

THE VICTIMOLOGIST

Volume 7 Number 2 March 2003

NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD SOCIETY OF VICTIMOLOGY

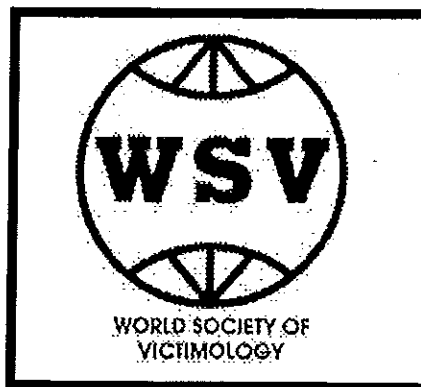
New Definitions for Victimology and Victim Services: A Theoretical Note

*John Dussich, Thomas Underwood,
and Dan Petersen**

During the Xth International Symposium on Victimology held in Montreal, Canada in 2000, there was a workshop that focused on teaching victimology. One of the outcomes of that workshop was the suggestion that further discussions be organized, especially by national and international organizations. The First American Symposium on Victimology held January 9th and 10th of this year in Kansas City, used as its theme, "Exploration of Higher Education and Professional Practice." The activities of this symposium centered on education and training, with presentations and discussion groups. The final segment of the symposium was used to launch the new American Society of Victimology.

A product of the symposium will be a proceedings document of the presentations and results of the discussion groups. In the process of attempting to condense, organize and synthesize the

discussion group's multitude of suggestions, recorders' notes and various outlines, it was realized that new paradigms and parameters were needed to accomplish our tasks. The constraints of penal victimology were inadequate for the new directions being proposed. Thus, we decided to create two new



definitions based on the broader perspectives of general victimology such that all forms of victimization would be accommodated both in theory and in practice. We wanted to place the victim in the center of our definition rather than identify the victim based on the types of forces that caused the *injury, pain and/or death*. Our result is as

(continued on page 2)

Progress in 2002 for Victims at The United Nations

*Irvin Waller, Chair, UN Liaison
Committee*

Restorative Justice and Prevention of victimization

In May 2002, the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice sent for approval to ECOSOC a set of principles on restorative justice for a very weak "to be taken note of" and a set of guidelines on crime prevention to be accepted as a new UN standard.

The proposed declaration of basic principles on the use of restorative justice programmes in criminal matters provides definitions, principles for the use and operation of programs, and proposals for the development of programs.

The present text balances the interests of victims and offenders. In some cases, the victim may find this method of resolving the issues arising out of the crime satisfactory. However, the offender has the choice of

(Continued on page 5)

In this issue...

Promoting Victim Support-Building non-governmental support structures for victims of violent crime, including victims of trafficking in persons ... 3

follows:

“Victimology is the study of victimization as it relates to persons, communities and institutions. Victimitizations occur when individuals are impacted by persons or events that lead to a violation of rights or significant disruption of well being. It studies data that describes phenomena and causal relationships related to these victimizations. This includes events leading to the victimization, the victim experience, its aftermath and subsequent actions. Therefore, victimology studies precursors, vulnerabilities, events, impacts, recoveries, and responses by people, organizations and cultures.”

Using this definition of victimology it then follows that:

“Victim Services are those activities which are applied in response to victimizations with the intention of relieving

suffering and facilitating recovery. This includes information, assessments, individual interventions, social advocacy, public policy and program development.”

These two definitions allow us to consider the study and treatment of victims of crime, accidents, disasters, wars, genocides, abuse of power, and all stark misfortunes that significantly cause dysfunction, pain, suffering and/or death. It is inclusive rather than exclusive; and, it places emphasis on the commonalties among all types of victims rather than focus on their differences. In our judgement these two definitions: open the field for much broader considerations in theory, education and training. They provide for more effective heuristic tools in the conduct of research and evaluation. They also support the treatment of all forms of significant victimizations based on need rather than on precedence, politics, law, crime, professions, or disciplines. Applying these

definitions to education and training, we then identified outcome objectives for two courses (victimology and victim services) that would form the pillars of a model curriculum for a victimology program at either the associate or baccalaureate level. These are as follows:

“Basic Pedagogical Objectives for both courses:

Effect acquisition of contextual information so that in its totality students will obtain mastery in the comprehension of essential aspects surrounding victimization and recovery.

