
VISITING EXPERT'S PAPER

INTERNATIONAL VICTIMOLOGY: YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

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I. VICTIMOLOGY IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

A. Legal and Linguistic Roots

The earliest complete legal code comes from King Ur-Nammu of the ancient civilization of Sumer in southern Mesopotamia dated in the Third Dynasty of Ur 2050 BCE. Its significance to victimology is the presence of compensation to victims throughout this legal code (Kramer 1988). Some three centuries later King Hammurabi of Babylonia created his well-known code which also contained compensation and restitution for victims as part of his 252 legal rules (Horne 1915). The expression “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth” epitomizes the form of restitution used by Hammurabi’s Code.

Many modern countries have religious and legal roots related to the Abrahamic religious teachings of the *Mosaic Codes* which started with the Ten Commandments from the Hebrew God to the prophet Moses to the Israelites in circa 1400 BCE influencing Sharia (Islamic) Law, Old Testament (Christian) Law and Halakhah (Hebrew) Law. A form of replacement restitution to the victims by their offenders was a common theme in the *Mosaic Codes* (Doe 2018).

Some thousand years later the *Twelve Tables* became the legal foundation of Roman law in 451 BC. These laws were used throughout the Roman Empire and significantly impacted the development of the legal systems that emerged in the many nations that formed well after the Roman Empire fell. Of special note in these laws was the role of victim restitution, not only during the Roman rule, but also among the nations that followed (Domingo 2018).

About 1,000 years later Justinian I Byzantine Emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire promulgated his legal codes in 529 AD called *Corpus Juris Civilis*. While these laws were not new, they did represent greatly revised legislation that reflected reformed legal practices of their times. The roles of victims were delineated throughout these Codes; however, in some cases, victims were held responsible for their own victimizations; in other instances, restitution was available (Radding and Ciaralli 2007).

Some 700 years later the *Magna Carta Libertatum* (Great Charter of Freedoms), the book of King John of England and Archbishop Stephen Langton (who wrote the first draft) was a charter of rights forced upon the king by his barons in 1215. The significance of this document is that it represents an historical symbol against the abusive oppression of the common folk by the ruling class. It established the foundations for common law and due process procedures, significant aspects of Anglo-Saxon Law and later Anglo-American Law, both of which eventually had significant influence in emerging nations throughout the modern world (Arif 2015). It is interesting that, “the position of the crime victim or separate rights of the victim are not mentioned in [the] *Magna Carta*” (Arif 2015:48). However, it must be noted that although the concept of abuse

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of power came into being much later, its roots are clearly embodied within the intent, values, and content of this historic document.

The modern English word “victim” has its roots in many ancient languages that covered a great distance from north-western Europe to the southern tip of Asia and yet had a similar linguistic pattern: *victima* in Latin; *vih*, *wéoh*, *wig* in Old European; *wih*, *wihi* in Old High German; vé in Old Norse; *weihs* in Gothic; and, *vinak ti* in Sanskrit (Webster’s 1971). As an academic term victimology contains two elements: The first is the Latin word “*Victima*” which translates into the English word “victim.” The second is the Greek word “*logos*” which means a system of knowledge, the direction of something abstract, teaching, science, and a discipline.

Although writings about the victim appeared in many early works by such criminologists as Beccaria (1764), Lombroso (1876), Ferri (1892), Garófalo (1885), Sutherland (1924), von Hentig (1948), Nagel (1949), Ellenberger (1955), Wolfgang (1958) and Schafer (1968), the concept of a science to study victims and the word “victimology” had its origin with the early writings of Benjamin Mendelsohn, a Romanian prosecutor (1937; 1947), these first writings led to his seminal work where he actually proposed the term “victimology” in his article “A New Branch of Bio-Psycho-Social Science, Victimology” (1956). It was in his 1969 article that he suggested the establishment of *societies, clinics, institutes, and journals* of General Victimology (1976: 22). Two international societies came to fruition with the creation of the World Society of Victimology in Münster, Germany, in 1979 which is still active today; and, with the World Congress of Victimology in Arlington, Virginia, USA, in 1980 which is no longer active. Many countries also have victimology societies, some which are still active today and some not. Instead of calling them “clinics” as Mendelsohn envisioned, victim treatment centres evolved to over a thousand programmes called victim assistance, victim advocate, or victim support centres worldwide. The establishment of several victimological research institutes were also realized with one in Tokyo, Japan, at the Keio University by Koichi Miyazawa active from 1968 to 1992; one in Sarajevo, Bosnia i Herzegovina, called The Institute of Victimology in Sarajevo initiated in 1997 by me and Gerd F. Kirchhoff (Dussich 1997); another called the Tokiwa International Victimology Institute (TIVI) in 2003 started with Hidemichi Morosawa and myself; and, one in the Netherlands, called the International Victimology Institute Tilburg (INTERVIC) in 2006 by Marc Groenhuijsen. The establishment of seven international journals also came to pass with the first in the USA, *Victimology: An International Journal*, started and edited by Emilio Viano, in 1976; one in England, *The International Review of Victimology*, started and edited by John Freeman and Leslie Sebba in 1989; one in Japan, *International Perspectives in Victimology*, started and edited by John Dussich in 2004; one in Argentina, *Victimología* started and edited by Hilda Marchiori in 2005; another one in the USA, *Victims and Offenders: An International Journal of Evidence-based Research, Policy, and Practice*, started and edited by Bonnie Fisher and Robert Jerin in 2012 as a part of the American Society of Criminology’s Division of Victimology; one in Spain, *Revista de Victimología/ Journal of Victimology* started and edited by Josep M. Tamarit in 2015, and the most recent one in India, the *Journal of Victimology and Victim Justice*, originally published in association with the Indian Society of Victimology (<http://isvindia.webs.com/>) and formerly at the National Law University Delhi but now at the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, started and edited by G. S. Bajpai in 2019. Although Mendelsohn provided the world with his vision and blueprint with General Victimology societies, clinics, institutes, and journals, none have used the term “General Victimology” in their title. In spite of this shortcoming, many of these manifestations did follow his basic view of General Victimology. Thus, as his disciples we have followed his basic guidance. Out of respect for his insights, his passion, and his guidance we honour Mendelsohn by referring to him as “The Father of Victimology.” It is noteworthy that these early suggestions proposed by Mendelsohn and the other pioneering victimologists laid the foundation for the application of victim assistance and victim rights, significantly improving the lives of victims around the world.

B. Theoretical Roots

Usually, a theory is a statement that explains a given phenomenon based on causal relationships. In this case, what is needed is a statement that explains how and why victimizations occur.

1. Benjamin Mendelsohn

As mentioned above, the first person to begin the development of theoretical writings about victimology was Benjamin Mendelsohn, who was a Romanian defence attorney, who needed to understand victims to improve his ability to defend offenders. To do this, in 1956 he created a short taxonomy of six categories that centred on the relative guilt of victims. These categories were designed to facilitate the degree to which a

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victim shared the responsibility for a crime with the offender; however, they did not explain the causes of victimization. Mendelsohn was intrigued with the relationship between the offender and the victim. He referred to this relationship phenomenon as the *penal couple*. These were his first victim types:

1. The completely innocent victim.
2. The victim with minor guilt.
3. The victim who is as guilty as the offender.
4. The victim who is more guilty than the offender.
5. The most guilty victim.
6. The imaginary victim.

Twenty years later in 1967 and 1969 Mendelsohn proposed a much different view of victims with his concept of *General Victimology* which considered the *source* of the victimization especially with genocide. Based on this concept, he listed five types of victims with their offender type:

1. The victim of a *criminal*
2. The victim of *himself*
3. The victim of *anti-social behaviour*
4. The victim of *technology*
5. The victim of *uncontrolled energies* of the natural environment (Mendelsohn 1969).

2. Hans von Hentig

With the publication of his textbook in 1948, *The Criminal and His Victim: Studies in the Sociology of Crime* von Hentig created a taxonomy that described how victims were responsible for their own harms. His schema was based on psychological, social, and biological factors. He was also interested in the reciprocal “doer-sufferer” relationship between offender and victim, in what he called the *criminal-victim dyad*. Although von Hentig was one of the first to approach the study of the victim in a systematic way, it was not empirical research (Schafer 1968:41); and it is noteworthy that he never used the word “victimology” in his textbook. His categorizations of victims were:

I. General:

1. The Young
2. The Female
3. The Old
4. The Mentally Defective and other Mentally Deranged
5. The Immigrants
6. The Minorities
7. The Dull Normals

II. Psychological:

8. The Depressed
9. The Acquisitive
10. The Wanton
11. The Lonesome and the Heartbroken
12. The Tormentor
13. The Blocked, Exempted, and Fighting Victims

III. The Activating Sufferer

14. Broader Aspects: involve victims of “various degrees and levels of stimulation or response” and “the intricate play of interacting forces” with the victim as the offender (Hentig 1948:438).

3. Stephen Schafer

Extending the work of von Hentig, Stephen Schafer used an ironic change of emphasis on the victim in the title of his book, *The Victim and His Criminal: A Study in Functional Responsibility*. He also focused on the offender victim interaction and developed a taxonomy based on determining the level of the victim's *functional responsibility* for the crime:

1. Unrelated Victims (no victim responsibility)
2. Provocative Victims (victim shares responsibility)
3. Precipitative Victims (some degree of victim responsibility)
4. Biologically Weak Victims (no victim responsibility)
5. Socially Weak Victims (no victim responsibility)
6. Self-Victimizing (total victim responsibility)
7. Political Victim (no victim responsibility)

These three pioneer victimologists, strangely enough, were *not focused on the injury* caused to the victim by the offender nor on reducing their suffering nor on helping them recover. Their main concern was with the victim's role in contributing to the crime, cooperating with the criminal justice system, and helping it to decide who was guilty. The term General Victimology that Mendelsohn had developed and presented in 1976, was strange and distracting to most "crime oriented" victimologists as they had been trained in criminal law and/or were in a profession that exclusively focused on crime victims. However, the logic of including victims of other harmful situations (wars, traffic accidents, natural disasters, manmade disasters, human rights violations, genocide, etc.) was compelling, especially since Mendelsohn argued that there were fundamental similarities among all victims in their loss and sufferings, their need for and manner of treatment, and the duration of their trauma. All of them deserved to be treated with dignity and made whole again in spite of the source of their harm.

