

THE VICTIMOLOGIST

Volume 2 Number 3 November 1998

NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD SOCIETY OF VICTIMOLOGY

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN DECLARATION ON VICTIMS

Recent Developments in India

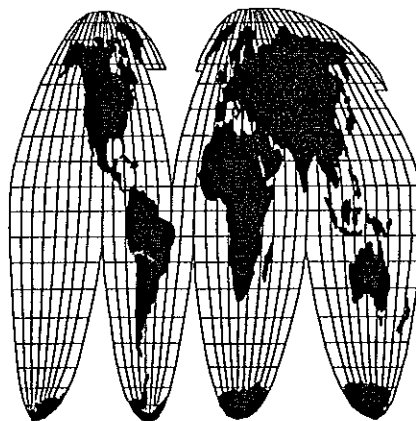
K. Chockalingam

While neglect of victims of crime and abuse of power by the criminal justice systems all over the world was the phenomenon prevailing in many countries for centuries, there have been gradual improvements in the position of victim in a few countries since the United Nations Declaration on the Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power was passed by the General Assembly of the UN on the 29th of November 1985. While the development has been very fast and visible in many European countries and the United States of America, there are changes for the better in some other countries too.

In India, enlightened judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts who belong to the higher judiciary and the academicians and researchers in criminology as well as some conscientious police officers acknowledge the plight of victims. For the last two decades they have expressed their views that victims need to be given a better deal. This is evident from some of the judgements by the judiciary, since the early 1980s, ordering compensation to victims of crime and abuse of power and using the inherent powers of the court in order to achieve this.

In August 1992, the Indian Society of Victimology (ISV), an all

Indian organisation, was started in the city of Chennai to advocate the cause of victims of crime. The ISV has organised several seminars to highlight victim issues in India during the last seven years.



***continuous efforts are
being taken to invite the
attention of the Indian
government***

So far, in India, there are no separate comprehensive laws providing compensation or restitution or assistance to victims of crime. Despite this, there are a few provisions in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958 dealing with compensation. In all these provisions the word "compensation" is used to refer to "restitution".

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International Conference in York

Jo Goodey

On 17 and 18 July 1998 an international conference was held in York, England on the subject of 'Integrating a Victim Perspective within Criminal Justice'. The conference was organised by Leeds University's Centre for Criminal Justice Studies and was held in the University affiliated College of Ripon and York, St. John.

York provided an ancient and beautiful setting for what proved to be two days of intense discussion and debate concerning the integration of victims into the criminal justice system. Over 130 delegates from as far afield as New Zealand, Israel and South Africa attended the conference and presented over 50 papers. The conference attracted a balance of academics, policy makers and practitioners which facilitated the organisation of up to five parallel workshop and paper sessions at any one time dedicated to specific topics such as 'Restitution and Reparation for Victims', 'Comparative Mediation' and 'Children as Victims/Witnesses'. Plenary papers were presented by Jan Van Dijk, Andrew Ashworth, Edna Erez and Leslie Sebba, Renée Zauberman, Helen Reeves, Joanna Shapland and David Miers and, along with other keynote papers, will be published by Dartmouth in a book edited by the conference organisers; Dr. Jo Goodey and Dr. Adam Crawford. The conference will also result in a special edition of the International Review of Victimology based on refereed conference papers.

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These forthcoming publications testify to the wealth of academic and practitioner interest concerning the practice, promise and problems of integrating victims into the criminal justice system.

Unlike the broad based remit of the International Victimology Symposiums, the conference organisers had the luxury of being able to steer the conference towards the more narrowly defined agenda of victims in the criminal justice system. Conference delegates were able to develop research ideas and exchange good practice initiatives with a global group of similarly interested individuals. From the reports which filtered back from various people attending workshop and paper sessions, the conference appears to have been a resounding success as sessions were generally both lively and intellectually stimulating. The balance of academic researchers alongside practitioners from the police through to representatives of victim support, insured that presentations of practice initiatives and research ideas did not go unchallenged by the various parties which are concerned for and work with victims.

Sessions provided an opening for constructive critique of initiatives in light of transferable strategies from one jurisdiction to the next.

