

**Third annual conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia**

***Victims and contemporary social context: theory,  
practice, and activism***

**Book of Abstracts**

**22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2012, Belgrade**

**Third Annual Conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia**  
***Victims and contemporary social context: theory, practice, and activism***

The Palace Hotel, Belgrade  
22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2012

**PROGRAM**

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**I day - 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2012**

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09.00 – 09.30 Participants' registration

09.30 – 10.00 Opening of the Conference

- Prof. dr Slobodan Savić, President of the Victimology Society of Serbia
- Mr Rodoljub Šabić, Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection, Serbia
- Prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović, Director of the Victimology Society of Serbia and President of the European Society of Criminology

10.00 – 10.15 Victimology Society of Serbia Awards

10.15 – 11.45 **Plenary Session 1: *Crime victims in the contemporary society: the role of the international organizations and victimization surveys***

*Moderator: prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović*

- Prof. dr Jan van Dijk, International Victimology Institute Tilburg – INTERVICT. University of Tilburg, The Netherlands: *Victimization surveys: current situation and the need to conduct them regularly in countries in transition*
- Prof. dr Carol Hagemann-White, University Osnabrück, Germany: *The Council of Europe Convention and women's right to a life free of gender-based violence – Consequences for policy and practice*

11.45 – 12.00 Coffee break and **poster presentation**

12.00 – 14.00 **Plenary Session 2: *Position of the crime victims: theory, practice, research***

*Moderator: dr Sanja Čopić*

- Prof. dr Natti Ronel, Bar-Ilan University, Israel: *Positive victimology in theory and practice*
- Ilse van de Walle, international trainer and consultant, Belgium: *Needs of young people, victims of crime*
- Prof. dr Oliver Bačanović, Faculty of Security, University "Sv. Kliment Ohridski", Bitolj, Republic of Macedonia: *Position of a crime victim and injured party in the reformed Macedonian criminal legislation*
- Doc. dr Almir Maljević, Faculty of Criminal Justice Sciences, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: *Juvenile Delinquency in Bosnia and Herzegovina - the results of the International Self-Reported Delinquency Study*

14.00 – 15.00 Lunch break

15.00 – 16.30 Thematic sessions and workshop 1

**Thematic session 1: *Child victims***

*Moderator dr Ivana Stevanović*

- Prof. dr Zorica Mršević, Institute of Social Science, Belgrade, and Faculty for European Legal and Political Studies, Novi Sad, Serbia: *Victims of bullying*
- Doc. dr Sandra Fabijanić Gagro, Faculty of Law, Rijeka, Croatia: *The role and activity of the UN in the child protection in contemporary armed conflicts*

- Dr Ivana Stevanović, Institute for criminological and sociological research and Child Rights Centre, Belgrade, Serbia: *Children involved in the life and work on the streets as victims of exploitation and abuse*
- Bejan Šaćiri, Victimology Society of Serbia, Nikola M. Petrović, High medical school of vocational studies “Milutin Milanković” and Victimology Society of Serbia, Serbia: *Family cohesion as a factor in adolescents' susceptibility to vandalism*

**Thematic session 2: Women and children as victims of violence: relation between victimization and criminalization**

*Moderator: Jasmina Nikolić*

- Doc. dr Marissabell Škorić, Faculty of Law, Rijeka, Croatia: *Sex and Gender Characteristics in Criminal Law Norms*
- Dragana Grabovica, Ivana Savić, Protector of the Citizens, Serbia: *Women-victims of violence as perpetrators of criminal offences against life and limb*
- Jadranka Buljević, Basic court in Novi Sad, Serbia: *Distinctive review of women and children as victims of violence*
- MSc Jelena Grujić, EDUCONS University, Sremska Kamenica, MSc Ana Bilinović, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad, Serbia: *Socio-anthropologic and demographic aspects of infanticide practice and its victims*

**15.00 – 17.00 Workshop 1: Domestic violence and legal practice in Serbia: presentation and discussion of the research results**

*Moderator: prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović*

- Prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović, director of the Victimology Society of Serbia, and professor at the Faculty for Special Education and Rehabilitation, University of Belgrade, Serbia: *Presentation of the study Monitoring the application of domestic violence legislation in Serbia: pilot survey findings*
- Vanja Macanović, Autonomous Women Center, Belgrade, Serbia: *Criminal justice response to domestic violence in Vojvodina: research results*
- Nenad Vujić, director of the Judicial Academy: *Judicial Academy and education of judges and prosecutors in regard to the implementation of legal norms in case of the criminal offence of domestic violence*
- Jelena Sekulić, UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

16.30 – 17.00 Coffee break and **poster presentation**

17.00 – 18.30 Thematic sessions

**Thematic session 3: Online victimization and abuse of other technical achievements**

*Moderator: Ljiljana Stevković*

- Ljiljana Stevković, Institute for criminological and sociological research, Belgrade, Serbia: *Social networks as a means of sexual harassment of female juveniles*
- Doc. dr Svetlana Nikoloska, MPhil Marijana Blaževska, Faculty of Security, Skoplje, Republic of Macedonia: *Victims of computer-financial crime*
- Doc. dr Dragana Batić, Faculty of Security, Skoplje, Republic of Macedonia: *Fixed identity of the victim – destiny or a choice?*

**Thematic session 4: Victims of different forms of victimization**

*Moderator: Jasmina Nikolić*

- Prof. dr Nataša Tanjević, Faculty of Business Economics and Entrepreneurship, Belgrade, Filip Mirić, Legal Clinic, Faculty of Law, Niš, Serbia: *Persons with disabilities as victims of discrimination in the field of employment - current situation and perspectives*

- Dr Ana Batrićević, Institute for criminological and sociological research, Belgrade, Serbia: *Environmental criminal offences – victimless crimes?*
- Mr Marija Kuzmanović, Penitentiary Institution in Sremska Mitrovica, Serbia: *Factors that influence human trafficking and the connection between victimization and criminalization*
- Olivera Kuljić, Basic court in Zrenjanin, Serbia: *Who are the victims of reformed judicial system?*

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## II day – 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2012

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09.30 – 10.00 Presentation of the study ***Crime recording: foreign and Serbian experiences***  
 Study is a result of the project “Development of methodology for crime recording as the basis for efficient crime control and prevention”, No. 179044, Faculty for Special Education and Rehabilitation, University of Belgrade, funded by the Ministry of education, science and technology of the Republic of Serbia. Project coordinator is prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović  
 Authors and reviewers will talk about the study.