4. Dietrich L. Smith and Kurt Weis

In 1976, Dietrich L. Smith and Kurt Weis presented a rudimentary model of victimology based on the General Systems Theory perspective which considered the "universe of situations, events and processes that have a probability of resulting in being defined as victimization" (Smith and Weis 1976:45). This model appears remarkable like Mendelsohn's concept of General Victimology; however, Smith and Weis have never addressed this similarity.

1. The study of the creation of definitions of victims by legal processes, everyday processes and scientific processes.
2. The study of applications of the above definitions by control agents, significant others, community, behavioural and social scientists, and the victim him or herself.
3. The study of societal response systems with victims such as crisis intervention, social services, police, prevention, medical services, and civil courts.
4. The study of the victim's reaction in the post-victimization behaviour such as seeking help, complaints, and reactions to the response of others.

5. John P. J. Dussich

A unified comprehensive theory of victimization within the scope of General Victimology was created and presented by John Dussich in 1985 with the presentation of his "Social Coping Theory" at the WSV's Fifth International Symposium on Victimology in Zagreb. In 2004 this theoretical model was expanded and presented to the American Society of Victimology's Second Symposium. In 2006 it was again expanded and revised under the title *Psycho-Social Coping Theory* and presented at the American Society of Criminology's 58th Annual Meeting. The essential elements of this model consider the existence and value of *personal situation-specific resources* in the victim's environment that exist prior to, during and after their victimization. Persons who have an adequate number and type of situation-specific resources can more easily thwart their victimization; if the victimization is not thwarted, the injury can be diminished thereby reducing the level of suffering, and, as a consequence the victim is much more likely to recover sooner. However, victims with fewer personal situation-specific resources in their repertoire and in their environment will be more vulnerable to victimization, likely have greater injury and suffering, and will probably not recover as well. The unique aspect of this theory is that it can both help *explain the dynamics* as well as help in the *treatment to recovery* process of all types of victimizations.

C. A Chronological Overview

The journey of victimology covers a span of about 85 years beginning with the early writings of its pioneers Mendelsohn in 1937 and von Hentig in 1948, through the years of World War II and the reactions to the Holocaust, especially by Jewish scholars, into the First International Symposium on Victimology held in Israel in 1973, including the establishment of the World Society of Victimology in 1979 followed by like-

named national organizations, the passage of the *United Nations Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and the Abuse of Power* (hereinafter referred to as the “*Declaration*”) in 1985 and other victim related UN instruments, with their multiple impacts across the globe, into the academic and legal developments of their principles, finally with practical applications of their mandates into the era of direct support with multiple variations of victim assistance for a wide variety of services up to the year 2022 (see Appendix D for a list of key dates).

D. Victim Assistance, An American Overview

Since the mid-1970s victim assistance programmes in America had to cope with the realization that this new field did not have a professional corps of people with special training in dealing directly with crime victims. Those who were working in the programmes were a mixture of medical doctors, ministers, psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, on-the-job trained counsellors, persons outside the helping professions and volunteers with all types and levels of training. There were no international or national professional standards. There was no certificate or degree to prepare someone to do the work of helping victims recover. However, before formal victim assistance programmes evolved, there were some people trained to work with victims, especially people who had been helping child abuse and family violence victims. These were mostly social workers and psychologists. Today, the victim services scene has changed. There are now a wide array of professionals and non-professionals working with victims who have received specific victim-centric training. These include: social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, nurses, medical doctors, non-specific professionals (who received their formal degrees in other fields but were trained to help victims in the numerous training schools which are both part and independent of academic settings); and, volunteers (who also received their training in the numerous training schools which are both part and independent of academic settings, many of which are 40 hour training modules offered by the victim service agencies where they work). Today the field of victim assistance is the major career field in victimology for persons wanting to help victims of crime (and other misfortunes) directly. The single largest and oldest university still offering a criminology bachelor's degree with a victimology specialty and a separate victim services certificate is at the California State University, Fresno.

II. CONTEMPORARY FOUNDATIONS

A. Some of Today's Fundamental Victimology Concepts

1. “Victim” has its roots in the early religious notions of suffering, sacrifice, and death. This concept of “victim” was well known in the ancient civilizations, especially in Sumer, Babylonia, Palestine, Greece, and Rome. In each of these civilizations the law mandated that the victim should be recognized as a person who deserved to be made whole again by the offender.
2. “Crime victim” is a person who has been physically, financially, or emotionally injured and/or had their property taken or damaged by someone committing a crime.
3. “Victimogenesis” refers to the origin or cause of a victimization; the constellation of variables which caused a victimization to occur.
4. “Victim Precipitation” a victimization where the victim causes, in part or totally, their own victimization.
5. “Vulnerability” is a physical, psychological, social, material, or financial condition whereby a person or an object has a weakness which could render them a victim if another person or persons would recognize these weaknesses and take advantage of them.
6. “General Victim” is a person who has been physically, financially, or emotionally injured and/or had their property taken or damaged by someone, an event, an organization or a natural phenomenon.
7. “Victimization” refers to an event (such as a crime, a war, a disaster) where persons, communities and institutions are physically, emotionally, financially, socially damaged or injured in a significant way. This includes persons who suffer a violation of rights or significant disruption of their well-being.

8. "Victimology" is an academic scientific discipline which studies data that describes phenomena and causal relationships related to victimizations. This includes events leading to the victimization, the victim's experience, its aftermath, and the actions taken by society in response to these victimizations. Therefore, victimology includes the study of the precursors, prevention, vulnerabilities, events, impacts, recoveries, and responses by people, organizations and cultures related to all forms of victimizations.
9. "Abuse of Power" is the violation of a national or international standard in the use of organized powerful forces, such that persons are injured physically, mentally, emotionally, economically, or in their rights, as a direct and intentional result of the misapplication of these forces.
10. "Victim Assistance, Support or Services" are those activities which are applied in response to victimizations with the intention of relieving suffering, facilitating recovery and preventing revictimization. This includes providing information, assessments, therapy, interventions, case advocacy, system advocacy, public policy and programme development.
11. "Victim Recovery" is the resumption of a similar or better level of functionality and normalcy as was enjoyed prior to victimization. Persons who have been victimized vary in their level of mental health and well-being prior to their victimization. Consequently, victimization affects each person in a different way and causes differing degrees of injury or trauma. In their recovery it is necessary for victims to first try to regain their previous level of functioning plus learn from their misfortune and hopefully exceed their previous level of functionality. To be recovered suggests that a person has at least regained their prior level of well-being and at best, has exceeded it. This state may be measured by identifying their previous mental condition and determining if they have at least regained that prior status using the criteria of: trust in others, autonomy of self, individual initiative, competency in daily activities, self-identity, interpersonal intimacy, control over personal situations, successful relationships, safety in daily activities, acknowledgment of memory, trauma symptoms have become manageable, self-esteem is restored, resourcefulness is achieved, and there is an improved ability to ward off potential threats (Dussich 2016).
12. "Child Abuse" is the intentional application of sexual, physical, emotional, or psychological injury to a child to include neglect at the hands of her or his parents or care-provider within the confines of their family or place of care.
13. "Victim Offender Mediation" (VOM) is a formal process for face-to-face meetings in the presence of a trained mediator between a victim of a crime and his/her offender who committed that crime. This is also called *victim-offender dialogue*, victim-offender conferencing, victim-offender reconciliation, or restorative justice. Often the victim and the offender are joined by their respective families and community members, or other persons related to the crime event often referred to as stakeholders. In these meetings, the offender and the victim talk to each other about the victimization, the effects it had on their lives, and their feelings about it. The aim is to create a mutually agreeable plan to repair any damage or injury that occurred because of the crime in the hopes of permanently eliminating the conflict that caused the crime in the first place.
14. "Restorative Justice" is a systematic formal legal response to crime victimization that *emphasizes healing* the injuries that resulted from the crime and affected the victims, offenders, and communities. This process is a departure from the old-style retributive punishment form of dealing with criminals and victims which have generally perpetuated the conflict which resulted in the original crime.
15. "Victim Trauma" includes emotional and physical experiences that produce pain and injuries. Emotional injury is a normal response to an abnormal event. It results from the pairing of a painful or frightening emotional experience with a specific setting-based memory which often has a long-lasting painful effect on the life of a victim. Generally, the more direct the exposure to the traumatic event, the more serious and closer to the risk of death, the higher the risk for prolonged emotional harm and problematic effects.
16. "Crisis Intervention" is the provision of emergency psychological short-term care to traumatized victims to help them return to an adaptive level of functioning and to prevent or mitigate the negative impact of psychological and emotional crisis.

17. "Compensation" is a formal *administrative procedure* provided by law which can include a range of victim types (crimes, wars, natural disasters, neglect, accidents, and genocides), only provides money to victims for "out of pocket" real expenses directly resulting from their victimization to be paid by the state after the victim is found to qualify according to specific criteria determined by the respective state or federal law.
18. "Restitution" is a formal judicial procedure used by a judge after guilt is determined as part of a sentence which can provide money and/or services to the victim for damages or suffering which resulted from the victimization to be paid or performed by the offender.
19. "Victim Survey" is a periodic data collection and analysis process conducted usually by a government or university entity to study information about crime victims regardless of whether they reported their victimization to the police or not. It typically uses a face-to-face or telephone interview (or questionnaires are sent) and covers demographics, attitudes about crime and details about the victimizations experienced typically over the previous six months.
20. "Victim Rights" are privileges and procedures required by *written law* which guarantees victims' specific considerations and treatment by the criminal justice system, the government and the community at large.