A number of themes emerged over the two days. Among them was the extent to which the victim has been constructed as a 'consumer' of criminal justice services from the police through to the courtroom. Similarly, a number of sessions on the role of victims in traditionally offender based agencies, such as probation, raised issues concerning the desirability and applicability of certain victim initiatives, particularly within common law jurisdictions. A large contingent of British delegates made reference to developments in victim provision since the UK's second Victim's Charter and the impact of other initiatives, such as 'restorative conferencing', in consideration of the Labour government's new Crime and Disorder Bill. The conference also illustrated the fact that many debates concerning victims are now well established and at the heart of discussions on criminal justice developments in many countries; for example, the use of victim statements, the role and place of mediation, and the

implications of restorative justice for victim, offender and 'traditional' criminal justice. Having said that, the conference, like so many conferences, was not able to account for victim and practitioner experiences in much of the developing world. The conference tended to reflect the experience of those countries which are most 'advanced' when it comes to putting victims centre-stage in criminal justice; however, when listening to people's accounts from Norway through to the United States, the resounding message was that the victim's place in criminal justice still has a long way to go before Victimology can be accurately charged with having pushed the scales of justice too far in favour of the victim.

In summary, most people seemed to have found the conference both worthwhile and enjoyable and, as the conference organiser, I would like to thank all of those who participated to make the conference the success it was. The conference website can still be visited for details of paper abstracts and conference delegates at: <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/law/ccjs/vict98.htm>

From The Editor's Desk ...

This issue of *The Victimologist* contains the first in a series of articles on the implementation of the UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power around the world. Professor K. Chockalingam describes in his article the continuous efforts in India to further the implementation of the Declaration. Clearly, problems surrounding the implementation of the Declaration are common place and it is important that we learn from the experiences in India and elsewhere.

The notion of learning from each other's experiences also forms the rational behind the international victimology website which is being developed by the Dutch Ministry of Justice in association with the WSV and the United Nations. The article on the website contains an outline of the contents of the new website. The

website will provide an important communication centre for academics and practitioners around the world and WSV members are encouraged to actively contribute information to Ron van Kaam, the project leader.

Research plays an important facilitating role in victim policy and legislation. In order to facilitate the exchange of information between researchers, it was decided at the first meeting of the Research Committee of the WSV in May 1998, that a database on on-going research in the field of Victimology would be developed. This database will be incorporated in the international victimology website. Included in this issue is a questionnaire which members are requested to fill in an return to Ron van Kaam.

Readers are reminded that, besides

this new website, the WSV has its own website. The WSV website contains information on the activities of the WSV as well as all previous issues of *The Victimologist*. The internet address for the WSV website is: <http://members.wbs.net/homepages/w/s/v/wsvinternational.html>

Finally, the members of the Editorial Board send season's greetings to all the members of the WSV.

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The First Asian Post Graduate Course on Victimology and Victim Assistance

Mito, Japan

John Dussich

This first Asian post graduate course was held in Mito, Japan on the campus of the Tokiwa University from August 31st to September 11th of this year. After extensive preparations and generous support from the Tokiwa University, the long awaited two week course became a reality. The model used was the Dubrovnik Course which has been in existence for 14 years. The four codirectors were Gerd Kirchhoff, Paul Friday, Hidemichi Morosawa and myself. While Kirchhoff and Friday couldn't come, they still provided valuable advice from their experiences in the Dubrovnik Courses.

Sixty three students registered, and came from all types of backgrounds: new volunteers in victim assistance programs; students from universities that do not offer victimology; those who were curious about this new field, and victim/survivors. Most of them attended the first week when there were four major lectures almost each day.