### 10.00 – 12.00 **Plenary session 3: Victims and institutions**

*Moderator: dr Sanja Čopić*

- Dr Michael Platzer, Academic Council on the United Nations System, Vienna, Austria: *Migrant children in detention: bad boys or victims*
- Prof. dr Branko Lobnikar, prof. dr Gorazd Meško, Laura Fišer, Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security, University of Maribor, Janez Ogulin, General Police Directorate, Ljubljana, Slovenia: *Domestic violence victims' satisfaction with the response of authorities and NGOs to their reports – a case of Slovenia*
- Prof. dr Martin Killias, Anastasiia Lukash, Institute of Criminology, Zurich University, Switzerland: *Victimization experience of juveniles in Serbia and countries of the Western Europe. Comparative issues of international self-report delinquency studies*
- Dr Nadia Wager, Faculty of Health and Social Science, Department of Psychology, University of Bedfordshire, United Kingdom: *Is restorative justice an appropriate response to sexual violence?*

12.00 – 12.30 Coffee break and **poster presentations**

### 12.30 – 14.00 **Plenary session 4: Victims of domestic and sexual violence**

*Moderator: prof. dr Oliver Bačanović*

- Prof. dr Nevena Petrušić, Prof. dr Slobodanka Konstantinović-Vilić, Faculty of Law, University of Niš, Serbia: *Failure to provide child support as a form of economic abuse*
- Dr Axelle Reiter, Faculty of Economics of Verona University, Vicenza and European University Institute, Firenze, Italy: *Victims of ‘private’ crimes and application of human rights in interpersonal relations*
- Prof. dr Cristina Cabras, prof. dr Eraldo Nicotra, Department of Pedagogy, Psychology, Philosophy, University of Cagliari, Italy: *Victim or perpetrator? A correlational study.*

14.00 – 15.00 Lunch break

15.00 – 16.30 Thematic sessions

### **Thematic session 5: *Victims, institutions and NGO***

*Moderator: mr Dragan Obradović*

- Mr Dragan Obradović, Law center for children and juveniles Valjevo, Serbia: *Persons deprived of liberty – potential victims of the system due to the violation of the right to health care in the Republic of Serbia (The European Court of Human Rights practice)*
- Jasmina Nikolić, Victimology Society of Serbia, Serbia: *How we provided support to battered women who committed crime?*
- Doc. dr Tatjana Gerginova, Faculty of Security, Skoplje, Republic of Macedonia: *Institutional protection of human rights in cases of overstepping the authorities by police*
- Doc. dr Vesna Stefanovska, mr Nataša Jovanova, Faculty of Security, Skoplje, Republic of Macedonia: *NGOs protection of crime victims in the Republic of Macedonia*

### **Thematic session 6: *Victimogenic and criminogenic factors and prevention of victimization***

*Moderator: dr Sanja Čopić*

- Dr Danica Vasiljević-Prodanović, Faculty for special education and rehabilitation, University of Belgrade, Serbia: *The importance of identifying repeat victimization for crime prevention*
- Mario Stanojević, Bejan Šaćiri, Victimology Society of Serbia, Serbia: *Alcoholism as criminogenic and victimogenic factor*
- Prof. dr Milica Gligorović, mr Nataša Buha, Faculty for special education and rehabilitation, University of Belgrade, Serbia: *Exposure to abuse as a factor of adaptive functioning in children with mild intellectual disability*
- Vesna Stevanović, Niš Appellate Court, Serbia: *Protection of pedestrians as one of the largest category of victims of crimes against public traffic safety*

16.30 - 16.45 Closing of the conference

### **Program Committee of the Conference**

- Prof. dr Alenka Šelih, professor emeritus at the Law School, University of Ljubljana and a member of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Slovenia)
- Prof. dr Gerd Kirchhoff, professor at the International Victimology Institute, Graduate School of Victimology, Tokiwa University (Japan), and the College of Applied International Studies (Germany) and honorary member of the Victimology Society of Serbia
- Prof. dr Jaishankar Karuppannan, professor at the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University (India)
- Prof. dr Janice Joseph, professor at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey (USA)
- Prof. dr Robert Peacock, professor at the Department of Criminology, Howard College, Durban (South Africa)
- Prof. dr Violeta Čačeva, Centre for Criminology, Institute for Sociological, Political and Criminal Justice, Sv. Ćirilo and Metodije University, Skopje (Macedonia)
- Prof. dr Slobodan Savić, full professor at the School of Medicine, University of Belgrade and president of the Victimology Society of Serbia
- Prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović, full professor at the Faculty for Special Education and Rehabilitation, University of Belgrade, director of the Victimology Society of Serbia and president of the European Society of Criminology
- Prof. dr Slobodnaka Konstantinović-Vilić, full professor at the Law School, University of Niš
- Prof. dr Nevena Petrušić, full professor at the Law School, University of Niš, Commissioner for the protection of equality and deputy president of the Council of the Government for gender equality
- Dr Ivana Stevanović, research associate at the Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research in Belgrade, president of the Child Right's Center and a member of the Council of the Government for child rights

### **Organizing Committee of the Conference**

- Prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović, full professor at the Faculty for Special Education and Rehabilitation, University of Belgrade, director of the Victimology Society of Serbia and president of the European Society of Criminology
- Prof. dr Đorđe Alempijević, professor at the School of Medicine, University of Belgrade, Institute for forensic medicine
- Dr Sanja Ćopić, research associate at the Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research in Belgrade and president of the Executive Board of the Victimology Society of Serbia
- Jasmina Nikolić, manager of the victim support service *VDS info and victim support* in the Victimology Society of Serbia
- Tamara Kljajić, volunteer in the Victimology Society of Serbia

## PLENARY SESSIONS

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### **Plenary Session 1: Crime victims in the contemporary society: the role of the international organizations and victimization surveys**