These twenty fundamental concepts are in use today – of course many others exist and more are evolving. In 1985 the concept of "abuse of power" was mentioned briefly above and became a significant part of the UN *Declaration*.

B. Abuse of Power

1. Recent Contextual Information

Despite the legal sanctions which exist throughout the world to prevent the Abuse of Power (AOP), it continues to occur with growing frequency and relative impunity. There are essentially five considerations with abuse of power: the types of abusers; the specific abusers; the methods used; the victims; and the extent of injury and/or damage. In each of these five considerations there are numerous examples ranging from the former Government of South Africa's previous use of apartheid on black South Africans, to the criminal organizations which use violence, racketeering, coercion, intimidation, graft and corruption on innocent citizens causing extensive death, suffering and property loss as had been the case in Medellin, Colombia. One of the more recent examples of AOP was the government of Serbia using extreme forms of aggression, against adjacent ethnic groups referred to as "ethnic cleansing" against: Croats, Slovenians, Bosnians, and Kosovans involving mass killings; mass rapes; extensive destruction of private and public property, buildings, and sacred cultural symbols. For the most part Serbia ignored the protocols of the Geneva Conventions for the conduct of armed conflict. This macro criminological/victimological phenomenon has been extensively reported on by the media and by scholars, but predominantly in narrative form. Thus far, very few attempts have been made to isolate the key variables of these behaviours, to explain the dynamics of these events and measure their occurrences in an empirical manner.

2. The Research Challenge for Abuse of Power

Like all phenomena, the study of abuse of power can and should discipline itself to formal research methods which call for definitions, theoretical organization, and empirical measurement. Often the magnitude and brutality of these occurrences dramatically turns our heads away from the dispassionate evaluation required to determine the facts. The drama of these events is often so compelling, even trained scientists have difficulty using their research tools and sometimes even unknowingly yield to the subjective descriptions which can cloud and overwhelm those chronicling these massive events.

Despite the strong emotions of revulsion and shock the magnitude of the problem still requires careful measurement, analysis, and synthesis so that honest accurate understanding can emerge. This proposal recommends using the social behavioural and conflict theories familiar to most criminologists who study macro criminological phenomena. This writer has personally experienced these problems resulting in compassion fatigue when assisting victims in the aftermath of the war in the former Yugoslavia at the hands of Serbian "ethnic-cleansing" in Bosnia i Herzegovina and Croatia in 1996. Despite gruesome images and heart wrenching stories I saw and heard daily, I was able to establish a Victimology Institute of Sarajevo with the help of three Bosnian professors and with the help of my friend victimologist Gerd Kirchhoff who

supported this effort by obtaining funding from the German government, and so some empirical research was carried out even if for only a short period.

III. MEASURING VICTIMIZATION

A. Descriptive Research

Descriptive research is often used to systematically gather information to determine characteristics about a population such as amounts, frequencies, and categories of a particular theme. Four typical types are case studies, surveys, longitudinal research, and cross-sectional research. The types of data used are usually either *quantitative* or *qualitative*. This allows us to determine the size of a population (like frequencies or percentages), what the central tendency is like (with the median, mode or mean), how the population is spread out (the dispersion), what is the shape of the distribution (flat, spiked, s-shaped etc.), and it lets us compare one population with another. For us it is important to know that one of the types of descriptive research used extensively is victimization surveys. These surveys have become the backbone of victimological information. Not only do these surveys give us the numbers and types of victims, but they also give us trend information so that we can compare victims from one jurisdiction to another, from one type of victim to another, and we can measure the rate of victimization within a time period, for a given unit of population (per 1,000, 10,000, or 100,000). Another important type of descriptive research is the measurement of behaviours that exist as continua. This type of research gives us information about the feelings, opinions, and victim response patterns. Thus, they can, help us understand the emotional impact of victimization, the degree of trauma and the progress of recovery.

B. Evaluative Research

This type of research is often used to measure official government or organizational programmes or projects which respond to victimizations and are used to help victims cope. It is usually aimed at measuring the systemic aspects of responding to victims. This is usually focused on the two measures of success: *effectiveness* and *efficiency*. Effectiveness evaluates the achievement of programme objectives; and efficiency evaluates the consumption of resources over the time needed to achieve objectives. Another important aspect of evaluative research is *accountability*, both economic and political. Economic accountability focuses on whether a programme is justified given the funds available and the value-system currently in existence. Political accountability focuses on whether the existence of a programme and its costs are supported by those in political power. A large part of accountability has to do with community values, outcome expectations and official responsibilities. The measurement of these variables helps to contextualize a victim programme within the larger society or culture.

C. Causal Research

Causal research is perhaps the most challenging and difficult form of victimological research. For example, it might try to understand why some victims are severely traumatized by an event, while other victims are not seriously impacted by the same event. The usual method of causal research is to first create an hypothesis about the relationship between a *cause* (independent) variable and an *effect* (dependent) variable. Then, to measure these variables and see if the data allows you to support or reject your hypothesis. This process can lead to understanding not just one possible causal link, but many connected causal links or chains. Using the new findings uncovered using causal research, a victimologist can then develop a theoretical statement. These statements can help to understand the complex social and psychological phenomena of victimization.

Consequently, equipped with research findings, victim advocates working to prevent victimization could identify facts related to reducing the vulnerability of potential victims. Crisis interveners armed with empirical facts about the victims' experiences, could better reduce the suffering of victims immediately after the victimization and prevent the escalation of a trauma. Advocates and therapists, basing their responses on research findings, could better know how their victims think and feel, and thus, reduce their suffering and promote the return to stable and functional lives which can help them recover.

IV. CONTRIBUTIONS OF CONTEMPORARY ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

A. Internationally

Four main international resource organizations that advocate, for a variety of victims are The World Society of Victimology, the UN Office of Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization, and the International Committee of the Red Cross. It is unfortunate that these organizations are rarely mentioned in the victimological literature in spite of their significant contributions to the field especially serving to disseminate information about new laws, research findings, innovative victim-centric changes and help host events where scholars and practitioners can come together and exchange their findings and promote victim reforms.

1. The **World Society of Victimology (WSV)** a membership non-profit based international organization that advocates on behalf of victims across the globe and has Special Category Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations; has developed recognition with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the UN Department of Public Information (DPI), and the Council of Europe. The WSV continues to lobby to convert the UN's *Declaration* into a formal UN "Convention" which would give this proposed instrument more "muscle" to implement the principles embodied in the *Declaration* across the globe. The WSV on its current website has a *Strategic Plan* which has four organizational goals with strategies and supporting information on behalf of victims (see Appendix A). The WSV continues to serve victims as one of the main international organizations disseminating the messages embodied in the UN *Declaration* to its members and the public, through its website, and in the past, its newsletter (*The Victimologist*) now not being published, and using a variety of social media, and its continuing triennial symposia (due to the pandemic its normal triennial cycle was disrupted and will resume in 2022 in Spain), its many two-week courses (some of which are less than two weeks); and, at special occasions as in 2005 when it made recommendations to create new responses on behalf of victims and presented them in Bangkok, Thailand, at the 11th UN Congress on Crime (see Appendix B). Today it continues to evolve and expand (see: <http://www.worldsocietyofvictimology.org/about-us/strategic-plan/>).
2. The **United Nations, through its Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**, the primary entity which has addressed the area of crime and victims. It is in Vienna, Austria, and has hosted some of the creations of many major victim-related instruments. That with the most impact has been the *Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power* in 1985 (informally dubbed by victimologists, "The *Magna Carta* for Victims' Rights"). Others which are also victim-centric are the *Basic Principles on the Use of Restorative Justice Programmes in Criminal Matters* adopted by an ECOSOC resolution in 2002 (Groenhuijsen and Letschert 2008); the *Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* (sometimes referred to as the "Palermo Convention") which was signed in December 2000 (Annon 2004); and, *the Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law* in 2005, hereinafter referred to as "*the Principles and Guidelines*" (for two authoritative discussions of this UN instrument see: M. Cherif Bassiouni's book *International Protection of Victims* (1988) and Theo C. van Boven's article at: https://legal.un.org/avl/pdf/ha/ga_60-147/ga_60-147_e.pdf). (retrieved on January 30, 2022, from: <http://taylorfrancis.com>).
3. While the **World Health Organization** is not typically associated with victims of crime, abuse of power, the criminal justice systems, drugs, terrorism, human trafficking, or human or victim rights, they are involved in two major areas dealing with victims of interpersonal violence: measures to identify and respond to these victims (especially aggravated by the Covid-19 pandemic of 2020-2021); using screening tools, education programmes on violence and victim identification, mandatory reporting systems, and multi-agency risk assessment and response; and, programmes for care and support of these victims with: advocacy programmes; sexual assault or forensic nurse examiner programmes; women's shelters; helplines; psychosocial interventions; protection orders; and special courtroom measures, specialist courts and police stations that exclusively cater to women (retrieved on January 29, 2022, from: https://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/programmes.pdf).
4. The **International Committee of the Red Cross**, with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, is an "impartial, neutral, and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect

the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance” especially now during the invasion of Russia into Ukraine (retrieved on January 29, 2022, from: <https://www.icrc.org>).

5. **HEUNI**, (the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control) was established in 1981 affiliated with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and supported by the Government of Finland and located in Helsinki. It is part of the United Nations Criminal Justice and Crime Prevention Programme Network of eighteen entities. HEUNI primarily conducts international research and participates in technical assistance and training especially on topics reflecting innovations resulting from United Nations decisions. Under the leadership of former director Matti Joutsen, it played a major role in preparations for and drafting of the *UN Resolution* and its *Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power* (Bassiouni 1988).
6. **Amnesty International**, founded in London, England, in 1961 because of an article in *The Observer* by attorney Peter Benenson expressing outrage over the arrest of two Portuguese students who were jailed for seven years just for raising a toast to liberty. As a result of the response to his article, he founded this organization that became a global movement dedicated to fighting human rights abuses across the globe.