All of the non Japanese students were hosted by Japanese families free of charge. This gave them a unique experience to live in a Japanese home for the two weeks and make special friends with some local families. The lecturers were victimologists from around the world: Jan van Dijk (The Netherlands) lectured on the World Society of Victimology and about Physical Assault Victimization; Simha Landau (Israel) gave the introductory lecture on the History of Victimology with special new information recently obtained from the papers of "The Father of Victimology" Benjamin Mendelsohn given Landau by Mendelsohn's wife; Hidemichi Morosawa (Japan) hosted a lavish

reception, and lectured on Restitution and Compensation; Kumaravelu Chokalingam (India) spoke on Sexual Assault; Christian Schwarzenegger (Switzerland) lectured about Fear of Victimization; Helmut Kury (Germany) gave a presentation about Victimological Research; Akira Yamagami (Japan) gave a comprehensive History of Victim Assistance; Takako Konishi (Japan) spoke about Homicide Victims and their Trauma; Susumu Nagai (Japan) lectured about Concepts of Victim Assistance; Leon Mangin (USA) discussed the connections between victimhood and its relationship to Aids and Drug Abuse Victimization; Bhogendra Sharma (Nepal) gave a poignant pictorial presentation on the subject of Torture Victims in his country; Soon-Hoon Chung (Korea) spoke about Victims of Consumer Fraud; and Glen Edwards (Australia) lectured about the trauma of Disaster Victims. I gave lectures on: Basic Concepts of Victimology; Victimological Theories; Burglary Victims; Child Abuse; Elderly Victims; Mediation and Reconciliation and Restorative Justice; Victim Rights; Abuse of Power; and, Social Coping Theory for Victimization and Recovery (the high number of lectures was due to the last minute cancellations of five professors). All told, there were fourteen lecturers who came as volunteers and with their own resources! Thanks for their work!

The main goal of this course was to introduce basic information on victimology and victim assistance to Asian students in a logical, yet dynamic format. Some presentations used overhead projectors, some straight lecturers, some used the whiteboard, some used videos. All the lectures were presented both in Japanese and English.

There were sixteen students who stayed the entire two weeks; in the second week they each gave thirty-

minute presentations on a victimological topic of their choice after extensive information gathering from my office and from interviews with the victimologists present. All sixteen received a specially designed diploma on the last day at a graduation ceremony. These students were: Eri ATARASHI (Japan); Ganga Laxmi AWAL (Nepal); Mari HIRAYAMA (Japan); Toimi ITABASHI (Japan); Kiyoko ITAGAKI (Japan); Jun KANEKO (Japan); Sookyung KIM (Korea); Yoko KUBOTA (Japan); Ji Young LEE (Korea); Kelly LEMMON-KISHI (USA); Mitou MIMURA (Japan); Kuniko MURAMOTO (Japan); Kentaro UCHIKOSHI (Japan); Harue WATANABE (Japan); Jiang YU (China) and Tomoko YOKOZEKI (Japan) who also was my very able assistant.

In addition to the academic activities, the course offered some opportunities to relax and do some sightseeing. The students had a bus tour of Mito, complete with a demonstration of the Japanese Tea Ceremony at the Mito International Center hosted by Mr. Wang Wei Ya. The next major highlight, arranged by Professor Nobuho Tomita, was an excursion to the beautiful Nikko resort area where we saw a spectacular waterfall, a beautiful lake where some of us went paddle-boating, one of the three most famous Shrines in Japan which contains the well known monkeys (see no evil, speak no evil, and hear no evil). On the way back to Mito we had a "bus Karaoke party" and discovered some folks who had "hidden talents". Finally, we took a short bus trip to the Ibaraki Police Academy where we were treated to a lecture about the police based victim assistance services; and, saw demonstrations of Kendo, Judo and police arrest techniques.

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However, the courts in India have used the term compensation both for restitution to victims of crime by the offenders and for compensation to victims by the State. Sections 357, 358 and 359 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 empower criminal courts in India to order payment of compensation (restitution) to the victim from the fine imposed on the offender. The court also has the power to order payment of compensation by the offender to the victim, even if the fine does not form part of the punishment under certain circumstance. Similarly, under Section 5 of the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958, the court has power to require the released offender to pay compensation to the victim for the loss or injury and also the cost of the court proceedings. Despite these legal provisions, the trial courts in India have not been availing these provisions to order payment of compensation to the victims by the offender. This is mainly due to the traditional outlook of the criminal justice agencies as offender oriented and the insensitivity of the judiciary to the plight and sufferings of victims besides the reason of cumbersome procedures and additional responsibility involved.