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#### **Victimization surveys: current situation and the need to conduct them regularly in countries in transition**

*Prof. dr Jan van Dijk*

*International Victimology Institute Tilburg – INTERVICT  
University of Tilburg, The Netherlands*

Statistics of crimes recorded by the police fail to reflect the true volume and trends of crime. Dark numbers of crime are especially large in many countries in transition, due to poor recording practices and a lack of confidence or trust among the public. From a comparative, European perspective, police figures in transitional countries tend to be grossly deflated. To the extent that police practices improve, higher numbers of crimes are recorded, even when no real change in the true volume of crime has occurred. Comparative standardized victimization surveys such as the International Crime Survey (ICVS) are a source of more credible information on the true volume and trends of crime. The ICVS has between 1989 and 2010 been conducted at least once in 80 countries including all European countries. In some transitional countries, notably Poland, Estonia, and Georgia repeated ICVS-based surveys have shown that crime has increased significantly after the political transitions in the 1990s but has fallen with a vengeance thereafter. In 2010 levels of crime were below or under the European level in Poland and Georgia. They were still above the European mean in Estonia and Moldova. The ICVS results have also shown that the public tends to be disproportionately concerned about crime in transitional countries. The rates of crimes reported to the police tend to be low but increasing. In many transitional countries victims are relatively dissatisfied with their treatment by the police. In order to put national crime problems in a European perspective, transitional countries are well advised to carry out regular comparative victimization surveys in order to monitor trends in crime, fear of crime and judgments on police performance. Without such surveys criminal policies are planned and carried out without reliable knowledge about their consequences. The conduct of crime surveys makes such policies more fact-based and the government more accountable to the public.

#### **The Council of Europe Convention and women's right to a life free of gender-based violence – Consequences for policy and practice**

*Prof. dr Carol Hagemann-White*

*University Osnabrück, Germany*

The Council of Europe policy has recognized violence against women as a human rights violation since 1993. In a comprehensive Recommendation on the Protection of Women Against Violence of 2002, the overarching goal was declared to be

“guaranteeing women the recognition, enjoyment, exercise and protection of their human rights and fundamental freedoms”. It laid down the guiding principles that national policies should be based both on the maximum protection and safety of victims and on the empowerment of victimized women by optimal support and assistance structures. Thus, despite the emphasis on criminalizing and prosecuting all acts of violence against women, a victim-centered approach was taken. Monitoring of implementation has shown a growing convergence of policies in the member states on the level of explicit policy, but also a range of interpretations on the level of actual practice, as comparative research finds. Whether or not a “model of good practice” is effective depends on the legal and institutional environment and on the way it is implemented.

The Istanbul Convention, opened for signature in May 2011, moved forward in defining more specific obligations of states, and also broadening their commitment; it is a Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, thus defining a need for action even before violence has occurred. It calls for a strategic approach to eliminate the violence, affirming at the same time that all measures should place the rights of the victim at the center.

The presentation will discuss what the main requirements spelled out in the Convention mean in practical terms, drawing on examples of good practice from different member states.

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## **Plenary Session 2: Position of the crime victims: theory, practice, research**

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### **Positive victimology in theory and practice**

*Prof. dr Natti Ronel*

*Bar-Ilan University, Israel*

Positive victimology is a new perspective in the field of victimology, founded on theories from positive criminology and positive psychology. The main assertion of this outlook is that positive components may have a strong healing effect, capable of overcoming the negative aspects of victimization. In other words, “the good” can overcome “the bad.” Positive victimology is aimed at assisting individuals who suffer from past victimization, their family members, practitioners assisting victims, and even offenders. It is a recovery-based orientation that aspires to minimize the impact an offense might have. Positive victimology is comprised of at least three components, each implying a different positive meaning. The first one is an integration directed at individuals that have experienced victimization. Becoming a victim can entail a process of social, self, and spiritual dissociation, which is perceived as a negative direction. This calls for a reversed integration in order to create a positive progress. The integration is of a multi-level nature: social inclusion process, self-integration experience, and spiritual unification challenge. The second component suggests that intervention should include components the victim experiences as positive, to promote a sense of self-worth. Although the process of therapy and recovery might reveal unavoidable pain, the overall positive experience may overcome this pain. The third and final component is the effort to achieve closure concerning the primary victimization (the harmful event or events) for the individuals involved. In addition, it is intended to bring to an end secondary victimization (the



individual long-term reaction to the harmful event), such as the subjective consequences of the primary victimization that sometimes develop into determinants of a victim's identity. While victimization endangers individuals' wellbeing on many levels, the positive direction is that of minimizing this risk and of exploring the strengths of the individuals involved. Furthermore, this approach is aimed at helping the victim grow on social, personal, and spiritual levels, despite having been hurt. Although it is multifaceted by definition, positive victimology places special emphasis on the social aspect, including the reaction of society to self. Consequently, it addresses law-enforcement processes based on the underlying principles of positively experienced, integrative, and healing processes. A call for a due process for victims, the application of a therapeutic court, and the practice of restorative justice are examples of the implementation of positive victimology in the criminal justice system.

### **Needs of young people, victims of crime**

*Ilse van de Walle*

*International trainer and consultant, Belgium*

It would be beautiful if we could protect children and youngsters from all the harm that happens in the adult world; but that's not possible. Just like adults, children and youngsters also become victims of crime, and just like adults they have to recover from it. Becoming a victim of crime has consequences, both for adults and for young people. Talking with young people who are victims of crime, one of the things they all said was: "I can't get it out of my head." Children and youngsters will never forget what happened. But even so, most children and youngsters succeed in giving the event a place in their lives and have a bright future.

To recover from a crime, children and youngsters need help. They can't do this alone. They need support - support based on their needs. Luckily, in recent years, a lot has changed for child victims. They are identified as a vulnerable group of victims in the legislation of many states, there are the guidelines on justice for child victims and witnesses of crime, which are adopted by a lot of countries. But still too often, in the daily practice, children and youngsters are still a forgotten group of victims. Their needs are often not seen.