B. Nationally

There are some countries which have been very active in the field of victimology and have also produced model victim programmes in support services, laws, training, education, and research. Also, they have shown outstanding leadership in their regions by being effective in establishing, stimulating, and assisting with these initiatives among their neighbors. In my judgment these countries are the top ten that have demonstrated great energy and broad development on behalf of crime victims (listed alphabetically with brief highlights): Australia, Canada, Germany, Great Britain, India, Israel, Japan, The Netherlands, South Africa, and The United States of America.

1. **Australia** was an early nation to help crime victims using *offender-funded* compensation. The state of Victoria used this type of compensation in 1958; however, New Zealand was the first county to establish a *state-funded* victim compensation programme. In Australia it was New South Wales in 1967 that first launched the state funded variant, followed by Victoria in 1972 (Freckelton 2004), and South Australia in 1969 (O’Connell, 2020:160). Academic victimology was first introduced by South Australia as part of self-help efforts that led to the formation of Victims of Crime Services under the “stewardship of its first executive officer Ray Whitrod” who sought to support victims and pressed for system reforms (O’Connell 2020:161). Formal state-wide reviews confirmed that reforms were needed, especially to recognize secondary victimization by the criminal justice system, The “pace of reform and the magnitude of change in the 1980s in South Australia was, in a relative sense, remarkable” (O’Connell 2022:161). Of special note was the National Symposium on Victimology hosted by South Australia in 1981 conducted by the Australian Institute of Criminology. This became an important wellspring in the 1980s for victimological discourse in Australia. In 1985 Attorney-General Chris Sumner of that state led a delegation to the Fifth International Symposium on Victimology in Zagreb, Croatia, immediately followed up with a trip to Milan, Italy, where the deliberations in support of the UN’s *Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power* took place. Upon returning, he used those principles, to model declarations for his state and for Australia’s first declaration on victims’ rights. These actions had a significant impact on reforms to victim compensation schemes, the use of victim impact statements and other legislation on behalf of victims (O’Connell, 2022:162). Of special note was the introduction of victimological training for police competency and university baccalaureate education. Australia hosted two WSV International Symposia, one in Adelaide in 1994 and another in Perth in 2012. Other key persons who made significant contributions supporting victim reforms were (listed alphabetically): John Braithwaite, Gary Byron, Duncan Chappell, John Dawes, Sam Garkawe, P. N. Grabosky, David Hunt, Stanley Johnston, Elton Mayo, Michael O’Connell, Harold Weir, and others. Today the victimology banner is being held high by Michael O’Connell a scholar activist and victim advocate of the highest order and who is also the Secretary General for the World Society of Victimology.
2. **Canada** has also been a fountainhead for early victimological activities, both theoretical and practical,

where a wide variety of sophisticated victim service programmes throughout their country have been created. In 1974 the first victim mediation programme was used for two offenders to make restitution with their vandalism victims. Over the past four decades similar programmes have been used throughout this country (Latimer and Kleinknecht 2000; Principles and Guidelines 2018). In 2000 it hosted the 10th WSV International Symposium on Victimology and is home to several leading victimologists, especially Ezzat Fattah, born and educated in Egypt, has made long term contributions to victimology internationally. He is the founder of the School of Criminology at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada, where he is professor emeritus. He is one of the early pioneers in the study of victimology, has authored, co-authored and edited over a dozen books, including an anthology *Towards a Critical Victimology and Understanding Criminal Victimization* published in 1992. Ezzat Fattah's research led him to become an outspoken critic of the victim movement whose demands he saw as punitive and vindictive. He advocates instead for a humane system of restorative justice, based on the notions of healing, reparation, and restitution. Irvin Waller, another well-known contributor to victimology was one of the prime movers of the UN *Declaration*, who served as president of the WSV, and was a member of the first "Bellagio family" which convened a group of victimology pioneers in 1975. He was director of the International Center for the Prevention of Crime in Montreal, established in 1997, which contributed to the promotion of victim-friendly programmes and activities. He is currently the president of the International Victim Assistance Organization. Yet another major contributor to the victimological literature who has been teaching and researching in Canada is Jo-Anne M. Wemmers. She served as editor of the WSV Newsletter *The Victimologist*, and also as Secretary General for a 3 year term. She is now Professor at the School of Criminology of the Université de Montréal as well as Head of the Research Group for Victims, Law and Society at the International Centre for Comparative Criminology and is the editor of the *International Review of Victimology*. She publishes mostly in French (Wemmers 2003) and in English (Wemmers 2017). Today the *Canadian Victims Bill of Rights* builds on its existing national laws so that all victims have the right for security and privacy considered by criminal justice personnel, to be protected from intimidation and retaliation; and to ask the court that their identity not be released to the public.

3. **Germany** also played a major founding role in the early development of victimology, starting with Hans von Hentig's initial article on victim and offender interactions in 1941 and then his book *The Criminal and his Victim: Studies in the Sociology of Crime* in 1948. In 1975 Hans-Joachim Schneider published the first German victimology textbook titled *Viktologie – Wissenschaft vom Verbrechensopfer (Victimology – Science of Crime Victims)*. In 1979 he hosted the Third International Symposium on Victimology at his university in Münster. At that event he successfully promoted the idea of the World Society of Victimology (WSV) and was promptly elected as its first president. I was coincidentally working at a German criminology research institute (KFN) and with another victimologist, Gerd F. Kirchhoff, had been asked by Professor Schneider to be the symposiums' rapporteurs. Thus, at the founding of the WSV I was asked to serve as the WSV's first Secretary General and Kirchhoff was asked to be the WSV's first Newsletter editor and to register our new organization in Mönchengladbach, Germany. In 1979, Gerd F. Kirchhoff and Klaus Sessar published an edited reader *Das Verbrechenopfer (The Victim of Crime)*. Subsequently, with this synergy of these people and events Germany became an early fountainhead for things victimological and the WSV continued its growth by hosting the symposia every three years to the present time (except for the interruption of the global Covid-19 pandemic 2020-2022). Other key German victimologists are (listed alphabetical): Michael Baurmann, Hans-J. Kerner, Erwin Kube, Hans-H. Kühn, Helmut Kury, Peter Schäfer, Hans D. Schwind, Kurt Weis, Elmar Weitekamp and others. The dominant victim assistance organization is the Wiese Ring, the cofounder and chair for many years was Edward Zimmerman who established it on September 24, 1976, in Mainz as an "e. profit" organization. It is the dominant independent victim support organization in Germany with approximately 420 local offices throughout the country (retrieved on January 30, 2022, from: <https://weisser-ring.de>).
4. **Great Britain** hosted several significant and innovative practices on behalf of crime victims, such as the concept of modern victim reparations called compensation by Margery Fry in 1957. In 1971 Erin Pizzy established the first, and largest shelter for abused women known as Cheswick Woman's Aid and she wrote the first book about spouse abuse, *Scream Quietly or the Neighbors will Hear* (1974). Ironically, she went from being a pioneer in the women's movement, to becoming a men's rights activist. Britain is also the home of the journal *International Review of Victimology* first published in

1989 thanks to the initiative of two early victimologists with strong ties to England, John C. Freeman (born in Australia) and Leslie Sebba (born in Israel). Victim Support UK was established almost 50 years ago by Dame Helen Reeves in 1974. It “became the leading independent victims’ charity in England and Wales” and “by 1986 every county had at least one Victim Support Scheme (retrieved on February 2, 2022 from: <https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/more-us/about-us/history/>). These key British resources provided victim services leadership and mentorship especially within the European community and beyond, recently Victim Support – Asia was launched on March 24-26, 2019, in Seoul, South Korea, with the assistance of Frida Wheldon from Victim Support Europe. Other key persons contributing primarily with crime victimization surveys and theoretical victimology were (listed alphabetically): Ronald Clark, Hazel Genn, Rob Mawby, Patricia Mayhew, David Miers, Paul Rock, Joanna Shapland (current editor in chief of the journal *International Review of Victimology*), and Sandra Walklate, and many others. Victimology is well established in British academia today, for example one can get a Master of Science degree in Victimology at the University of Portsmouth (retrieved on January 30, 2022, from: <https://www.port.ac.uk>).