In this decade, there has been a tremendous awareness about the need to protect the rights of victims and some concrete steps have been taken to translate the same into solid actions. Due to the efforts of the Indian Society of Victimology, the State Government of Tamil Nadu, in South India has created a "Victim Assistance Fund" under an executive order in August 1995. The fund provides state compensation to victims of a few violent crimes. This scheme covers the legal heirs of murder victims, victims of rape and victims of grievous injury. This is the first time a scheme to award state compensation to victims of crime, though in a limited way, has been brought into force in India.

The ISV, not being contended with

this state scheme of victim compensation, drafted a The Victims (Criminal injuries) Right to Assistance Bill, in 1996. The Bill was drafted by an expert committee under the Chairmanship of the renowned jurist and former Supreme Court judge, Mr. Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer. In line with the UN Declaration on the Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, the main focus of this bill is to make victim assistance mandatory on the part of the State and it aims that the offenders should make fair restitution to victim or their families and the State should provide monetary compensation to victims who suffer serious mental or physical injury. If passed, the bill would introduce state compensation throughout India.

It has been suggested by some of the participants at the Fourth Expert Group Meeting on the implementation of the UN Declaration which was held in Washington D.C. in February 1998, that perhaps the Indian bill could be a model for other Asian countries which do not have any legal provisions to assist victims. On my special request, the UN Committee on Crime Prevention in Vienna wrote to the Government of India in April 1998, asking them to consider this bill for implementation.

Continuous efforts at various levels are being taken to invite the attention of the government of India to implement the UN Declaration on Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power and to create a National Law on Victims. Recently the 30th Indian Police Science Congress held at Chennai from 7 to 9 October 1998 where I was invited to be a resource person. The congress passed several resolutions and appealed (i) to the government of India to enact a national level legislation to assist victims (ii) to all state governments in India to introduce a victim assistance fund, like the Tamil Nadu State mode and (iii)

to the government of India to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 making it mandatory for the criminal courts to consider restitution to victims by the offenders as part of sentencing in all criminal cases.

In a nutshell, criminologists, victimologists, human rights advocates, feminist organisations, police, judiciary and prosecutors and researchers besides the Indian Society of Victimology have been advocating in variety of ways for the Indian government to provide a better deal for victims of crime in India. And we hope to see an improvement in the position of victims at least before the 21st

10th
International
Symposium on
Victimology
Research and
Action for the
Third
Millennium

August 6 - 11
2000

Montreal, Canada

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SURVEY

ONGOING RESEARCH ON VICTIMOLOGY

The purpose of this questionnaire is to gather information on ongoing research projects in the field of victimology. The information will be included in the Victimology Research database of the Victimology website which is currently under construction.

Please complete the form for each project in which you, your agency or your organization is engaged that is currently in progress.

In order to facilitate processing of the information, we suggest the use of e-mail. This form can be downloaded from: information@victimology.nl Please return completed forms as a file, preferably by e-mail or on a diskette to:

Ron van Kaam

email: rkaam@best-dep.minjus.nl

Ministry of Justice, Room L 514, POBox 20301, 2500 EH The Hague, The Netherlands

fax: [+31] 70 370 7905 (After 01-01-99: 370 7948)

Thank you for your cooperation.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Please use additional copies for each separate project

Title of the project: _____

Project leader

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Project workers: _____

Timetable:

Start of the research: _____

Expected completion date: _____

How will the research be published: _____

Keywords:

Please categorize the type of the project and topics covered by the project by ticking the appropriate boxes. If several of the boxes appear to apply tick two most appropriate in "type of research" category and three most appropriate in "topic" category.