Why is this? There are several answers to this question. We as adults want to protect children from harm. We try to keep them away from the consequences of crime: the less they are involved, the quicker they will forget. Unfortunately this is untrue, but it's understandable. On the other hand, children often don't ask for help if they need it. They try to protect their parents. Or, if they ask for help, they are often misunderstood. When a crime happens, children are already involved in what happened, and by not involving them afterwards, it's often made worse. Children and youngsters want to be involved. They want information. They want to know what happened. They want to be respected. They want to be seen, not only as a victim, but as a youngster or a child with their own needs, with their own expectations towards support and the criminal justice system.

Based on years of practice and on latest research and literature, I will give in this presentation an overview of needs of young people who are victims of crime and how we, as adults, can best answer on their needs.

## **Position of a crime victim and injured party in the reformed Macedonian criminal legislation**

***Prof. dr Oliver Bačanović***

*Faculty of Security, University „Sv. Kliment Ohridski“, Bitolj  
Republic of Macedonia*

The reform of the Macedonian criminal legislation system has started almost two decades ago. The first steps were made after the proclamation of independence of the Republic of Macedonia and after the separation of Macedonian criminal legislation from the former Yugoslav i.e. federal (material and procedural) criminal law. In the beginning the legal acts usually contained provisions that were taken from previous legislation and only some time later bolder and more radical steps in the reform of the Macedonian criminal legislation were undertaken.

When it comes to the victims and injured parties the baseline for the reform was: the knowledge about the importance of the victim from the aspect of achieving criminal policy goals, the process of subjectivisation of criminal law and in respect to this the “new criminal law philosophy on the concept of human rights” as well as the concept of restorative justice in which victim of crime has a significant position.

The subject of our study is the analysis of the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Law on Juvenile Justice, which are reviewed in terms of the position of victims of crime and the injured parties. The paper reviews the most important changes related to the position of the victim i.e. injured party. It is interesting that these changes are not referring only to typical procedural rights of the victims and injured parties in the criminal procedure but also to the rights associated with the prevention of secondary victimization, as well as for some forms of assistance and support to victims.

The aims of this paper are to perceive the position of the victim and injured parties in the reformed criminal legislation and to give critical overview of some of the solutions that worsen the position of victims.

The paper also determines the steps that need to be made and are long overdue: adoption of appropriate laws and regulations which will operationalize the solutions from the above-mentioned laws and with which the normative part of the reform of the criminal legislation will be gradually completed.

Of course, the next activity is education and training of personnel that are working in the field of criminal justice. Some progress was made in this area, but further work is necessary.

## **Juvenile Delinquency in Bosnia and Herzegovina - the results of the International Self-Reported Delinquency Study**

***Doc. dr Almir Maljević***

*Faculty of Criminal Justice Sciences, University of Sarajevo  
Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Media reports, experts and police statistics constantly portray that juvenile delinquency has an upward trend in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is assumed that juveniles most frequently get involved in property related crime, that

juveniles are more and more violent, that they more often commit crimes as members of a group, that they tend to associate with adults when committing crimes etc. In this paper, analyzing the data collected within the framework of the International Self-Report Delinquency study 2 (data collected by surveying national representative sample of pupils in the final two years of their primary education), we will explore to which extent these portrayed trends reflect the reality of juvenile delinquency in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The focus will primarily be on the types of delinquency (especially group delinquency), most frequent types of victimization, as well as to forms of social reaction to selected types of juvenile delinquency.

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### **Plenary session 3: Victims and institutions**

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#### **Migrant children in detention: bad boys or victims**

*Dr Michael Platzer*

*Academic Council on the United Nations System, Vienna, Austria*

As far as more and more foreign juveniles and young offenders with a migration background are arrested for major and minor crimes in Austria (as in most Western European countries), a study was carried out in the juvenile detention facility in Gerasdorf and in the Vienna City prison using the International Victims Survey instrument to look at their country of origin, ethnic background, religious affiliation, educational level, school experiences, life expectations, whether in a relationship, stable family situation, and personal experience of violence.

The most striking findings were the ethnic and religious backgrounds of the young people. A very high percentage of the boys were of Serbian origin – no Croats or Slovenes were found in the detained population. Although the ethnic populations of Serbs and Croats are almost equivalent in Vienna, no Poles, Czechs, or Slovaks were found in detention. Is the Catholic religion a protective factor? The year of their family's arrival to Austria, the ties to their homeland, their German language knowledge, and their association with compatriots (or with native Austrian friends) were examined. Their school experiences and apparent social exclusion appeared to be determining factors. Loose parental supervision, peer group pressure as well as their attitudes to girls also seemed to play an important role.

Only for the most serious offenses are young people in Austria charged and judged: robbery, bodily harm, drug dealing, breaking and entering, and theft. There is an increasing problem with Romanian youth (often they are exploited by organized groups) but there are supervised programs for their return to their homeland. A special problem appears to be that there are few targeted sports, after school activities or tutorial assistance programs dedicated to Serbian youth in Vienna. The economic situation has also meant there are fewer employment or apprenticeship opportunities.

## **Domestic violence victims' satisfaction with the response of authorities and NGOs to their reports – a case of Slovenia**

***Prof. dr Branko Lobnikar,***

***Prof. dr Gorazd Meško***

*Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security, University of Maribor, Slovenia*

***Laura Fišer***

*Student, Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security, University of Maribor, Slovenia*

***Janez Ogulin***

*General Police Directorate, Ljubljana, Slovenia*

The aim of this paper is to present a survey on victims' satisfaction with state authorities and non-governmental organizations when reporting a domestic violence incident. Victims were asked to evaluate different aspects of police officers', social workers', judges' and volunteers' in NGOs' work regarding their report of domestic violence incident. They evaluated the level of adequate reaction, the attitudes the state authority and NGOs had and whether the communication of those in interaction meets their expectations. Besides that, they were asked to evaluate the level of competence of those institutions in area of preventing domestic violence incidents and whether they were satisfied with measures to prevent further victimization. At the end of the survey, we asked them to whom they trust most. The survey was conducted in summer 2012 among 52 female victims of domestic violence. The Slovene police initiated this study. The questionnaire constructed by the authors of this paper was administered to victims by NGO's members, the participation was volunteer and the confidence was guaranteed. All responses were measured on 5 point scale (1 - strongly disagree, 5 - strongly agree). As regards first reactions, victims were the most satisfied with NGOs (M=4,80), followed by social workers (M=3,85), police (M=3,69) and court (M=3,40). The same order appears when victims evaluate the level of understanding of their situation, with the lowest average at 3,56 dedicated to the court. The quality of communication was above 3 when evaluating police, social workers and court, and almost 5 with the NGO members. The victims of domestic violence were mainly satisfied with the help they received (the courts were found to get the lowest grade in assessment of their services). Respondents report above average satisfaction with the protection measures they received (from 3,20 by court, 3,40 by social services, 3,57 by police officers and 4,60 by NGOs). The domestic violence victims in Slovenia express the highest degree of trust towards NGOs (M=4,68), followed by social workers (M=3,71), police officers (M=3,30) and courts (M=3,16). The results could be used for the improvement of victim support schemes in Slovenia.