5. **India’s** concern for crime victims extends into ancient times with the concepts of restitution and atonement by the offender. Classical Hindu law born in Calcutta in 1772 under the Bengal government was prompted by trade conditions with Great Britain. Anglo-Hindu Law evolved when the British ruled India from 1858 until 1947, which impacted the Hindus, Buddhists, Jains and Sikhs. English common laws were mostly unwritten laws that included local customs, behaviours and traditions. These were applied by Great Britain to its colonies including India, except for laws that dealt with marriage, inheritance, and succession of property. When British rule ended, left behind was their language which became India’s *lingua franca* and their common law legal traditions. Thus, victims were a source of evidence; their participation in their cases was minimal. After independence Nehru and Gandhi, both law-trained in England, infused India’s new constitution in 1950 with strict common law principles. Indian empirical studies concerning crime victims began in the late 1970s mostly about *dacoit* gangs, homicide, and motor vehicles (Singh, 1978; Rajan and Krishna, 1981). Supreme Court Justice V. R. Krishna Yyer, a pioneer of legal activism and patron of the poor greatly inspired K. Chockalingam’s multiple interests in victims as a teacher and researcher. In 1984, the first seminar on victimology was organized by Chockalingam in the University of Madras/Chennai. His attending the Fifth International Symposium of Victimology in Zagreb in 1985 encouraged him to further promote victimology by founding the Indian Society of Victimology (ISV) in 1992 – inaugurated by Justice V. R. Krishna Yyer. Chockalingam served 15 years as its first president. He is easily considered the “Father of Indian Victimology.” (retrieved on January 29, 2022, from: <https://isvindia.webs.com/>); Key scholars who continued this work are (listed alphabetically): G. S. Bajpai, a prolific victimology author and currently the ISV president, and is the editor in chief of the new Indian based *Journal of Victimology and Victim Justice* since 2018; Susai M. Diaz, active victimologist and former chair of the ISV, K. Jaishankar teacher and author in victimology, R. K. Raghavan, S. P. Sahni (Director of the Centre for Victimology and Psychological Studies at the Jindal Global University), Beulah Shekhar well know teacher, victim event promoter, international presenter and author in victimology, M. Srinivasan, teacher and host of victim events, and many others.
6. **Israel** was the home of the First International Symposium on Victimology in 1973 thanks to the leadership of Israel Drapkin, the Director of the Institute of Criminology at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem since 1959. The symposium proceedings, edited by Israel Drapkin and Emilio Viano (an Italian/American victimologist), resulted in the publication of six volumes of text mostly by the key presenters. These volumes became a tome of significant value to the heart and soul of early victimological growth in the years that followed. It contained the writings of many key persons who embraced this new discipline and mostly perpetuated the ideas and suggestions of Mendelsohn who, in his later life moved to Israel. Some of those who were, and still are active (listed alphabetically): Menachem Amir, early contributor to victimological research; Sarah Ben David (who hosted the Sixth International Symposium on Victimology in 1988 in Jerusalem has been a steady researcher and author from her country and is a continuing contributor to the Post Graduate Course on Victimology, Victim Assistance and Criminal Justice in Dubrovnik; Leslie Sebba who, in 1989 (with John Freeman) launched the journal *International Review of Victimology* and became its first editor in chief. Most universities in Israel teach victimology. Because many Israelis were second or third generation holocaust survivors, gave many Israeli social scientists a strong sensitivity and motive to understand

the dynamics of victimization. This is especially applicable to the survivors and their psychological sequelae (Landau and Sebba 1998).

7. **Japan** entered the field of victimology early when Professor Osamu Nakata and his team of colleagues (Professors Furuhata, Yoshimasu, Onojima, and Hirose), from the Tokyo Medical and Dental University in 1958 translated Mendelsohn's concept of victimology from French into the Japanese language. This was followed in 1965 with the publication of Koichi Miyazawa's dissertation titled *Basic Theory of Victimology* (Miyazawa 1986). In 1971 a former student of Miyazawa, Hidemichi Morosawa, established a degree programme for students interested in victimology at his Tokiwa University in Mito, Japan, and began teaching victimology and promoting the ideas of victimology throughout Japan especially in the public media (Kirchhoff and Morosawa 2009). In 1982 Miyazawa hosted the Fourth International Symposium on Victimology in Tokyo and Kyoto. On November 17, 1990, the Japanese Association of Victimology (JAV) was established at Keio University. This organization published the Japanese Journal of Victimology which lasted for six years (WSV 2013). In 1998 Morosawa published his first major victimology textbook, *An Interdisciplinary Study on Victim and Victimization*. The most dramatic event in the field of victim law in Japan was the enactment of the new Fundamental Act on the Protection of Victims of Crime in 2004 (Morosawa 2012). In the following decade the Morosawa family's university became internationally known for its teaching innovations in victimology, victim services, victimological research, hosting of WSV courses, and as the home of the Tokiwa International Victimology Institute (TIVI) and a Graduate School of Victimology supported with ten victimologists. In 2009 TIVI hosted the 13th International Symposium on Victimology. Due to a change of priorities, this university no longer hosts these programmes. In 2016 Morosawa published his *magnus opus*, a 1,042-page encyclopedic text in the Japanese language *Victimology*. Other key victimologists were (listed alphabetically): Takako Konishi; Chie Maekoya; Susumu Nagai, Satomi Nakajima, Minoru Ohya, Tatsuya Ota, Toshi Tatara, Nobuho Tomita, and Akira Yamagami. Two key persons in Japan's victim assistance movement were Isao Okamura (well-known attorney and founder of the National Association of Crime Victims and Surviving Families known as "Asunokai") and victim advocate Emiko Okubo from the premier victim support programme called the Tomin Center in Tokyo (Dussich and Kishimoto 2000; Morosawa 2012).

8. **The Netherlands** has sponsored several significant activities which reflected their government's early support for victim rights activities. Willem H. Nagel, one of the Dutch pioneers who made key theoretical contributions, was involved in the early victimological discourses concerned with victimology becoming a separate discipline (Nagel 1963). Set up by the Ministry of Justice in 1987, early funding for the International Crime Victim Surveys working group was provided, under the leadership of Jan van Dijk (who was also a president of the WSV), this support led to a series of significant comparative publications about victimization in many countries across the globe. Two WSV International Symposia were held in the Netherlands, the 9th in Amsterdam in 1997 and the 14th in Den Hague in 2012 (the website from that event continued as the most useful single resource for international victimological information for many years). In addition to the establishment of victim services throughout the nation, the Netherlands also produced high-quality research in various areas of victimology. Yet another contribution to the field of victimology was the creation, in 2005, of a research institute dedicated to victimology called the International Victimology Institute Tilburg (INTERVICT) under the directorship of Marc Groenhuijsen with significant contributions from Jan van Dijk, Rianne Letschert, Anthony Pemberton, Frans Wilem Winkel and many others. However, this institute ceased operations in 2013.

9. **South Africa** recovering from apartheid (from 1948 until 1991) continues to have major challenges with the enfranchisement of Blacks and those of other non-white races. Since the legal basis for apartheid ended, in 1994 all-race elections took place and a coalition government was formed with a Black majority. From over 30 years of structural victimization most of the apartheid's social and economic problems remained. This was a major challenge for the newly elected president, Nelson Mandela. As part of the improvements in 1996 the National Crime Prevention strategy was launched and promoted a victim-centred approach to criminal justice reforms. Needed were witness and victim protection during trials, compensation schemes, victim empowerment and fostering service providers (Snyman, 1997:9). Linda Davis and H. F. Rika Snyman (in 2005 co-edited an anthology *Victimology in South Africa*), and hosted the Eleventh International Symposium on Victimology in Stellenbosch in 2003. Jaco Barkhuizen, one of the few persons who has a doctorate in victimology from Tokiwa

University), has specialized in sexual victimization on public transportation in Japan; his other areas of interest have been South African human trafficking, serial murder, and sexual victimization. Robert Peacock, is head of the Department of Criminology at the University of the Free State (UFS) and is the current president of the WSV, he has focused much of his victimological efforts on street-children as victims. He has a special interest with the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Post-Apartheid, critiques of “colonial tyranny”, abuse of power, and the application of Transitional Justice. Today, most victim support organizations in South Africa only focus on abuse of children, spouse, and sexual assault victims. Since 1994 South Africa has been facing the challenges of changing their culture from one that had accepted the victimization of a people for just over four decades. This monumental challenge is now to suppress the reflexes of those of color, mostly indigenous persons, who had accepted being victims of those who ruled from Europe as offenders; and, to a very new mind-set that replaces those reactions with reflexes for all to be equal.

10. In the **USA** when writing about victim assistance the name NOVA (National Organization for Victim Assistance) is dominant and still active. Established in 1976 as a non-for-profit organization, it was the first national organization created to serve the needs of victim advocates, to give victims a voice, to lobby for victim reforms and victim rights. At the government level, the USA’s Office of Victims of Crime is one of the few governmental agencies in the world which services people in all countries by producing documents, funding research and hosting conferences in the areas of victimology and victim assistance in many parts of the globe. The most remarkable aspect of the USA’s role in victim services is the large number of different types of victim service programmes throughout the country (roughly 20,000 with separate programmes for victims of sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, domestic violence, etc. In response to the 1985 UN’s *Declaration*, the USA established a special partnership with the United Nations, and thus two follow-up documents were produced, the *Handbook on Justice for Victims*, and *the Guide for Policy Makers*, both published in 1999 by the UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention in collaboration with the US government. Some of the top American contributors to victimology and victim services were (listed alphabetically): Ron Acierno, Dick Andzeng, Douglas E. Beloof, Susan Brownmiller, Ann W. Burgess, Frank Carrington, Lynn A. Curtis, Yael Danieli, Robert Denton, Rebecca Dobash, Russell Dobash, Edna Erez, David Finkelhor, Vincent J. Fontana, Burt Gallaway, Gilbert Geis, Paul C. Friday, Mario Gaboury, Gilbert Geis, Michael R. Gottfredson, Michael J. Hindelang, Lynda L. Holmstrom, Joe Hudson, Chadley James, Robert Jerin, Janice Joseph, Andrew Karmen, C. Henry Kempe, Dean Kilpatrick, Dick Knudten, Leroy Lamborn, Bernadette Muscat, Brian Ogawa, Xin Ren, Lisa Nerenberg, James Rowland, Stephen Schafer (who hosted the Second International Symposium on Victimology in 1976 in Boston), Jane Sigmon, Wesley G. Skogan, John Stein, Murray Straus, Martin Symonds, Yoshiko Takahashi, Thomas Underwood, Emilio Viano, Steven Walker, Harvey Wallace, Marvin Wolfgang, Marlene Young, Eduard Ziegenhagen, myself and many others. Some key NCEA, and others. During the past five decades the synergy of these and other victimologists has produced remarkable changes in our criminal justice system greatly advancing how we treat victims. It has been my honour to have been part of this journey.

C. Reflections on These Resource Organizations and People

The above six international organizations’ and ten nations’ exemplary efforts on behalf of crime victims have shown us how a few dedicated persons and organizations of good will, passion, intelligence, persistence, vision and moral commitment can accomplish lofty goals for the well-being of a society, a region and the world. In the hands of these few, not only have they lifted their nation, but they have led the way by admirable actions and helped their neighbours and improved the plight of victims the world over. They have given us the gifts of hope, sharing and humanity which makes the struggle noble, humane and worthwhile.

