reducing re-offending,” Mr Hulls said.

The Government for Victoria plans to expand initiatives for restorative justice in its second Justice Statement, to be released later this year, which aims to reduce the cost of justice and create a unified and engaged court system that will be more responsive to public needs and expectations.

Restorative justice initiatives in Victoria include a group conference program which is available to 10 to 18-year-old offenders and their victims in Children’s Courts. A review of the program showed that offenders were less likely to re-offend after taking part in group conferencing.

“Group conferencing can be a powerful way of bringing home to offenders the damage they have caused to the victim,” Mr Hulls said.

Earlier this year, a group conferencing program was launched for 18 to 25-year-old offenders and their victims at the Neighbourhood Justice Centre (NJC).

“The program at the NJC is a Victorian first and brings together offenders with victims, families and members of the community,” Mr Hulls said.

“Restorative justice is a key part of the NJC, which as a community justice centre provides a supportive

environment in which to trial restorative approaches.”

Evaluation of the NJC program, spanning three years, will include feedback from victims. A recent study by the New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics showed that youth justice conferencing can reduce re-offending by 15 to 25 per cent.

“Restorative justice is about coming up with innovative ways to address the harm caused by crime, help reduce the risk of re-offending and strengthen people’s faith in our criminal justice system,” Mr Hulls said. He added, “Restorative justice is about bringing meaning and ownership to the process for all who come before a court.” The Victorian Department of Justice is developing a Restorative Justice Policy Framework to guide future work by the department in this area.

STRENGTHENING VICTIMS’ RIGHTS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Michael O’Connell

(Interim) Commissioner for Victims’ Rights

Most readers of this newsletter are committed to improving practical outcomes for victims of crime. Most readers also would be familiar with some of the initiatives taken in South Australia to strengthen victims’ rights and enhance victim assistance (see, for example, *The Victimologist*, Vol. 10, Issue 3-4). This article gives a brief overview of changes to victims’ rights laws in that State, including the appointment of the first Commissioner for Victims’ Rights in Australia.

According to the existing Declaration of Principles Governing Treatment of Victims (Part 2, Division II of the *Victims of Crime Act 2001*) —

- Victims should be treated with respect and dignity.
- Victims are entitled to know if someone is charged with the offence and what happens in the court case.

- Victims may be needed as witnesses at the trial, but they should not be asked to attend court unnecessarily. If giving evidence, they are entitled to be protected from unnecessary contact with the offender and unnecessary disclosure of their address.
- Any harm caused to a victim by the crime should be put before the court when it sentences the offender. A victim who is dissatisfied with the result of the case can ask, but cannot compel, the prosecution to appeal.
- Victims are entitled to be told if the offender escapes from custody or is recaptured. If an offender is gaoled and applies for parole, the victim is entitled to have a say before the parole decision is made.
- Victims are also entitled to information about how to claim compensation, if eligible, and about health and welfare services available to them.

For the purpose of the Declaration, a victim is a person (other than the offender) harmed by an offence. A victim includes, for instance, the immediate family of a murder victim.

Later this year, some existing victims' rights will be changed and some new rights will be added to the existing declaration. Presently, victims are entitled to have their safety concerns taken into account in any decision about bail; soon the Police will have to take reasonable steps to tell victims about any bail condition intended to protect them. In serious cases, rather than tell victims who ask, the decision to drop the case or reduce the charges, victims will soon have a right to be consulted before such decisions are made. Victims who register on the Victims Register with Correctional Services will soon be told whether offenders complete community service orders and bonds; and victims of mentally incompetent offenders will have the same rights, as other victims, to information. The Government has also agreed to explore the use of victim impact

statements in proceedings against mentally incompetent offenders.

In October, 2006, the Governor for South Australia appointed this author as the interim Commissioner for Victims' Rights. In November, 2007 the Parliament passed amendments to the *Victims of Crime Act, 2001* that provides legislatively for the appointment of the Commissioner for Victims' Rights and states his or her functions.

The current functions of the interim Commissioner include:

- To advise the Attorney-General on how best to use government resources to help victims of crime
- To carry-out functions assigned by the Attorney-General such as monitor & report on public officials compliance with the declaration.
- To be an ex officio member of the Victims of Crime Ministerial Advisory Committee
- To assist victims in their dealings with prosecution authorities and other government agencies.
- To monitor and review the effect of the law and of court practices and procedures on victims.