## **Victimization experience of juveniles in Serbia and countries of the Western Europe. Comparative issues of international self-report delinquency studies**

***Prof. dr Martin Killias***

***Anastasiia Lukash***

*Institute of Criminology, Zurich University, Switzerland*

This presentation is about comparison of victimization experience among juveniles in Serbia and countries of Western Europe; as well as about the main challenges of such research and their overcoming. Sometimes the phenomena of victim and victimization are understood differently because of specifics in legal, cultural and historical perspectives. Due to which the comparison of victimization experience (as well as behavior of offenders) on the base of the official statistics is extremely hard. Some challenges and examples of such differences will be discussed.

Among them are the following: (1) differences in legal status of victim in different countries; (2) differences in victimological, sociological and legislative understanding of victims; (3) problems of realizing himself/herself as a victim (as well as abuser) in cases of violation of the fundamental human rights, regardless of its implementation in legislation (for instance, the problem of bullying, stalking, beating and so on). Some reasons and examples will be made.

One of the solutions in the globalized world becomes the current self-report delinquency research that will be conducted for the 3d time (ISR3D-3). Victimization experience of juveniles, along with other issues of offending and substance use in the mentioned social group, will be studied. Serbia is a participant of this research, as well as other countries of Western, Eastern Europe and Asia. Participation of countries from different parts of the world is very important in terms of globalization, migration and immigration of people from different societies. Peoples' migration and immigration sometimes causes special victimological and offending experiences that will be described briefly.

The main obtaining of the ISR3D-2 will be described, along with the main expectations of ISR3D-3 conducting in Serbia. Among the advantages of this research are the standardized questionnaire, unified way of survey conducting and many others that allow comparing victimization experience of juveniles.

### **Is restorative justice an appropriate response to sexual violence?**

***Dr Nadia Wager***

*Faculty of Health and Social Science, Department of Psychology*

*University of Bedfordshire, United Kingdom*

The applicability of restorative justice (RJ) to sexual offences is highly contested; with strong views being expressed in both support and opposition to the notion. However, there is a relative dearth of randomized-controlled studies investigating the experience and impact of RJ on victims of sexual violence. Consequently, it is unclear what evidence is used to support the different claims and it has been argued that the debate has proliferated within an 'empirical vacuum'. Thus, it was the intention of this scoping study to explore the arguments inherent in the debate and to examine the nature, validity and consistency of the evidence substantiating or refuting

the different sides of the arguments. The research question was to what extent RJ might meet the justice and recovery needs of victims of sexual assault; where sexual assault includes both childhood sexual abuse and adult sexual assault.

The method employed was Arksey and O'Malley's (2002) six stage framework since this involves the synthesis and analysis of both non-empirical literature and studies which employ diverse designs into the review process. The search terms used were: sexual assault or sexual abuse or sexual violence or sexual or gendered violence or child sexual abuse or serious violence or severe violence and restorative justice or conferencing or victim/offender mediation or victim offender dialogue. The following electronic databases were utilized in the search: SocIndex, Google Scholar, PsychInfo, Sage Criminology Collection, Psychological and Behavioural Sciences Collection, PubMed. No limits were placed on the search with regards to year of publication. However, the earliest paper identified was published in 1998 and the data collection was completed at the end of June 2012. The search was confined to articles/ reports etc. published in the English language. The reference lists of articles found were searched to identify other possible sources for inclusion. Initially, the reading of titles and abstracts identified 58 sources which were potentially suitable for inclusion; including books, news articles, peer-reviewed articles and un-published theses.

The findings offer direction for future research which in turn might aid the progression of the debate to a stage where practitioners will be able to utilize the empirical findings in formulating judgments as the real applicability of RJ to cases of sexual assault.

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## **Plenary session 4: Victims of domestic and sexual violence**

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### **Failure to provide child support as a form of economic abuse**

*Prof. dr Nevena Petrušić,  
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In the context of family law, economic abuse is one of the least studied forms of gender-based violence. In spite of the negative consequences it incurs, this form of violence is still on the margins of feminist research; it is hard to prevent, identify and sanction it. In this paper, the authors deal with the economic abuse against children which has a negative impact on the entire physical and mental development of the child but which also affects the parents (most frequently the mother who, after the termination of marriage, has a sole parental right). Although the parents are legally obliged to support their children, the cases of failing to perform this obligation are quite frequent, which may be substantiated by a large number of judicial proceedings for exercising the right of the child to receive child support. Studies have shown that these proceedings are extremely inefficient in spite of the proclaimed principle of urgency. During the alimony lawsuits, many children live in the conditions of utter misery, without being able to satisfy their most basic existential needs. Such circumstances are frequently accompanied by a sporadic application of provisional measures, which may ensure temporary protection and make provisions for satisfying the basic existential needs of the child. The difficulties are also apparent in the enforcement of judicial decisions on child support as well as in the course of

processing the criminal offences involving a failure to provide child support, which is prescribed in Article 195 of the Serbian Criminal Code.