I would be remiss if I did not mention other persons who also have made significant contributions but have not been mentioned above. These are (listed alphabetically): Anna Alvazzi del Frate, from Italy served at the UNODC in Vienna, made significant contributions on behalf of victims, worked with international victimization surveys and recently worked in the area of small arms violence prevention; Augusto Balloni from Italy, forensic neuropsychiatrist and scholar in criminal victimology; Antonio Beristain-Ipiña from the Basque Country, Spain, a victimologists and criminologist whose passion was with human rights and was a member of the WSV; José de la Cuesta Arzamendi director of the Instituto Vasco de Criminología y Victimología and host of the 17th International Victimology Symposium in Spain; Elias Escaff-Silva victimologist from Chile; Arif Gosita from Indonesia, a pioneer victimologist in his country; Marianne Johanna Hilf Lehmkuhl

well known victimologist from Austria and now Switzerland, has been a regular contributor at the Dubrovnik postgraduate courses and member of the WSV; Alline Pedra Jorge Birol from Brazil victimologist and specialist in human rights currently working at the UN in Vienna; Guo Jaing-an, from China instrumental in coordinating international victimization surveys; Ester Kosovski, the *grande dame* of victimology from Brazil, leader in Latin America and host of the 7th WSV Symposium; Maria de la Luz Lima from Mexico, a leader in victimology and victim assistance, and former member of the WSV; Hilda Marchiori from Argentina who has been a constant light by publishing the Spanish language journal *Victimología* and many other victimological publications; Elias Neuman from Argentina and prolific publisher of specialty books in victimology; Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović from Serbia, is a victimology scholar known throughout the Balkans and has worked especially with gender issues and restorative justice; Annette Pearson from New Zealand/Colombia, who specializes in Justice Centers throughout Latin America; Luis Rodríguez Manzanera from Mexico one of the scholar giants in Latin America in both victimology and criminology; Armando Saponaro from Italy, has been teaching victimology in his country and at numerous international postgraduate victimology courses for almost two decades; Zvonimir Paul Šeparović from Croatia, who was a charismatic leader of victimology in the Balkans, an influential government official, a former WSV president and the host of the 5th WSV symposium that played a key role in supporting the UN *Declaration*; Heru Susetyo from Indonesia, is a scholar activist in victimology throughout Southeast Asia; and Aglaia Tsitsoura from Greece served as a major victimology link between the WSV and the Council of Europe and served on the EC of the WSV.

V. THE LIKELY FUTURE

A. Blueprints and Promising Practices

As new programmes and new laws evolve, some will prove effective, and others will not. In the search for programmes and laws that fulfil the fundamental aims of what Mendelsohn proposed in 1947 and which were embodied in the core concepts of the 1985 UN's *Declaration* – they are: “to be treated with compassion and respect for their dignity... to be provided with access to the mechanisms of justice and to prompt redress... to be informed of their rights... to be informed of their role and the scope, timing and progress of the proceedings and of the disposition of their cases... to be provided with proper assistance throughout the legal process... to have their privacy protected and ensure their safety... to be considered for receipt of restitution... to be informed about receiving compensation...” These 1985 UN *Declaration*'s appeals are the criteria which should be used to determine the value of victim programmes and laws so that they can be evaluated and ultimately recommended as worthy of duplication. In each of the sub-categories of victim programmes, laws, practices and rights, specific noteworthy examples have emerged. Some of these were included the US Department of Justice's 1998 significant publication: *New Directions from the Field: Victims' Rights and Services for the 21st Century* (see Appendix C).

There are specific victim-centric actions that each component of the criminal justice system can take. Here are specific examples from four criminal justice components in the United States of America:

1. Law Enforcement

In San Diego, California, there is a partnership between the police and the YWCA which resulted in a Community Domestic Violence Resource Network. This has resulted in a major resource for all the police agencies in the community for accurate information about the availability of shelters at any given time (COPS, 1997). Today the San Diego Police Department now has a Domestic Violence Unit which is located within the San Diego Family Justice Center, which houses several public and private agencies that work together to address domestic violence (retrieved on January 29, 2022, from: <https://www.sandiego.gov/police/services/units/domesticviolence>).

2. Prosecution

The district attorney in Huntsville, Alabama, established the nation's first children's advocacy centre in 1984 to reduce the trauma that the system was inflicting on child victims during the investigation and prosecution of child sexual abuse cases. “Rather than requiring children to retell their story through repeated interviews and examinations by law enforcement, prosecution, medical, mental health, and social services agencies, the district attorney created a multidisciplinary approach in which all of these professionals work

together” (New Directions from the Field, 1998: chapter 3;1). “The National Children’s Advocacy Center (NCAC), located in Huntsville, Alabama, has revolutionized the United States’ response to child sexual abuse. Since its creation in 1985, the NCAC has served as a model for the 950+ Children Advocacy Centers (CACs) now operating in the United States” (retrieved on January 29, 2022, from: <https://www.nationalcac.org/#>).

3. Judiciary

In Tucson, Arizona, the Municipal Court established a partnership with the police, victim advocates, prosecutors, and health care professionals to form a Community Domestic Violence Awareness Centre (New Directions, Chapter 4; 1998:100). Today, the “Domestic Violence Court ... established in 2012 ... operates with continuing assistance of grants from the US Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women ... in 2017, the Court was selected by the Office of Violence Against Women to serve as a Domestic Violence Mentor Court. It is now one of fourteen courts nationwide who are recognized as national models” (retrieved on January 29, 2022, from: <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/DV>).

4. Corrections

In **Texas** in 1995, the Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) started a victim-offender mediation/dialogue programme for victims of severe violence and their incarcerated offenders (New Directions, Chapter 5, 1998:130). Today, the “TDCJ Victim Services Division Victim Offender Mediation Dialogue (VOMD) programme, ... provides an opportunity for victims or surviving family members of violent crime to initiate an in-person meeting with the TDCJ offender responsible for their victimization. Crime victims have expressed a sense of taking back control after meeting with the offender to describe the impact of their victimization and to receive answers to questions regarding the offence (retrieved on January 29, 2022, from: <https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/vs/vomd.html>).

B. Facing the Realities of Promising Practices

As writer and publisher Charles Douglas Jackson once said, “Great ideas need landing gears as well as wings.” Although a wide variety of new programmes have been tried and dubbed as “promising” most of these have not yet been subjected to empirical evaluation. Before these programmes can be accepted as feasible and worthy of duplication, they must be scrutinized and evaluated over a sufficient time. Not only would this be organizationally frugal, but it would help ensure successful applications in service to the treatment of victims.

Essential for the field of victimology and victim services must be an overarching curriculum where these two related courses representing theory and practice can exist side by side as university courses leading to a baccalaureate degree supporting the professionalization of victimologists, even at the masters and doctorate levels. “Grounding in the potential causes of victimization can provide the student with a framework to critique victim policy, reduce victimization risk, and appreciate the broader context of victimization risk as criminal justice agents, first responders, and service providers” (Dussich 2003:1).

Countries that I can confirm have universities teaching victimology related courses and some which offer degrees in victimology are in Africa, Argentina, Australia, Canada, Colombia, Germany, Great Britain, India, Indonesia, Italy, Israel, Japan, Mexico, The Netherlands, South Korea, and USA. It is likely there are others that have also started victimology curricula. These actions at the university level will move us to institutionalize new societal norms to treat all victims as members of our own families and establish the bedrock of less suffering and more joy.

“Victimology tomorrow will need to adapt. As crime mirrors the existing political, social, economic, and technological structures, as any of these changes, so will the form and sources of victimization, among other things” (O’Connell 2020:171).

“The acorns of today are the oaks of tomorrow.”

APPENDIX A

World Society of Victimology

Strategic plan: 2019 - 2022

Vision: A world without victimisation

Purpose: To promote Victimology as a scientific endeavour; and, advocate for laws and policy that enhance victims' rights and improve victim assistance to enable timely, fair and equitable access to justice for all victims and survivors.

Our values: Truth > Respect > Collaboration > Engagement > Courage > Resolve >

Goal One

Improve victims' access to justice and assistance

Success

WSV is a partner with international organizations, governments, and civil society (including NGOs) in advancing victims' rights and victim assistance. Its activities have improved outcomes for victims and survivors.

Strategies

- Develop and advocate for laws and policy that advance victims' rights and address victims' needs.
- Participate with international authorities such as the United Nations and other regional authorities such as the Council of Europe on strategies aim to prevent victimisation and reduce harm.
- Encourage responses that protect victims, especially those prone to victimisation, including women, children, refugees and migrants.
- Educate government personnel and non-government employees on Victimology, victims' rights, and evidence-based victim assistance.
- Collaborate with the international community on ways to tackle victimisation and to properly address the effects of victimisation.

Goal Two

Increase compliance with international and domestic victims' rights law.

Success

By drawing attention to acts and omissions contrary to victims' rights, WSV helps improve the treatment of victims.

Strategies

- Help design and facilitate delivery of victim assistance programmes that match victims' needs.
- Inform individuals, governments, businesses and civil society about their obligations regarding treatment of victims and survivors.
- Promote the rights of victims of crime and abuse of power.
- Help victims and survivors exercise their rights and access assistance.
- Encourage mechanisms to enforce victims' rights and comply with these obligations

Goal Three

All nations have accessible, fair and just civil, criminal and administrative justice systems.

Success

WSV's policies, practices and activities have helped make justice systems throughout the world more accessible, more inclusive, just and more equitable for victims and survivors.