The Commissioner's new functions will include:

- If another Act authorises or requires the Commissioner to make submissions in any proceedings – to make such submissions (either personally or through counsel).
- To personally, or through counsel, make submissions at the sentencing stage on the impact of the crime on victims and victims' families in cases resulting in the death or permanent total incapacity of the victim.
- To make submissions to the Court of Criminal Appeal on guideline sentences.
- To consult the Director of Public Prosecutions in the interests of the victims in general and in particular cases about matters including victim impact statements and charge bargains.

- To consult with the judiciary about court practices and procedures, and their effect on victims.

As well, to strengthen victims' rights, the Commissioner:

- Will be able to require a public agency or official to consult with him/her regarding steps that may be taken by the agency/official to further the interests of victims; and
- After such consultation, may, where he/she believes that the agency or official has failed to comply with the declaration of principles, recommend that the agency or official issue a written apology to the relevant victim.
- The Commissioner is required to have regard for the wishes of the person (victim).

Furthermore, the Commissioner will be required to table an annual report in the Parliament in which he or she should state the number of recommended apologies and name any public official and/or public agency that did not comply. In other words, non-compliant officials and agencies will be shamed on public record.

The changes to victims' rights and the introduction of the Commissioner's new functions are complemented by an increase in the sum payable for grief in homicide cases (soon to be a maximum of \$10,000) and an increase in the sum for funeral expenses (a rise to \$7,000). Grief payments can be made when the person killed is a spouse or partner (as provided for in law), or child under 18. Presently, the payment on the death of a spouse is \$4,200 and on the death of a child is \$3,000, which will usually be divided equally between the surviving parents.

The Parliament is presently debating a bill to amend the law on victim impact statements. These amendments, which all politicians have indicated support for, clarify that the victim of any offence can make an impact statement and also ask to read his or her impact statement. The victim of an indictable offence already has an absolute right to read his or her impact statement in court before the sentence is imposed. This absolute right will be extended to the co-victim of a victim killed or who suffered total

permanent disability as a result of an offence, which includes non-indictable offences. The amendments will also introduce two community impact statements: a neighbourhood impact statement and a social impact statement. To read about these and other amendments, see: www.voc.sa.gov.au

NEW WEB RESOURCES

VAOnline -- Victim Assistance On-line

The WSV Webmaster, Randy McCall, also runs Victim Assistance On-line. After receiving some very positive messages on the concept of creating a web-log, or blog as they have come to be known, he is pleased to announce the launch of VAOnline.org Fusion.

He says, "You'll have to check the introductory article on the blog to read why. <http://vaonlinefusion.blogspot.com/>"

The purpose of this blog is not to post his thoughts and opinions, but to give a place where news and items not consistent with the use of the VAOnline listservs can be posted. It is intended as a place for VAOnline members to present ideas and get feedback from both their peers and the public.

Notes, thoughts and articles can be posted on the blog either with attribution or anonymously. Academic postings, grass-roots commentary, official announcements and so on are also welcome.

For the moment, however, those who wish items posted on the blog will have to send them to Randy McCall (info@vaonline.org). If members and others use the blog for its intended purpose then full posting privileges will likely be given to members.

VAOnline.org / Victim Assistance Online is also pleased to announce the launch of four new listservs, serving victim assistance specialists and related professionals in distinct regions of the globe. The new

listservs are (with links to where interested parties can apply):

Victim Assistance Asia (Asia and the sub-Asian continent):
<http://www.vaonline.org/vaasia.html>

Victim Assistance Australasia (Australia, New Zealand and Pacifica) :
<http://www.vaonline.org/vaaust.html>

Victim Assistance Europe (Eastern and Western): <http://www.vaonline.org/vaeur.html>

Victim Assistance South America:
<http://www.vaonline.org/vasam.html>

DrugInfo Clearinghouse – Australia

With support from the Transport Accident Commission (TAC), the DrugInfo Clearinghouse has just completed the redevelopment of the drugs and driving website (www.drugsdriving.adf.org.au).