In an attempt to get an insight into the efficiency and effectiveness of the judicial proceedings for the protection and exercise of the right of the child to legal support, in the course of 2012 the authors conducted a research aimed at exploring the judicial practice of the municipal courts in Vranje, Bujanovac and Bosilegrad, given the fact that these municipalities are located in one of the most underdeveloped Serbian regions. The research (organized by the Human Rights Committee and the S.O.S. Telephone in Vranje) included 60 child support lawsuits, 48 enforcement cases and 19 criminal cases processed in the course of the year 2010. The information was collected by using a questionnaire specifically developed for this purpose. In this article, the authors present and analyze the collected data which provide an insight into the key problems emerging in judicial practice in the course of resolving child support disputes, in the enforcement of judicial decisions on the awarded child support orders, as well as the processing of the criminal offence involving a failure to provide child support.

### **Victims of ‘private’ crimes and application of human rights in interpersonal relations**

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International human rights law has been challenged, theoretically and in practice, from a variety of contrasting perspectives. One of the most damning criticisms of international human rights norms and institutions is internal to the human rights paradigm; it targets the alleged inability of the international legal order to safeguard the rights and interests of the most vulnerable victims of violence and other abuses, in particular those of women and children, and in its most extreme variant calls for dismantling the entire human rights regime. However, whereas in real life these vulnerable victims are often marginalized and effectively left without adequate protection, this is not to be attributed to the absence of an appropriate normative framework but rather to the contempt, lack of enforcement and systemic neglect of their legitimate claims to protection and redress. While fully acknowledging the urgency of remedying to shortcomings of the current system, this paper proposes to find the ‘cure’ inside (rather than outside) international human rights law, relying on the emerging case law of international and regional human rights bodies, by strengthening the mechanisms that permit an horizontal application of human rights standards in relations between private actors.

The paper is divided in four sections. The first section describes the problematic at hand and the contemporary failure to redress the injustices experienced by vulnerable victims, focusing in particular on violence against women and children. The three subsequent sections then analyze in depth the diverse avenues open to victims in order to claim a ‘third-party’ application of human rights treaties against non-state actors who have violated their fundamental rights; hence, providing them with badly needed remedies against the abuses suffered. The second section examines the possibility of giving to international human rights law a direct effect in interpersonal conflicts before national courts, in line with the application of

constitutional norms in private law trials. The third section builds on the contemporary case law condemning states internationally for not protecting individuals against violations of their rights by private actors, emphasizing the indirect effect of international treaties on private relations. Finally, the fourth section studies the direct applicability of international human rights law to non-state actors in international or transnational forums and domestic trials based on universal jurisdiction.

### **Victim or perpetrator? A correlational study**

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Over the past few decades, research findings on gender violence have been inconclusive for gender symmetry or asymmetry prevalence. Several studies show that domestic violence is mainly bidirectional, while others claim that minor violence is symmetrical but more severe injuries are more likely to be perpetrated by male partners against women. Further, current results show that domestic violence is characterised by gender asymmetry and that is primarily committed by male perpetrators against female partners.

Some authors investigated the motivation behind violence and found that men tended to start violence while women use violence mainly in response to the violent behaviour of men.

A recent literature review summarizes some factors affecting the reporting of violence and show that there are specific-gender factors affecting both men's reporting men-to-women violence (blaming, need expression, fear of consequences and avoidance) and women's tendency to under report men-to-partner violence (excusing, normalizing, dependence and self-blaming).

On this background, our study investigates the relationship between indicators of suffered violence and acted violence and the relationship between coping strategies and frequency of suffered violence. In particular, our sample is composed of 60 victims of gender violence, the tools we used were CISS (Coping Inventory for Stressful Situations) and CTS2 (The Revised Conflict Tactics Scales), the statistical analyses conducted were confirmatory factor analysis with the covariance method MIMIC (Multiple Indicators and Multiple Causes) correlational analysis and binary logistic regression.



# THEMATIC SESSIONS

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## Thematic session 1: Child victims

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### Victims of bullying

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This paper will present the main facts about victims of school bullying, violence committed by minors/children against other juveniles. It will particularly point out the age of victims and perpetrators, who are mostly elementary school children, violent acts committed by groups of children and currently noticed increased brutality of these violent acts. In addition, cases that illustrate the appearance of regular cover-ups of violence by school authorities, and gender-differentiated roles of bullying victims will be presented.

Methodology of collecting analyzed data is based mostly on high quality media reports of the one year period in focus (July 2011 – July 2012) in Serbia. That methodology does not belong to already abandoned “elite criminological” analysis of the so-called big topics, but rather to the criminological analysis of ordinary, everyday crime types which prevail in the contemporary criminology.

Bullying has always been present in schools, but it is dangerous when it becomes more brutal and the victims were getting younger, what actually is the situation in Serbian schools, as currently reported by media. Generally speaking, there is an entire range of unacceptable behavior whose victims are children – threats, derogatory names, gossiping, and ignoring, belittling, sexual and physical violence, even the use of fire arms or other weapons and sometimes even leading to rape and eventually to suicide of victims. Particular attention is to be paid to continuous violence of a peer group against one child.

Revealed cases are only the tip of the iceberg and there are many undiscovered ones, because it always takes a time for a child victim to pluck up courage and dare to alert the ambience about what happened to her/him. Thus, abuse of children by other children at school might last for years and victims are mostly those helpless, disabled children, or younger children who are victims of older ones. Although both victims and perpetrators are children, the roles and responsibilities of adults are also to be presented. Family dysfunctions and lack of proper reaction of school authorities, which are detected in practical in all reported peer violence cases, are inevitable causal background of this phenomenon. The paper will include an analysis of the latest and most drastic cases of bullying, as well as the reactions of the public, the role of the media, the role of the police and other institutions.

The main goals of the paper are: to highlight this phenomenon and the roles of the main actors, because violence that occurs in childhood leaves long lasting and sometimes tragic consequences; to critically review the current effective (and ineffective) measures to prevent victimization by peer violence in schools; to identify what are the real preventive measures and possible sanctions to combat socially deviant and dangerous behavior of juveniles in school environment.

The paper will include the following topics: definition, types, and levels of brutality of bullying, participants in bullying events, who are the perpetrators, who are the bullied victims, who are the observers involved, the aspect of gender (in)equality, the usual place and time of the bullying events, duration, and the consequences; actions against the perpetrators, support measures for victims, the role of the family, the school authorities' role, the role of other responsible institutions, the role of the media.