Expected Outcomes of the Victimology Course:

Students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the victimization/recovery phenomenon;
2. Reconcile judgmental legal absolutes with nonjudgmental

(Continued on page 8)

From the Editor's Desk

As victimologists we are all too well aware of the impact of war on its victims. The loss of life and suffering on both sides of the battlefield are recurrent themes in much of our work. The establishment of the International Criminal Court has given us hope that we could live in a better world where war crimes and abuses of power are no longer tolerated and human rights are

respected. However, in recent months the threat of war has become imminent, as the disarmament of Iraq has captured the world's attention. Iraq's compliance with the UN Resolution is crucial both for the legitimacy of the United Nations and world peace. However, war is not inevitable.

World leaders can and must seek diplomatic means, working

within the parameters of the United Nations, to resolve this conflict. We support and encourage the WSV-members in their efforts to promote world peace and to persuade their leaders to find a peaceful solution for the present crisis.

*Jo-Anne Wemmers,
Managing Editor*

'Promoting Victim Support'

Building non-governmental support structures for victims of violent crime, including victims of trafficking in persons

Call for proposals for funding

The UN is launching a project for 'Building non-governmental support structures for victims of violent crime, including victims of trafficking in persons'. The project sets out to fund five pilot schemes with demonstrable practical outcomes for victims of violent crime. As support structures for victims of violent crime are comparatively advanced in developed countries, applications are restricted to projects originating from developing countries or countries in transition.

Each project will be funded to a maximum of US\$ 35,000.

Funding is aimed at initiatives addressing either violent crime in general, or violence against women with respect to trafficking in women and girls for sexual or other forms of exploitation.

Given the extent and diversity of violent victimisation, there exists a wide range of victim-centred projects that can benefit from UN funding. Projects should demonstrate their commitment to developing and enhancing practical initiatives for victims of violent crime that variously target the physical, sexual and psy-

chological impact of violence. Applications are welcome from a range of initiatives offering emotional and practical support, elementary legal aid, and short-term counselling and referrals. From established outreach work with victims of domestic violence, through to innovative employment of restorative justice responses to violent offenders and their victims, the project seeks to promote practical victim-centred initiatives.

Criteria for the award of grants

a. Activities

The primary criteria for a successful application is as follows:

The implementation of a practical initiative that directly supports victims of violent crime

- Funding is aimed at action-based projects that either are new or build on and further enhance existing schemes for victims of violent crime.
- Within the above remit, applicants must demonstrate their project's usefulness in responding to a discernible need, alongside the project's ability

to fulfil its objectives to the highest standard.

- The proposals selected for receipt of a grant under this project will have a duration of no longer than 24 months. In this regard, successful proposals will be funded by the UN for no more than 24 months.

b. Applicants

Applications are welcome from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from developing countries and countries in transition as well as organisations affiliated to governmental institutions with a clear victim-centred agenda. Applications from lone individuals will not be considered. Only bona fide NGOs will be considered (not commercial operations). Recipients for funding should fulfil the following requirements:

- Sufficient institutional and operational experience and potential in victim assistance, particularly in relation to violent crime and/or trafficking in persons.
- Commitment and ability to develop and enhance practical initiatives for victims of violent

Continued on page 4

crime that variously target

the physical, sexual and psychological impact of violence.

- Institutional capability for financial management and ability to comply with UN regulatory reporting and other requirements.

c. Value of awards

Awards will not exceed US\$ 35,000.

d. Selection of projects to be funded by the UN

Five pilot initiatives for victims of violent crime will be selected and financed by the Crime Programme of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Funding is reserved for the promotion of projects in developing countries and countries in transition based on the following selection criteria:

- Lack of services for victims of violent crime and/or trafficking in persons in the selected country
- Geographical distribution among different regions
- Sufficient political stability to carry out the project

Projects will be chosen for funding on the basis of a two-tier selection process, of which this is the first tier:

- Interested parties will be in-

vited to submit a brief project proposal using a standardised form (application form – tier 1). A shortlist of potential recipients for funding will be drawn up on the basis of information supplied. Projects should meet the basic criteria of quality and need under the overall consideration of direct support for victims.