Drugs and driving provides quality-assured information to inform and educate the community about the risks and harms associated with drug use and driving. The website includes information about:

- Safer driving—including information specifically aimed at young drivers, the parents of young drivers, older drivers and commercial drivers.
- The effects of different drugs on driving ability—including alcohol, amphetamines, cannabis, ecstasy, heroin and other opioids, medicines and mixing drugs.
- Laws—including drink driving, random breath testing, drug driving and roadside drug testing.
- Where to find more information—including links to research, resources, alcohol and other drug support services and road safety organisations.

Indigenous Justice Clearinghouse – Australia

The Indigenous Justice Clearinghouse has released a research brief on *Sex offender treatment programs: effectiveness of prison and community based programs in Australia and New Zealand*. The report examines whether programs designed to treat sex offenders in Australia and New Zealand are effective in reducing sexual re-offending. It also discusses the treatment needs of Indigenous sex offenders. See: <http://www.indigenousjustice.gov.au/briefs/brief003.pdf>

Encyclopaedia on Mass Violence

The Lyon (France) Based Online Encyclopaedia on Mass Violence has been overhauled. As well as covering events of mass violence in all parts of the worlds, the compilers want to foster international exchange about those events and their structural, policy and theory implications: <http://www.massviolence.org/>

.....



<http://www.victimology.nl/>

Around Our World

PUBLICATIONS

Journals –

Asian Journal of Criminology – The editors are seeking submissions for volume 4 - 2009 onwards on studies of crime and criminal justice in Asia or about the impact of Asian crime groups in America, Europe and elsewhere. They are especially interested in receiving manuscripts with a comparative or empirical focus and that also address legal issues pertinent to criminal justice. The editors also invite shorter reviews or research notes. Special issues on crime in the Republic of Korea, Hong Kong and Macau and Taiwan are also in preparation and authors are invited to submit accordingly.

Any WSV members interested should contact the editors:

Prof Rod Broadhurst

r.broadhurst@griffith.edu.au

Prof Eric Chui ericchui@cuhk.edu.hk or proceed online at:

<http://www.springer.com/social+sciences/criminology/journal/>*

Justice Policy Journal -- The May 2008 is available on-line at:

<http://www.cjci.org/jpi/index.php>

Australia –

Homeless people: Their risk of victimisation

The Australian Institute of Criminology has recently released a fact sheet on *Homeless people: Their risk of victimisation*. See (AIC Crime Reduction Matters No. 66): <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/crm/crm066.html>

Compensation for wrongful conviction

The Australian Institute of Criminology has also recently released a Trends & issues in crime and criminal justice paper (no. 356) on *Compensation for wrongful conviction*. Adrian Hoel examines the causes and effects of wrongful imprisonment, the prevalence of wrongful conviction in

Australia, and the applicability of international approaches and conventions. See:

<http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/tandi2/tandi356.html>

Canada –

Terrorism Fatalities Decline as Muslim Support for al-Qaeda Terror Network Plummet Number of Wars and Death Tolls in Africa Down Dramatically Since 1999

Media Release – May 21, 2008 — Challenging the expert consensus that the threat of global terrorism is increasing, a new report from the Canadian research team that produced the much-cited *Human Security Report* (www.humansecurityreport.info/) in 2005, reveals a sharp net decline in the incidence of terrorist violence around the world. The *Human Security Brief* (2007) (www.humansecurityreport.info/) demonstrates that:

- Fatalities from terrorism have declined by some 40 percent, while the loose-knit terror network associated with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda has suffered a dramatic collapse in popular support throughout the Muslim world.
- There has been an extraordinary, but largely unnoticed, positive change in sub-Saharan Africa's security landscape. The number of conflicts being waged in the region more than halved between 1999 and 2006; the combat toll dropped by 98 percent.
- The decline in the total number of armed conflicts and combat deaths around the world that was reported three years ago in Human Security Report 2005 has continued.

The Brief was produced by the Human Security Report Project (HSRP) research team at Simon Fraser University's School for International Studies in Vancouver, Canada. The HSRP's research is supported by the governments of Canada, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland and the UK.