### **The role and activity of the UN in the child protection in contemporary armed conflicts**

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Children are always at least collateral victims of armed conflicts. Contemporary armed conflicts are characterized by high percentage of civilian victims, mostly women and children, and the “existence” of child in such circumstances is very complex. The effect of the hostilities is not only current and visible “damage” on children; it includes the prism of far-reaching manifestations on their life and psychological development, their stability, welfare and the sense of security. Children are being molested, abused, murdered, displaced, and unfortunately too often used as an instrument of warfare. They are suitable for manipulation, forcibly separated from the families, “disorientated” because of their youth and vulnerability, they live in fear of despairing and very easily become crime perpetrators. Taking into account the number of conflicts and far-reaching influence of war destruction on children, it seems necessary to recognize achievements toward their protection as significant and important.

The subject of this work is the research of the UN activities on the matter of general security and child protection in contemporary armed conflicts. These issues had been examined by the United Nations in several occasions during last decade: at the General Assembly, Security Council, in various reports of the Secretary General. These documents demand for the respect of the obligation under the international humanitarian law, especially the respect of the 1949 Geneva conventions and its Additional protocols I and II, as well as for the respect of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol on the Rights of the Child in regard the involvement of children in armed conflict. Because of the feature, but also the expansion of the problem, the role of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict was established, as well as the Security Council Working group on children in armed conflicts with the purpose to observe and analyze the situation in different parts of the world. Its main mission is to create reports as the triggers for the Security Council action, by making influence on the parties in the conflict to protect children from the impact of hostilities in accordance to relevant international documents.

The objective of this paper is to specify that the total of eight adopted Security Council’s resolutions (from 1999 to 2011) and fifteen adopted General Assembly resolutions (from 1997 to 2012) undoubtedly indicate the importance of the children protection in the situations of armed conflicts. The system of observing and reporting indicated to some frequent, repetitive, and also sever violations of the children rights and integrity during armed conflicts (for example, killing and mutilating children,

recruiting and abusing child soldier, raping and other sexually related abusing, kidnapping, military attacks on schools and hospitals, etc.).

Unfortunately, the newest resolutions of the Security Council and the Reports of the Secretary General and its Special Representative on children in armed conflicts keep continuing deep concern about the current status of children in armed conflicts.

### **Children involved in the life and work on the streets as victims of exploitation and abuse**

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“Street child” is any boy or girl under the age of 18 for whom the street has become a predominant source of income and that is not adequately protected or supervised by an adult mature person. For children and young people who live or stay on the streets different terms are used in Serbia: “socially unadjusted”, “educationally neglected” or “educationally vulnerable”, “child beggars”, children with “asocial” or “antisocial behavior”. These terms indicate different approaches of the society to the phenomenon, the diversity of the causes and manifestations. Since recently, there has been a new term in use – “children on the move” – which also includes the children involved in the life and work on the streets. Taking into account the terminological inconsistency in this area, for this study the term “children involved in life or work on the street” will be used, while stressing the need for clear terminology of the observed phenomenon, as well as clear definition and differentiation of the terms “a child on the street” and “a child from the street.” Noting the importance of the topic of this paper the author gives an overview of relevant research in this area in the Republic of Serbia, the available data on children involved in the life or work on the streets, and emphasizes the risk factors that contribute to involving a child in the life and work on the street and becoming a victim of abuse and exploitation.

Based on the analysis of the current situation, the main goal of the paper is to indicate the areas for priority action and the necessity for a systemic response to this phenomenon. In this sense, the author specifically points to the need of: development and implementation of comprehensive prevention measures; decrease of poverty; more efficient operation of the system of protection of children involved in the life or work on the streets from exploitation and abuse; improving the legislative framework; development of higher level of responsibility for this topic of the relevant actors; promotion of cooperation at all levels (local, national, regional and international); ongoing monitoring of this phenomenon and evaluation of the results; development of educational and information programs, as well as the application of holistic principle and continuous development of the capacities of all actors who are authorized for the protection of children involved in life and work on the streets from exploitation and abuse.

## **Family cohesion as a factor in adolescents' susceptibility to vandalism**

***Bejan Šaćiri***

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Cohesiveness is defined as the emotional bond between family members and can be expressed in four level ranging: disengaged (very low), separated (low to moderate), connected (moderate to high) and enmeshed (very high). Medium level of cohesion is optimal for family functioning. When the level of cohesion is too high there is too much consensus within the family and too little independence, while when there is low cohesion, the situation is reversed. Family relationships that are characterized by low cohesion can affect the appearance of various forms of adolescent deviance. One form of deviance, which may be caused by the family dysfunction and poor and unstable emotional connections is vandalistic behavior. Vandalism is malicious and unlawful destruction, pollution or damaging of someone else's material or intellectual property without the intent to gain direct material gain for one own self or for others. The purpose of this study was to examine the extent to which family cohesion influences the susceptibility to vandalism in adolescents. We used two questionnaires in the research: the scale of cohesion and the scale of propensity to vandalism. The second scale examined various forms of vandalism: classic, aesthetic, ecological, cultural, and cyber vandalism. There were 100 respondents - high school pupils from Belgrade. The assumption was that respondents who perceived their families as less cohesive have a higher score on the scale of propensity to vandalism. In addition, one hypothesis was that there would be differences in susceptibility to vandalism between girls and boys.

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## **Thematic session 2: Women and children as victims of violence: relation between victimization and criminalization**

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### **Sex and Gender Characteristics in Criminal Law Norms**

***Doc. dr Marissabell Škorić***

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The paper deals with the issue of whether the norms of criminal law make a distinction between male and female sex with regard to the perpetrator of the criminal offence as well as with regard to the victim of the criminal offence and also the issue of whether male or female sex or gender have any role in the criminal law. Taking this objective as a departure point, we analyzed the provisions of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Croatia, while in order to answer the question of whether there are specificities between male and female crime, we used statistical indicators on the total crime in the Republic of Croatia and the relation between male and female perpetrators of criminal offences. The statistical data reveal the fact that 90 percent of

the total crime was averagely committed by men, thus, men commit a far greater number of offences than women. Apart from this, women and men also differ according to the type of the criminal offence they tend to commit. Women as perpetrators of criminal offences that involve the element of violence are very rare. At the same time, women are very often victims of violent offences, particularly domestic violence and rape, so that these offences are specifically analyzed.