- Short-listed proposals will then be requested to provide UNODC with a more detailed account and justification of their intended work; from which five projects will be selected for funding.

e. Project implementation and monitoring

Successful applicants will be responsible for implementing their projects over a period not exceeding 24 months. There will be regular monitoring of projects by UNODC, and where possible by UN field offices. Upon completion, the success of each project will be evaluated by UNODC through an independent external expert. This process al-

lows for 'gold standard' benchmarking of projects with respect to their relative merits.

How to apply

- Forms can be printed from the web, and posted or faxed to the address below.

Forms can be downloaded at:
http://www.unodc.org/odccp/trafficking_victim_support.html

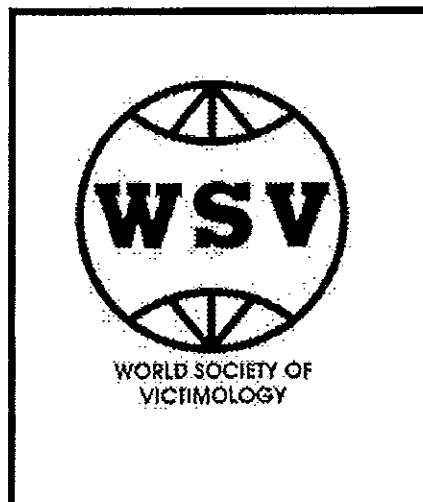
- Where applicants have no access to internet facilities, they can write to Jan van Dijk/Promoting V.S. and request a form; however, applicants should bear in mind the time it takes for forms to be sent and returned by post.
- **The deadline for applications is: 16/5/03**

Jan van Dijk/Promoting V.S.

UNODC
United Nations
P.O. Box 500
Vienna International Center
A-1400 Vienna
Austria

Fax
+43 1 26060 5898

E-mail
jan.vandijk@cip.un.or.at



allowing the case to go before the criminal court, where in (most) jurisdictions the victim does not have standing.

Some commentary – not necessarily from the victim perspective – and the full text is easily accessible at www.restorativejustice.org.

The acceptance of resolution on action to promote effective crime prevention means that guidelines for crime prevention are now one of the basic standards and norms of the United Nations.

The guidelines contain strong statements on the evidence of the effectiveness of well planned crime prevention and call for governments to create and maintain the frameworks for prevention to be implemented nationally. They call for national plans with clear priorities and targets, the development of expertise, and professional development for senior officials.

They assert that effective crime prevention will involve multi-sectoral approaches to tackle the multiple causes of victimization. They stress the use of knowledge, planning and evaluation as well as a balance between social development and situational approaches to crime reduction.

The guidelines for the prevention of crime are most easily available through the ICPC website at www.crime-prevention-intl.org

Basic Principles for Victims

Progress in translating, disseminating and using the Guide and the Handbook on the Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power is still slow.

Hilda Marchiori has published a complete Spanish version of the Handbook. This and a draft translation of the Guide by Maria de la Luz Lima are used successfully in the International Victimology Courses in Central America and South America.

Also on the agenda at the UN in 2002 were plans to create a special fund for services for victims worldwide. Unfortunately this has been postponed. Originally an initiative of the Dutch and American governments, it is gathering momentum. This will increase the opportunities for victim assistance experts to provide coaching and support for victim services in developing countries.

Guidelines for Child Victims and Witnesses

The International Bureau for Children's Rights has finalised a set of guidelines on justice for child victims and witnesses of crime.

Paul Friday and Maria de la Luz Lima are members of the IBCR steering committee that has been working on these guidelines from the time of the Montreal Symposium. Paul Friday and Paul Omaji attended a consultation during the UN Commission Meeting in April, 2002.

The guidelines cover rights to be treated with dignity and compassion, protected from discrimination, informed, express views and concerns and be heard, effective assistance, privacy protected from justice process hardship, safety, reparation and special preventive measures.

They also contain a section on implementation that includes how professionals should be trained and educated on the guidelines as well as on monitoring. Information on the guidelines is available at www.ibcr.org

International Criminal Court in force for victims

In July, 2002, the permanent International Criminal Court (ICC) entered into force and with it a statute that requires support, protection, participation, representation and reparations for victims. The statute requires a Victim Witness Unit to provide these services.

The ICC creates the permanent potential to convict persons who commit such abuses of power as genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes that occurred since July 2002. The accusations must be against persons from the member states or on their territory.