1. Type of research

Survey research

Theory and methods

Socio-legal issues

Action research

Clinical studies

Evaluation

Literature study

Meta-analysis

Other(please specify): _____

2. Topic of research

- Victim rights
- Human rights
- Coping/PTSD
- Women
- Juveniles/children
- Restorative justice
- Victim services
- State compensation
- Repeated victimisation
- Criminal justice systems
- Violent crimes
- Property crimes
- Organized crimes
- Race/hate crimes
- Abuse of power
- War crimes
- Terrorism
- Other (please specify): _____

Goal of the project:

Please describe the goal or purpose of the project: _____

Please describe with 50-100 words the main aspects of the project: _____

Please list any other relevant victimological project that you know of in your country:

Title of the project: _____

Project leader

Name: _____
Address: _____
Tel: _____
Fax: _____
Email: _____

Title of the project: _____

Project leader

Name: _____
Address: _____
Tel: _____
Fax: _____
Email: _____

Conference

Crime Victims in the European Union

Trudy de Wit

On October 19th and 20th 1998, a conference on the care for tourists who become crime victims while traveling in the European Union (EU,) was held in Umea, Sweden. As a result of the growing mobility within the EU experts expect an increase of crime victims outside the borders of their home States. The conference was part of a project by the Swedish Ministry of Justice and the Swedish Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority, financed by the Grotius programme of the European Union. The aim of the conference was to discuss the legal position of tourists who are victimized in the 15 Member States of the EU and to explore possibilities for its improvement.

During the conference, research conducted by Mrs. Wergens of the Crime Victims Compensation and Support Authority of Sweden, on the legal situation of tourists as victims of crime in the 15 EU Member States was presented. It is generally accepted that tourists and other travelers have a higher chance of victimization than residents of a country. Reliable statistics on the number of victimizations are however, not available. Some studies have been conducted in Germany, The Netherlands and Spain. These studies suggest that between 7 and 15% of the tourists are victimized. However, tourists who become victims of crime are generally not well taken care of. While all EU countries, with the exception of Greece and Italy, have one or another form of State compensation for their residents, only five countries allow non-residents (e.g. tourists) to apply for State compensation. And only four countries have special victim assistance programmes for tourists: Ireland, Spain, Portugal and The Netherlands.

In addition, the tourist industry

tends to ignore the problems. Yet this industry can play an important role in the prevention of victimization by providing tourists with information on how to avoid victimization.

Issues addressed during the conference include: access to justice for the tourists who are victimized; the possibilities of legal assistance; the information given to victims about their case; the treatment they receive from the police and judicial authorities; the possibilities for State compensation and restitution by the offender; other possible forms of assistance; the need for reliable statistics; and the need for proper crime prevention measures.

The conclusion of the conference was that there is much to be done to improve the situation of tourist victims. What is needed is that the UN Declaration on Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power be implemented for tourists who become victims of crime. This Declaration has not yet been ratified in all countries. In particular, the rights of tourists to State compensation is problematic.

The conference closed with four recommendations to the European Union:

1. To develop standard minimum rules for the information for victimized tourists and other foreign persons traveling abroad.
2. To improve the availability of interpreters throughout the criminal justice process.
3. To increase the awareness of the police for the needs of tourists who are victimized
4. To focus on the need to acquire reliable statistics on the number of tourists victimized.

In 1999 a follow-up conference will take place. □

WHERE ARE THE VICTIMS ?

Frank Robertz

A seminar on "serial killers" was held on the 10th and 11th of October 1998 in Paris. Organized by the *Centre International de Sciences Criminelles et Penales* (France), the *European Law Enforcement Organization* (Belgium) and the *Office of International Criminal Justice* (Chicago, IL), the seminar aimed at developing an understanding of the concept of serial murder homicide in the world by defining, analyzing and comparing the phenomenon itself, as well as methods of investigation. Well known speakers from all over the world presented interesting lectures, while special panels of experts, who commented on these lectures and a highly professional audience from fields such as psychology, psychiatry, criminology, law enforcement etc. ensured a very high quality of this international gathering. My impetus for writing this brief article about the seminar in our victimological newsletter is the concept of the organizers to invite mothers of serial murderers' victims in order to give them the opportunity to address the audience.

In a very touching and impressive way these mothers talked about their view of the seminar, their aims and needs, as well as their ideas of how to deal with the phenomenon in the future. They complimented the professionals for their effort, criticized them for any lack of teamspirit and urged them to continue their "struggle against these predators of our society". They even mentioned the topic of trying to cure serial murderers instead of just locking them up - a theme none of the speakers had dared to touch at this time. I am still very emotionally touched by their testimony.