Strategies

- Pursue reforms that make criminal justice systems more timely and effective for victims and survivors, without unduly impacting on the rights of the accused.
- Encourage justice reforms that benefit victims and survivors, whilst being inclusive of suspects, defendants and offenders' needs, as well as criminal justice practitioners' needs.
- Recommend ways to make it easier for victims and survivors to interact with those tasked to help them.
- Consult victims, survivors and others affected by proposed justice reforms, and ensure as far as reasonably practical that they are given a voice on decisions that affect them.
- Sponsor workshops, courses, and seminars to enhance Victimological knowledge and skills.

Goal Four

Recognised as a top expert, not-for-profit organization of excellence.

Success

WSV embraces innovation and improvement, manages resources efficiently, collaborates on and invests in

ways to meet members' expectations and encourages others to become members.

Strategies

- Collaborate with WSV members, with other societies and associations that share the WSV's purpose and values and with international and domestic organizations such as the United Nations and the European Union.
- Improve our services by asking for and listening to feedback from members and others.
- Use technology to keep members informed and make it easier for them and others to work with us.
- Invest in ways to share the WSV's collective knowledge and skills to deliver results.
- Recognise and value our members.

(Retrieved on January 28, 2022, from: <http://www.worldsocietyofvictimology.org/about-us/strategic-plan/>).

APPENDIX B

World Society of Victimology Recommendations to the 11th UN Crime Congress

Bangkok, Thailand

April 2005

The WSV calls on Member States to take the following actions through the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme as well as through their national overseas development agencies:

1. Victim Assistance Programmes

Invest in projects to implement victim assistance and support, including services provided to women and children by non-governmental organizations, health and mental health, and police professionals.

2. Research and Surveys

Invest in research to assess the extent to which victims receive services and justice as well as surveys to measure the extent of victimization and its impact, including the international victim survey and a regular survey focused on domestic violence.

3. Education and Training

Develop standards for police, lawyers, health professionals and others as well as establish appropriate training and educational courses.

4. Legislation

Adopt legislation that puts the principles in the *UN Victim Declaration* into the language of Member States in a form that it provides a framework for the implementation of the *Declaration*.

5. Permanent Network for Victim Assistance and Justice

Establish a permanent network of centres concerned with research, training, education, and action for victims.

6. Prevention

Implement national crime prevention programmes consistent with the *UN Guidelines* and the recommendations of the World Health Organization to significantly reduce violence and criminal victimization with a priority to violence within the family.

7. Convention

Establish the process to develop a draft convention for consideration by the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the immediate future to foster universal implementation of the *UN Victim Declaration*.

APPENDIX C

Five Global Challenges from the Field

(New Directions from the Field: Victims' Rights and Services for the 21st Century, 1978)

While compiling the hundreds of recommendations from the field and in listening to the voices of victims, their advocates, and allied professionals who work with crime victims throughout the nation, certain key recommendations emerged. The following five global challenges for responding to victims of crime in the 21st century form the core of the hundreds of ideas and recommendations presented in this report.

- To enact and enforce consistent, fundamental rights for crime victims in federal, state, juvenile, military, and tribal justice systems, and administrative proceedings.
- To provide crime victims with access to comprehensive, quality services regardless of the nature of their victimization, age, race, religion, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, capability, or geographic location.
- To integrate crime victims' issues into all levels of the nation's educational system to ensure that justice and allied professionals and other service providers receive comprehensive training on victims' issues as part of their academic education and continuing training in the field.
- To support, improve, and replicate promising practices in victims' rights and services built upon sound research, advanced technology, and multidisciplinary partnerships.
- To ensure that the voices of crime victims play a central role in the nation's responses to violence and those victimized by crime.

New Directions provides recommendations that point specifically to the implementation of these five global challenges. Each section and chapter are based upon papers submitted by leading experts in the field as well as the input of victim advocates, justice system and allied professionals, crime victims, and others who participated in public hearings, working group meetings, and those who provided individual comments and review as the document progressed towards completion.

APPENDIX D

List of Key Dates for Victimology and Victim Assistance

- 1924 Edwin Sutherland included a chapter on victims in his new textbook *Criminology*.
- 1937 Benjamin Mendelsohn published his early writings on the rapist and his victim.
- 1940 Hans von Hentig published an article on victim and criminal interactions.
- 1947 Benjamin Mendelsohn coined the term and explained his concept of “victimology” in a speech to the Romanian Society of Psychiatry in Bucharest on 29 March (Hoffman 1992).
- 1948 Hans von Hentig published his textbook *The Criminal and His Victim: Studies in the Sociology of Crime*.
- 1949 Frederic Wertham first used the word “victimology” in English in his book *Show of Violence*.
- 1956 Benjamin Mendelsohn proposed the term and concept “victimology” in a French language journal, *Revue Internationale de Criminologie et de Police Technique et Scientifique*. Geneva.
- 1957 Margery Fry proposed victim compensation in an article “Justice for Victims” in *The Observer* on July 7.
- 1958 Marvin Wolfgang studied homicide victims; and used the term “victim precipitation”.
- 1963 New Zealand enacted the first state supported *Criminal Compensation Act*.
- 1965 California is the first state in the USA to enact state supported victim compensation law.
- 1966 Japan enacts their state supported *Criminal Indemnity Law*.
- 1966 USA conducted a national survey to measure crime victims not reported (dark figure).
- 1967 Canada creates a Criminal Compensation Injuries Act as does Cuba and Switzerland.
- 1967 Benjamin Mendelsohn gave a paper introducing his General Victimology theory applied to the horrors of genocide.
- 1968 Stephen Schafer wrote the first English language victimology textbook *The Victim and His Criminal: A Study in Functional Responsibility*.
- 1969 Benjamin Mendelsohn published his General Victimology genocide presentation from his 1967 paper.
- 1971 Erin Pizzey started the world's first domestic violence centre Chiswick Aid Center, in London, UK and wrote the first book about domestic violence, in 1974.
- 1972 The first three victim assistance programmes are created in USA St. Louis, Missouri, San Francisco, California and in Washington, D. C.
- 1973 The first (triennial) International Symposium on Victimology held in Jerusalem, Israel.
- 1974 The first police-based victim advocate project started in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA.
- 1975 The first “Victim Rights’ Week” is organized by the Philadelphia District Attorney, Pennsylvania, USA.

- 1975 Susan Brownmiller wrote one of the first books about rape, *Against Our Will: Men, Women and Rape*, USA.
- 1976 John Dussich launched the National Organization of Victim Assistance (NOVA) in Fresno, California, USA.
- 1976 Emilio Viano launched the first scholarly journal *Victimology, An International Journal*.
- 1976 James Rowland created the first Victim Impact Statement in Fresno, California, USA.
- 1979 The World Society of Victimology (WSV) is founded in Münster, Germany (see: <http://www.worldsocietyofvictimology.org/>).
- 1980 Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) is founded by Candi Lightner after one of her twin daughters was killed by a drunk driver who was a repeat offender.
- 1981 President Ronald Reagan proclaims the First National Victims' Rights Week in April.
- 1982 The first Victim Impact Panel was established by MADD to educate drunk drivers about how their victims suffered, started in Rutland, Massachusetts, USA.
- 1982 The first WSV newsletter called *The Victimologist* was published; the editors have been Gerd Kirchhoff, Elmar Weitekamp, Jo-Anne Wemmers, and Michael O'Connell. •1983 The first victimology course is taught in the United States by John Dussich at the California State University, Fresno.
- 1984 The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) establishes the national Crime Victims Fund from federal crime fines to pay for state victim compensation and services.
- 1984 The first two-week Course on Victimology and Victim Assistance, hosted by the Inter-University Centre for Post Graduate Studies and the World Society of Victimology, held in Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia with Co-directors; Paul Šeparović, Gerd Kirchhoff, and Paul Friday.
- 1985 The United Nations unanimously adopts the *Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power*.
- 1985 The Council of Europe *Recommendation on the Position of the Victim in the Framework of Criminal Law and Procedure* is adopted.
- 1987 The US Department of Justice opens the National Victims Resource Centre in Rockville, Maryland.
- 1988 The first "Indian Nations: Justice for Victims of Crime" conference is held by the Office for Victims of Crime in Rapid City, South Dakota, USA.
- 1989 The journal *International Review of Victimology* was founded by John Freeman in London, UK.
- 1990 Victim Support Europe was launched. "Victim Support Europe (VSE) is the leading European umbrella organization advocating on behalf of all victims of crime. VSE represents 61 national member organizations, providing support and information services to more than 2 million people affected by crime every year in 31 European countries." (www.victimsupporteurope.eu). The European Forum for Victim Services was founded by all the national organizations in Europe working for victims of crime in consultative status with the Council of Europe and the UN.
- 1998 Under the auspices of the United Nations, *The Rome Statute* was adopted and ratified as a treaty to establish the International Criminal Court with a Victim Witness Unit which entered into force on July 17.