There are already 139 signatories to the statute – called the Statute of Rome on the International Criminal Court (ICC) – and 87 countries who have ratified it and so become parties. It is expected that the court will become operational late in 2003.

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

Given developments in the world today, who knows how soon investigations will start.

The USA has rescinded its original signature, though many US institutions such as the American Bar Association are strong supporters.

The statute goes further for victims than previous international courts and creates by example a standard for national jurisdictions. In particular, it provides for standing for victims in front of the court's pre-trial, trial and appeal chambers as well as significant legal opportunities to claim and get reparation.

Judges and the prosecutor are expected to be selected at the Assembly of Member States in February, 2003. The Coalition on the International Criminal Courts submitted a questionnaire to each of the candidates, including a question as to how they would deal with victims.

Irvin Waller has recently become the manager for a project to support the victim and witness aspects of the ICC for the Liu Centre for the Study of Global Issues and International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy.

On victim and witness issues, there is an active list-serv hosted by Carla Ferstman of Redress.

(ICC_VICTIMSRIGHTS-subscribe@yahoo.com)

Other UN Fora

In June 2002, the World Summit on Children organized by UNICEF adopted a plan for the

follow-up to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This included many alineas referring to prevention and childrens' rights and the following specific paragraph:

Promote the establishment of prevention, support and caring services as well as separate juvenile justice systems consistent with the principles of restorative justice that fully safeguard children's rights, and provide specially trained staff that promote children's reintegration in society.

In October 2002, the World Health Organisation released its World Report on Interpersonal Violence and Health, which argues for much greater investment in prevention as the way to reduce the costs of interpersonal violence combined with improved services for victims. Its recommendations focus on the role that public health can play in reducing interpersonal violence.

2003 and Beyond

It is hoped that UN Standards and Norms and so the Declaration on Victims will be given greater importance in the next few years. A special experts meeting is being held in February, 2003 in Vienna to examine how to advance this concern.

In 2005, the UN holds its next Congress on crime issues in Bangkok, Thailand, where one of the four topics is "Making Standards work: Fifty Years of Standard Setting in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice". Several workshops will

be organised for governments. Human rights in criminal justice and restorative justice are two of the issues under consideration.

The WSV United Nations Liaison Committee continues its work in relation to the UN. Its role is to advance within the UN the purposes of the WSV - promote victimological research and practices as well as cooperation among those concerned with victims.

Its main focus is the full implementation of the UN Declaration on Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power as well as action to prevent victimization as called for by the UN General Assembly resolution in 1985.

The Committee is made up of Paul Friday (USA), Maria de la Luz Lima (Mexico), Marianne Loeschig (Austria), Paul Omaji (Nigeria/Australia) and Irvin Waller (Canada). A special thanks to Paul Friday and Paul Omaji for representing us at the UN Commission in 2002 and particularly to Paul Friday for providing a full report.

If you are interested in more information or have comments, please contact Irvin Waller, the chair of the committee at wallerirvin@msn.com.

Comments or suggestions relevant to the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice will be appreciated before the end of March, 2003.

Recruitment of new Board members Editorial Board of The Victimologist

Jo-Anne Wemmers

The Editorial Board of The Victimologist is responsible for the contents of *The Victimologist*, the newsletter of the World Society of Victimology.

The Editorial Board aims to be representative of the WSV-membership. At present, the members represent the continents of Australia and North America. New members are currently being sought to represent South America, Europe, Asia

and Africa.

Members of the Editorial Board are expected to solicit articles, announcements, etc. from their region for publication in The Victimologist. The Victimologist is an English language newsletter and members should be able to read and write in English. In addition, Board members will be consulted regularly with regard to each new issue of The Victimologist, and must be able to afford the time that this task requires. All communication between

Board members is done via the Internet and those interested in joining the Board must have access to Internet.

The Editorial Board invites WSV-members who are interested in joining the Board to send a letter of application together with their curriculum vitae to the Managing Editor, Jo-Anne Wemmers at:

jo-anne.m.wemmers@umontreal.ca

Letter From the President

Gerd Kirchhoff

In my message from October 2001, I called for empathy and assistance for the victims of the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001. I know that especially NOVA and hundreds of people volunteered their time, energy and their ability to assist the survivors of this terrible event. Victim Assistance brings out the very best of human beings: solidarity and responsibility for others – that once more was shown very clearly.