While I realize that there may be a downside to active involvement of victims in professional conferences, I strongly suggest that such a direct approach of giving victims the possibility to take part in a conference which has a topic that is relevant to them should become a model for the future. At the Victimology Symposium in Amsterdam we did not explicitly give victims personal opportunities to address our attending members at the symposium in Amsterdam. Are we so self-confident to believe that we know everything they have to say? Do we think it would not be of any value for the professionals and for the victims themselves? Don't we see at least the symbolical value? I have gained my scientific knowledge through the teachings and mentorships of some of the most renowned victimologists, and through academic pursuits with colleagues. Yet, I believe that a great volume of valuable lessons can be drawn from the words of victims that are spoken directly to professionals. Let us (and I mean "especially us") not forget this potential for our sake and for the sake of the victims in Montreal. | |

INTERNATIONAL VICTIMOLOGY WEBSITE

www.victimology.nl

Jo-Anne Wemmers

The readers may recall that in earlier issues of the *Victimologist*, reported on a series of Expert Meetings concerning the implementation of the United Nations Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice on Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power. Through these meetings, which were hosted by the Dutch and the American Governments, a guide for policymakers and handbook for practitioners were developed. The guide and handbook were submitted to the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention at its seventh session, in April of this year, as an annex to the draft resolution on Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power by the Governments of Brazil and The Netherlands. This resolution, known as Resolution 1998/21, also included a recommendation for the development of a database on best practices, case law and model legislation for the use and application of the Declaration.

Since then the Ministry of Justice in the Netherlands has commenced work on an international victimology website. The Dutch Minister of Justice has approved a proposal for a two-year pilot project, in which the website will be established. Following this period, in August 2000, a decision will be made by the Ministry regarding how to continue the site.

The website which will be available by the end of this year will include a database on best practices, case law and model legislation as referred to in resolution 1998/21. The website will be operated by the Research and Documentation Centre (WODC) of the Dutch Ministry of Justice in association with the World Society of Victimology and the United Nations. The goal of the website is to facilitate the use and application of the UN Declaration by allowing us to learn from each others experiences.

As the basis for the website is the UN Declaration, its contents will cover all 21 articles of the Declaration. This means that victims are defined both as victims of crime and abuse of power. Important themes are access to justice and fair treatment, restitution, compensation, assistance and

abuse of power. The website will include examples of model case law, legislation and best practices for all of these themes.

In the resolution, the distinction between model case law and legislation is made in order to include most criminal justice systems. While there are many different criminal justice systems, some systems share historical or cultural ties with one another and therefore have similarities. Countries which are thinking about introducing new services for victims, such as State Compensation, can look to other nations to see how they managed it. The assumption is that other countries probably faced similar problems when they were searching for a solution. The solutions which they devised may help and inspire other nations. This is exactly what Professor Chockalingam is referring to in his article in this issue of *The Victimologist*, when he discusses the Victims Right to Assistance Bill in India, as a possible model for other countries which do not have any legal provisions to assist victims.

A Government which wants to further the implementation of the Declaration within its borders may need to change the law however, many of the recommendations included in the Declaration may not require new legislation. For example, the development of informal mechanisms for the resolution of disputes. Hence, besides model case law and legislation, the website will include information on local practices. In this example, new projects with informal dispute resolution would be important to a Government struggling with this particular recommendation of the UN Declaration.

The database on best practices and model case law and legislation should be used as a source of inspiration. When importing foreign concepts into an existing criminal justice system, it is important to bear in mind that each country operates under a different social reality. Our criminal justice systems are affected by a variety of factors including historical, cultural, political and economical. What works in one country may not necessarily work in another. Foreign ideas will often have to be adapted to fit the local social or legal context in order to work. Countries seeking examples on how to further the implementation of the UN Declaration within their nation should bear this in mind.

In order to learn from each other it is important

that the website include projects which have been evaluated. It is not necessary that all projects necessarily have been successful. Just as we can learn from our successes, we can learn from our mistakes. Knowing why a particular approach does not work is just as important as knowing why an approach does work. This is how research can play an important facilitating role in victim policy and legislation.