United Kingdom –

The British Red Cross has posted information about the 'Relief fund for UK victims of terrorism abroad' on its website, see: <http://www.redcross.org.uk/70133> The British Red Cross Relief fund for UK victims of terrorism abroad will provide financial assistance to people who have been seriously injured or bereaved by such incidents. Currently, people affected by these incidents can encounter financial difficulties as many are not eligible for support from insurance schemes. This fund – set up by the Red Cross at the request of the British Government - will provide immediate payments to help people as they seek to recover from the incident. Charitable grants of up to £15,000 will be available to help people deal with the financial difficulties they may experience. An immediate payment of £3,000 will be made to people who have been bereaved or seriously injured. A further payment of £12,000 will be made available to the bereaved, and those people who been hospitalised for five days or more, or need continued outpatient appointments. These payments are not compensation for what victims suffer.

The Home Office has published Research Report 07 on *Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation: A process review of Operation Pentameter: Key implications - Executive summary*. See: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/horr07b.pdf>

STATISTICS

United Kingdom –

Home Office Statistical Bulletin 06/08 - *Circumstances of crime, Neighbourhood Watch membership and perceptions of policing*: Supplementary Volume 3 to Crime in England and Wales 2006/07. See: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0608.pdf>

Crime in England and Wales 2006/07: Supplementary Tables: *Nature of burglary, vehicle-related theft, personal and other household theft, vandalism, and violent*

crime. See:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimeew0607_tables_bvv.html

CONFERENCES

July –

Victims & Mediation Seminar in Lisbon (Portugal) in July 2008:

APAV – Portuguese Association for Victim Support - is organising the *Victims & Mediation* Seminar that will be held in 14-15 July 2008 in Lisbon, Portugal. Organised under the Project Victims & Mediation, co-financed by the European Commission, this seminar aims to attain a more exact notion of the current standing and treatment information of victims in victim-offender mediation projects and programmes in Europe. For more detailed information please check the website: www.apav.pt/victimmediation

August –

Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention: In the Loop

The U.S. National Children's Advocacy Center (NCAC) has been scheduling its 9th National Conference on the above topic for August 26-29, 2008 in New Orleans, Louisiana (Marriott Convention Center). See:

http://www.nationalcac.org/professionals/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=122&Itemid=118

September –

VIII European Society of Criminology (ESC) conference 'Criminology in the public sphere', September 2nd – 5th, Edinburgh will bring together scholars from different fields of crime and justice related research coming from Europe and beyond. For more details on registration fees and the programme see <http://www.lifelong.ed.ac.uk/eurocrim2008/index.htm> Or register online www.secureregistrations.com/acots08

November –

Criminology: Linking theory, policy and practice

The 21st Annual Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology (ANZSOC) conference will be held in Canberra on 25 – 28 November 2008. The ANZSOC conference is a key crime and criminal justice research forum in Australia. The call for abstracts says that organisers are seeking abstracts on research involving Indigenous issues, women and the criminal justice system (including questions of human rights and trafficking), financial and technology-enabled crime (particularly focussing on global developments in crime control and regulation), and victimology. The call for abstracts brochure and abstract submission form can be found online at <http://www.anzsoc.org/conferences/2008/>

December –

International Conference on Homicide - Domestic Related Homicide

The Australian Institute of Criminology is conducting an international conference on homicide from 3 – 5 December 2008 at Surfers Paradise. The theme for the conference is domestic related homicide.

The preamble states,
“Domestic violence is a significant factor in homicides across most cultures and is a significant factor in the deaths of many women and children in particular. A distinguishing feature of this type of homicide is that it has often proved resistant to efforts to combat it.”

For more information, see:
<http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/2008-homicide/index.html>

The 13th International Symposium on Victimology Aug 23-28, 2009

Tokiwa University
Mito, Ibaraki, Japan

Conference program, themes, registration and accommodation information is available at the conference website:

<http://www.isv2009.com/>

General questions about the conference program, themes, papers, travel, accommodation, etc., can be submitted to: isv2009@tokiwa.ac.jp or see the conference website's "Contact Us" page for more specific e-mail and telephone contact information

<http://www.isv2009.com/contact.html>


Dates to Remember:

- Start date for abstract submissions: June 10, 2008
- Deadline for abstract submissions: March 31, 2009
- Deadline for final paper submissions: May 31, 2009
- Early symposium registration period: February 1 - May 1, 2009
- Regular symposium registration period: May 2 - July 31, 2009