Members urge me to say an additional word: I as a victimologist am against terror and victimization in any form. The world sees a consequent march into a war against Iraq. There is no doubt that there are rulers and regimes that do not observe Human Rights and do not observe the legitimate orders of the United Nations Security Council, the prime peacekeeper of this world. I speak up to those who believe they could wage on their own a legitimate war

against a country, without the expressed authorization of the UN Security Council.

I am myself a victim of a war, which raged in Europe during the first six years of my life. In my mind, I still see the complete destruction of German cities and I am aware of the hundreds of thousand people killed: civilians and soldiers, women and children, in the battlefields and in the bombed cities. I am aware too that the war against Hitler and against Nazi Germany was a necessity to rid Europe from a definitely criminal regime.

That does not justify Human Rights Violations during this war. That does not justify leading a war against the civilian population. It does not justify breaking international binding norms and standards. Why else do we welcome the installment of the International Tribunals and of the International Criminal Court?

I strongly believe that in the beginning of the 21st century we have a different situation: When Nazi Germany started the war in Europe; there was no Security Council and no UN. In our times, we have the UN and we must rely on it. A danger for the peace in the world cannot be fought by single governments starting wars on their own - but only on authorization of the UN Security Council. Without the taming power of the UN, states and governments are in constant danger of becoming victimizers and violators of Human Rights. It is abundantly clear that we need the UN and we should stand up against an erosion of its authority.

I urge the members of the World Society to use all the influence they can exert to make sure that the rule of international law is reinforced and that the United Nations with whom the WSV cooperates so fruitfully, is supported – it is the hope of the world of peace.

Continued from page 2

behavioral realities;

3. Demonstrate an understanding of victimological taxonomies, theories and their influences;

4. Demonstrate a knowledge of the historical events, their influences and the evolution of victimology;

5. Demonstrate an understanding of the roles, methods, results, and implications of victimological inquiry and research.

Expected Outcomes of the Victim Services Course:

Students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the role of victim service providers in addressing the needs of victims;

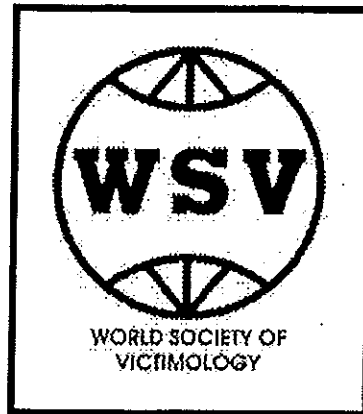
2. Demonstrate competencies that will effectively help to reduce victim suffering and to bring about timely

recovery;

3. Demonstrate organizational skills so that they can deliver their services effectively, efficiently and ethically."

It is our hope that this theoretical note will not only serve to stimulate an interest in the broader perspective in victimology, but also assist those who would continue the development of victimological education and training; and, move our profession toward a higher level of international consensus and standards.

**The authors wish to thank Krintine Hart for her help with this effort.*



THE VICTIMOLOGIST

Newsletter of the World Society of Victimology
www.world-society-victimology.de

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

Managing Editor:

Jo-Anne Wemmers, Université de Montréal, 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

Editorial Board:

Paul O. Omaji, Batchelor Institute, Cnr Nurdina St. & Kirra Cres, Batchelor NT, 0845 Northern Territory, Australia
Telephone: 61.8.8939.7263, Fax: 61.8.8939.7100,
e-mail p.omaji@nt.gov.au

Assistant: Katie Cyr, Université de Montréal, C.P. 6128 succ. Centre-Ville, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H3C 3J7
e-mail: katie.cyr@umontreal.ca

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

Membership: For information concerning WSV membership, contact John P. J. Dussich, Ph. D., Secretary General, World Society of Victimology, Tokiwa University, Miwa 1-430-1, Mito-shi, Ibaraki-ken, 310-8585 Japan, Telephone: 51-29-232-2604, Fax: 51-29-232-2591, email: WSV@tokiwa.ac.jp / dussich@tokiwa.ac.jp

The Victimologist is made possible with the generous support of the International Centre for Comparative Criminology and the Dutch Ministry of Justice.