In order to facilitate the exchange of information between researchers, the website will also include a database on ongoing victimological research. Once again, the definition of victims found in the UN Declaration defines the boundaries of the research database. The questionnaire which can be found in this issue of *The Victimologist* will form the input for this database.

Also posted on the website will be the guide for policymakers and the handbook for practitioners. Users will be able to download the texts of both items. It is hoped that in this way the guide and handbook will be readily available for policymakers and practitioners everywhere.

It is hoped that the website will serve as a communication centre for victimologists around the world. To this end, the website will include a bulletin board, discussion groups, useful addresses and links with relevant websites. For example, there will be a discussion group where users give feedback on their experiences with the guide and the handbook. This feedback will be collected and will form the basis for future revisions of these two new texts. In addition, the official newsletter of the World Society of Victimology, *The Victimologist* will be included in the website.

In the beginning, the website will only be available in English. However, it is hoped that in time it will be available in French, Spanish and Dutch as well.

Besides the World Society of Victimology, the following organizations have also been asked to participate in the website: The UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention,

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The Office for Victims of Crime (USA),
The Australian Institute of Criminology,
the Rule of Law Foundation (USA) and

the National Association for Victim Support (UK). In the near future co-operation will be sought with the International Criminal Court, which will be established in The Hague.

Clearly, the website will only be successful when it contains information made available from policymakers, researchers and practitioners from around the world. For this, it depends largely on the membership on the World Society of Victimology. The WSV has nearly 500 members, living all over the world. Together, we should be able to build a comprehensive database. Members are encouraged to provide the project leader, Ron van Kaam with information from their countries. Individuals who are interested in becoming a correspondent for the site or those who see possibilities for site-to-site cooperation are also asked to contact Ron van Kaam. Without the assistance of the members of the WSV, the goal of the website cannot be achieved namely, to further use and application of the UN Declaration.

www.victimology.nl

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2500 EH The Netherlands

Fax: (31) 70 370 7948

Note: Please send files to Ron van Kaam in either MS Word or Word Perfect 5.1 for DOS. Users of Word Perfect for Windows, Word Perfect 6.x or later versions are requested to save the file as a Word Perfect 5.1. for DOS-file.

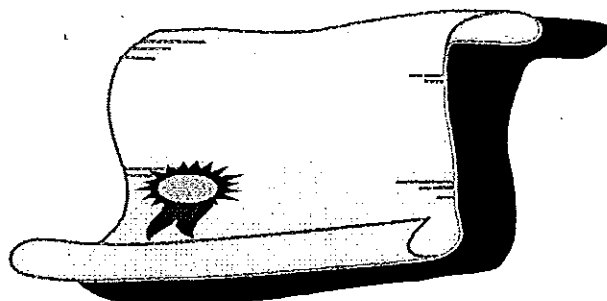
Mito, Japan

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Some of our students
and faculty were
coaxed into also

trying their hand at some of these activities... Luckily no one was seriously hurt! Perhaps the best part of the course was meeting new people with different interests and establishing new networks for both our professions and for friendship. The night before our departure, we held a Farewell Party and this opportunity was used to express thanks to the homestay host families, our volunteer students who helped during the two weeks, as well as the university staff members who devoted much of their free time to making this course a success.

This was a first step in Asia; however we only "scratched the surface". Next year we plan to recruit more faculty and students especially from China, Korea and Indonesia. Please spread the word!



INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF VICTIMOLOGY

Volume 6.1

KATE PAINTER & DAVID FARRINGTON: Criminal Victimization on a Caribbean Island

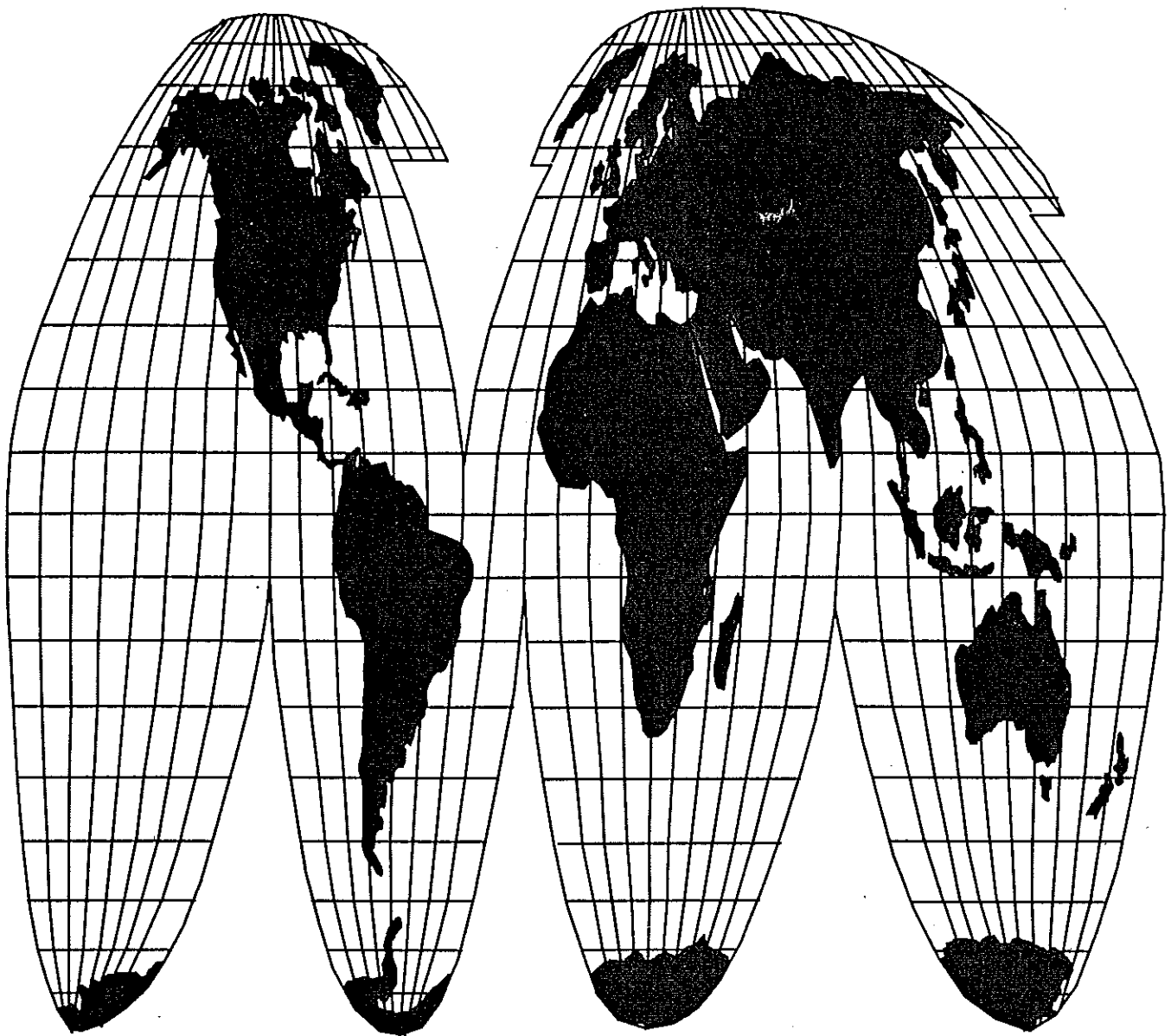
VESNA NIKOLIC-RISTANOVIC: Victims and Police in Belgrade

DENIS STEVENS: Interviews with Women convicted of murder: Battered Women Syndrome Revisited

MARTIN GILL: The Victimization of Business: Indicators of Risk and the Direction of Future Research

DANIEL FLANNERY, MARK SINGER, LAURA WILLIAMS & PETER CASTRO: Adolescent violence exposure and victimization at home: coping and psychological trauma symptoms

IVANA STEVANOVIC: Violence against Women in the Yugoslav War, as told by women refugees



THE VICTIMOLOGIST
Newsletter of the World Society of Victimology

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