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- 1999 The United Nations and the US Office for Victims of Crime publish the *Guide for Policymakers on the Implementation of the United Nations Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power* and the *Handbook on Justice for Victims: On the Use and Application of the United Nations Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power*.
- 2002 On July 1 the International Criminal Court (ICC) became effective. It is the only international court with jurisdiction to prosecute persons for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression. It's prosecutor's office included the creation of a Victim and Witness Unit.
- 2003 On October 2nd the Tokiwa International Victimology Institute (TIVI), in Mito Japan opened its doors to promote victim rights, to conduct seminars, courses, publish an international journal, and host annual symposia and lectures and conduct research on victimology and victim services. TIVI was under the leadership of John Dussich for ten years.
- 2003 The American Society of Victimology was founded in Kansas City, Kansas at the First American Symposium on Victimology.
- 2004 Japan puts the UN's *Declaration* into their national legislation by adopting the new *Fundamental Act for Crime Victims*. To ensure that these principles would be initiated, the Prime Minister established a cabinet level committee. The new law included services for victims, restitution from the offender, information about criminal justice and a right to formally participate in the criminal justice process.
- 2004 The journal *Victimología* was founded by Hilda Machiori in Cordoba, Argentina.
- 2004 The journal *International Perspectives in Victimology* was founded by John P. J. Dussich in Mito, Japan.
- 2005 In the Netherlands, the Tilburg University established the International Victimology Institute Tilburg (INTERVICT). Its mission was "Working towards a comprehensive, evidence-based body of knowledge of victim empowerment." This institute was under the leadership of Marc Groenhuijsen until its closure in 2015.
- 2015 *Revista de Victimología / Journal of Victimology* founded by Josep M. Tamrit Sumalla in Barcelona, Spain.
- 2018 The *Journal of Victimology, and Victim Justice*, founded by GS Bajpai in New Delhi, India.
- 2019 Victim Support Asia was launched under the sponsorship of Victim Support Europe at its first conference in Seoul, Korea, on March 26.
- 2021 On December 29 Archbishop Desmond Tutu passed away. He was a member of the first Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims at the ICC.
- 2021 On December 20 the office of the ICC Prosecutor launched public consultation on "a new policy initiative to advance accountability for the crime against humanity of persecution on the grounds of gender under the Rome Statute" (ICC; retrieved on January 25, 2022, from: <http://www.icc-cpi.int/>).
- 2022 The World Society of Victimology holds its 17th International Victimology Symposium in Donostia/San Sebastian, Basque Country, Spain June 5-9.

APPENDIX E



United Nations
General Assembly

A/RES/40/34

Distr. GENERAL
29 November 1985
ORIGINAL:
ENGLISH

A/RES/40/34
29 November 1985
96th plenary meeting

**Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice
for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power**

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders recommended that the United Nations should continue its present work on the development of guidelines and standards regarding abuse of economic and political power,

Cognizant that millions of people throughout the world suffer harm as a result of crime and the abuse of power and that the rights of these victims have not been adequately recognized,

Recognizing that the victims of crime and the victims of abuse of power, and also frequently their families, witnesses and others who aid them, are unjustly subjected to loss, damage or injury and that they may, in addition, suffer hardship when assisting in the prosecution of offenders,

1. Affirms the necessity of adopting national and international measures in order to secure the universal and effective recognition of, and respect for, the rights of victims of crime and of abuse of power;
2. Stresses the need to promote progress by all States in their efforts to that end, without prejudice to the rights of suspects or offenders;
3. Adopts the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, annexed to the present resolution, which is designed to assist Governments and the international community in their efforts to secure justice and assistance for victims of crime and victims of abuse of power;
4. Calls upon Member States to take the necessary steps to give effect to the provisions contained in the Declaration and, in order to curtail victimization as referred to hereinafter, endeavour:
 - (a) To implement social, health, including mental health, educational, economic and specific crime

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- prevention policies to reduce victimization and encourage assistance to victims in distress;
- (b) To promote community efforts and public participation in crime prevention;
 - (c) To review periodically their existing legislation and practices in order to ensure responsiveness to changing circumstances, and to enact and enforce legislation proscribing acts that violate internationally recognized norms relating to human rights, corporate conduct, and other abuses of power;
 - (d) To establish and strengthen the means of detecting, prosecuting and sentencing those guilty of crimes;
 - (e) To promote disclosure of relevant information to expose official and corporate conduct to public scrutiny, and other ways of increasing responsiveness to public concerns;
 - (f) To promote the observance of codes of conduct and ethical norms, in particular international standards, by public servants, including law enforcement, correctional, medical, social service and military personnel, as well as the staff of economic enterprises;
 - (g) To prohibit practices and procedures conducive to abuse, such as secret places of detention and incommunicado detention;
 - (h) To co-operate with other States, through mutual judicial and administrative assistance, in such matters as the detection and pursuit of offenders, their extradition and the seizure of their assets, to be used for restitution to the victims;
5. Recommends that, at the international and regional levels, all appropriate measures should be taken:
- (a) To promote training activities designed to foster adherence to United Nations standards and norms and to curtail possible abuses;
 - (b) To sponsor collaborative action-research on ways in which victimization can be reduced and victims aided, and to promote information exchanges on the most effective means of so doing;
 - (c) To render direct aid to requesting Governments designed to help them curtail victimization and alleviate the plight of victims;
 - (d) To develop ways and means of providing recourse for victims where national channels may be insufficient;
6. Requests the Secretary-General to invite Member States to report periodically to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Declaration, as well as on measures taken by them to this effect;
7. Also requests the Secretary-General to make use of the opportunities, which all relevant bodies and organizations within the United Nations system offer, to assist Member States, whenever necessary, in improving ways and means of protecting victims both at the national level and through international co-operation;
8. Further requests the Secretary-General to promote the objectives of the Declaration, in particular by ensuring its widest possible dissemination;
9. Urges the specialized agencies and other entities and bodies of the United Nations system, other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the public to co-operate in the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration.

ANNEX

Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims
of Crime and Abuse of Power

A. Victims of Crime

1. "Victims" means persons who, individually or collectively, have suffered harm, including physical or mental injury, emotional suffering, economic loss or substantial impairment of their fundamental rights, through acts or omissions that are in violation of criminal laws operative within Member States, including those laws proscribing criminal abuse of power.
2. A person may be considered a victim, under this Declaration, regardless of whether the perpetrator is identified, apprehended, prosecuted or convicted and regardless of the familial relationship between the perpetrator and the victim. The term "victim" also includes, where appropriate, the immediate family or dependants of the direct victim and persons who have suffered harm in intervening to assist victims in distress or to prevent victimization.
3. The provisions contained herein shall be applicable to all, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, age, language, religion, nationality, political or other opinion, cultural beliefs or practices, property, birth or family status, ethnic or social origin, and disability.

Access to justice and fair treatment

4. Victims should be treated with compassion and respect for their dignity. They are entitled to access to the mechanisms of justice and to prompt redress, as provided for by national legislation, for the harm that they have suffered.
5. Judicial and administrative mechanisms should be established and strengthened where necessary to enable victims to obtain redress through formal or informal procedures that are expeditious, fair, inexpensive and accessible. Victims should be informed of their rights in seeking redress through such mechanisms.
6. The responsiveness of judicial and administrative processes to the needs of victims should be facilitated by:
 - (a) Informing victims of their role and the scope, timing and progress of the proceedings and of the disposition of their cases, especially where serious crimes are involved and where they have requested such information;
 - (b) Allowing the views and concerns of victims to be presented and considered at appropriate stages of the proceedings where their personal interests are affected, without prejudice to the accused and consistent with the relevant national criminal justice system;
 - (c) Providing proper assistance to victims throughout the legal process;
 - (d) Taking measures to minimize inconvenience to victims, protect their privacy, when necessary, and ensure their safety, as well as that of their families and witnesses on their behalf, from intimidation and retaliation;
 - (e) Avoiding unnecessary delay in the disposition of cases and the execution of orders or decrees granting awards to victims.
7. Informal mechanisms for the resolution of disputes, including mediation, arbitration and customary justice or indigenous practices, should be utilized where appropriate to facilitate conciliation and redress for victims.

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Restitution

8. Offenders or third parties responsible for their behaviour should, where appropriate, make fair restitution to victims, their families or dependants. Such restitution should include the return of property or payment for the harm or loss suffered, reimbursement of expenses incurred as a result of the victimization, the provision of services and the restoration of rights.
9. Governments should review their practices, regulations and laws to consider restitution as an available sentencing option in criminal cases, in addition to other criminal sanctions.
10. In cases of substantial harm to the environment, restitution, if ordered, should include, as far as possible, restoration of the environment, reconstruction of the infrastructure, replacement of community facilities and reimbursement of the expenses of relocation, whenever such harm results in the dislocation of a community.
11. Where public officials or other agents acting in an official or quasi-official capacity have violated national criminal laws, the victims should receive restitution from the State whose officials or agents were responsible for the harm inflicted. In cases where the Government under whose authority the victimizing act or omission occurred is no longer in existence, the State or Government successor in title should provide restitution to the victims.

Compensation

12. When compensation is not fully available from the offender or other sources, States should endeavour to provide financial compensation to:
 - (a) Victims who have sustained significant bodily injury or impairment of physical or mental health as a result of serious crimes;
 - (b) The family, in particular dependents of persons who have died or become physically or mentally incapacitated as a result of such victimization.
13. The establishment, strengthening and expansion of national funds for compensation to victims should be encouraged. Where appropriate, other funds may also be established for this purpose, including those cases where the State of which the victim is a national is not in a position to compensate the victim for the harm.

Assistance

14. Victims should receive the necessary material, medical, psychological and social assistance through governmental, voluntary, community-based and indigenous means.
15. Victims should be informed of the availability of health and social services and other relevant assistance and be readily afforded access to them.
16. Police, justice, health, social service and other personnel concerned should receive training to sensitize them to the needs of victims, and guidelines to ensure proper and prompt aid.
17. In providing services and assistance to victims, attention should be given to those who have special needs because of the nature of the harm inflicted or because of factors such as those mentioned in paragraph 3 above.

B. Victims of abuse of power

18. "Victims" means persons who, individually or collectively, have suffered harm, including physical or mental injury, emotional suffering, economic loss or substantial impairment of their fundamental rights, through acts or omissions that do not yet constitute violations of national criminal laws but of

internationally recognized norms relating to human rights.

19. States should consider incorporating into the national law norms proscribing abuses of power and providing remedies to victims of such abuses. In particular, such remedies should include restitution and/or compensation, and necessary material, medical, psychological and social assistance and support.
20. States should consider negotiating multilateral international treaties relating to victims, as defined in paragraph 18.
21. States should periodically review existing legislation and practices to ensure their responsiveness to changing circumstances, should enact and enforce, if necessary, legislation proscribing acts that constitute serious abuses of political or economic power, as well as promoting policies and mechanisms for the prevention of such acts, and should develop and make readily available appropriate rights and remedies for victims of such acts.

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