<http://www.isv2009.com/>





**WHERE IS TOKIWA UNIVERSITY,
MITO, JAPAN - THE VENUE FOR THE
2009 INTERNATIONAL SYMOSIM?**





World Society of Victimology

Office of the President
John P. J. Dussich, Ph. D.
California State University, Fresno
2576 East San Ramon Avenue M/S MF 104
Fresno CA 93740, USA
Phone: 1-559-278-6046
E-mail: iohnojdussich@hotmail.com

President Hu Jintao
People's Republic of China
Beijing, China

Executive Committee Members

John P. J. Dussich (USA) President; TIVI, Tokiwa University, & California State University, Fresno

Marc S. Groenhuijsen (Netherlands) Vice-President; INTERVICT, Tilburg University

Paul C. Friday (USA) Treasurer; University of North Carolina, Charlotte

Jo-Anne Wemmers (Canada) Secretary General; University of Montreal

K. Chockalingam (India/ Japan) member; TIVI, Tokiwa University, Mito

Gerd Ferdinand Kirchoff (Germany, Japan) member; TIVI, Tokiwa University, Mito

Maria de la Luz Lima (México) member; Mexican Embassy to the United Kingdom

Hidemichi Morosawa (Japan) member; TIVI, Tokiwa University

Xin Ren (China/ USA) member; California State University- Sacramento

Frans Willem Winkel (Netherlands) member; INTERVICT, Tilburg University

Annette Pearson (Colombia/New Zealand) Victimology/Criminology consultant, Bogota

Marianne Hilf (Austria) member; Universität Graz

Michael O'Connell (Australia) member; Commissioner for Victims' Rights, South Australia

www.worldsocietyofvictimology.org/

Esteemed President Hu Jintao,

It is with great concern and sympathy that I write to you on behalf of the victims of the massive earthquake that struck your county on May 12th, 2008 Monday. I join with all the members of the Executive Committee, on behalf of our Society to express our heartfelt condolences for those families and friends who have lost their loved ones; and, for those who survived but were injured; we wish them a hasty recovery. I am sorry this disaster has struck your country and that so many people have died or are suffering. Our thoughts and best wishes are with you in this time of crisis and sadness.

For those members of our society who wish to volunteer their services to you, please let me know if there are any organizations in Sichuan Province that are providing psycho/social crisis intervention and that might benefit from this type of help. It might be possible to organize a response team of people who can come and have had experience working in disasters before but may not know where to go or whom to contact. Of course each of these volunteers would pay their own way to Chengdu and also bring their professional credentials with them to verify their qualifications.

If the World Society of Victimology can help in any other way, please let me know.

With all my respect and deep concern,

John P. J. Dussich, President
World Society of Victimology



The Victimologist -- Newsletter of the World Society of Victimology



Copyright by the World Society of Victimology. All rights reserved.

Managing Editor:

Michael O'Connell, Commissioner For Victims' Rights, GPO Box 464, Adelaide, SA 5001, Australia, Phone: +61 +8 82071723, Fax: +61 +8 82071736 E-mail: connell.michael@agd.sa.gov.au

Editorial Board:

Dr Georgios Antonopoulos Lecturer, School of Social Sciences & Law, Criminology, Sociology and Youth Studies, University of Teesside, Tees Valley, UK. Tel: 01642 342392 Email: g.antonopoulos@tees.ac.uk

Marisol Casanova Guzman, calle 7 #1-11, Urb. Brisas del Mar, Luquillo, P.R. 00773 Phone: (787) 763-1985 ext. 259, Fax: (787) 763-5168, E-mail: mcq103@prtc.net

Dr. Otmar Hagemann, Kiel University, Germany, Email: Otmar.Hagemann@FH-Kiel.de

Almir Maljevic, Faculty of Criminal Justice Sciences, University of Sarajevo, Zmaja od Bosne 8, 71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Phone: +387 33 561 200. E-mail: amaljevic@fknbih.edu

Jo-Anne Wemmers, Universite' de Montreal, C.P. 6128 succ. Centre-Ville, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H3C 3J7 Telephone (1) (514) 343-6111 ext. 4864, Fax (1) (514) 343-5650, E-mail: jo-anne.m.wemmers@umontreal.ca

Inquiries: Address all correspondence concerning newsletter materials to the members of the Editorial Board. 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