In conclusion we point out that norms of the criminal law do not make a distinction between the legal status of women and men, neither with regard to the perpetrator of the criminal offence nor with regard to the victim of the criminal offence. This means that perpetrators of all criminal offences (apart from infanticide), as well as victims, can be of both sexes. But, although the norms of the criminal law are neutral regarding the sex of a person, they are not insensitive regarding the gender of a person. Significant steps forward have been made at the normative level regarding the protection of victims and the empowerment of their role in the criminal procedure. In the last twenty years, the formulations of sexual crimes have undergone numerous changes and they are still in the focus of the professional public. The judgments of the European Court of Human rights, as well as a number of international instruments, require constant approximation of the legal system regarding this matter. A significant improvement has also been made in the matter of resolving domestic violence as well as creating conditions for its prevention. The necessity to provide additional protection for the victims of violence is the reason for adopting specific laws and regulations in this area and prescribing a number of measures that directly or indirectly protect the victims of violence.

Despite the existence of a corresponding legal framework, gender stereotypes can still be observed in practice when sexual crimes are in question so that we can witness domestic violence on a daily basis. All of this leads to the conclusion that it is necessary to make further efforts in developing the awareness that particular forms of behavior are unacceptable, also to ensure conditions for the enforcement of existing provisions on the protection of violence victims, as well as to establish the system in which those in charge for its implementation can be held accountable for their failures.

### **Women-victims of violence as perpetrators of criminal offences against life and limb**

*Dragana Grabovica,*

*Ivana Savić*

*Protector of the Citizens, Serbia*

According to the statistical data of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia on domestic/partner violence as well as according to the data obtained through the research conducted in this field, an increased number of the reported cases of domestic/partner violence and of the initiated procedures for the protection from domestic violence have been noticed during the last decade in Serbia. Studies indicate that the increased number of reported cases do not necessarily reflect an increase in the rate of violence, rather strengthening of the social awareness on necessity of addressing this issue. Protector of the Citizens of the Republic of Serbia, within its jurisdiction, undertakes activities aimed at protection and improvement of women's rights, including women-victims of domestic/partner violence. It has been noticed that

the existing legislative framework is not efficiently implemented in practice. This conclusion arose as a result of the analysis of the legal framework for the protection of women against violence and activities of public authorities in the process of protecting women against violence, as well as through discussions with female convicts who are serving long term prison sentences for homicide or other crimes committed against their partners. Especially significant seems to be the question of applying mitigating circumstances in criminal proceedings in case in which a woman is a victim of a long-term violence, but also a perpetrator of a crime against life and limb against her partner. Therefore, the subject of this paper is certain provisions of the family and criminal law, as well as certain norms that refer to crimes against life and limb, and certain criminal legal institutes. The overall objective of the work is to indicate and analyze the legislative framework of the Republic of Serbia in the domain of protection of victims of family and partner violence, especially in the case in which a victim is at the same time a party to the commission of the offence against life and limb. Additionally, the specific objective is to analyze basic challenges and obstacles to an effective protection from violence, improvement of victims' position and their protection within institutions.

### **Distinctive review of women and children as crime victims**

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*Basic Court in Novi Sad, Serbia*

The purpose of this discussion is to raise the question why do the victims become perpetrators, and up to what extent will the society turn their heads away from this vicious circle in which the abused becomes an abuser. If the authorized institutions were involved in resolving this problem more seriously and systematically, the extent of crime rate as well as the extent of human suffering would definitely be by far lesser.

In legal practice women who have murdered their abusers are treated as offenders who commit some of the most serious criminal offences. They are accused, charged and convicted to a long-term imprisonment. It is true that life is the most important protective object in criminal legislation (and not only from legal point of view, but also from moral and social points of view), which is properly sanctioned by the legislator. However, in previously mentioned cases, both legislator and the institutions publicly admit that the victim is actually a violent person, i.e. the abuser who has been committing criminal offences for, very often, longer period of time, even for years or decades. Nevertheless, that kind of perpetrator has not been prosecuted, while that form of criminal offence is overlooked, and if his victim in her suffering crosses the line of tolerance and reacts in a way that opposes her abuser, instead of a victim, she becomes a perpetrator of the criminal offence by killing her abuser, and abuser gets the status of a victim.

One may say that the woman had been guaranteed protection in the form of criminal offence "Domestic violence" whilst being abused, but very few people takes into consideration that this is relatively new criminal offence; hence, someone who has been suffering from the abuse for several decades did not have that kind of protection. In addition to this, abusers do not act in public; therefore, it is very difficult to prove their behavior which as a consequence has a fact that a woman in a courtroom stays alone. In case that some other citizens notice that criminal offence is

in progress, they do not want to interfere because of their fear from abuser's reprisal, since the police normally responds to a call by establishing the disturbance, warning the abuser and closing the case. Only after the woman murders her abuser, unable to face with humiliations, physical, psychological and sexual terror any more, institutions are included: the trial starts, everything comes to the surface, but it is too late for her at that point.

Apart from abusing women who oppose their abusers another major problem is child abuse, particularly in terms of sexual abuse. Little boy A.R. (6 years of age) was both sexually and physically abused by two juveniles (17 years of age) in his mother's and stepfather's house. That was recorded by mobile phone by his stepfather's son (19 years of age) and the recorded material was distributed to other people. Police managed to recollect only one recording which is by itself horrifying but the rest of it was destroyed. After initiating criminal persecution, little A.R. has been taken to a Safe House together with his mother. Two weeks later he was moved to his grandparents along with his mother (these were his mother's parents). During the first criminal trial, his mother brought him back to his stepfather's home, to the same surroundings where he was initially molested. In addition to this, Court of Appeal in Novi Sad revoked the verdict delivered by the Basic Court in order to establish whether the defendant was mature enough (younger adult) at the time when the criminal offence was committed.

And what about little A.R.? The child that has barely started living still stays surrounded by his abusers who have not even been sanctioned yet. At that point the saying "Abused becomes the abuser" gets its full meaning. And the circle continues.

These victims necessarily deserve attention of all the institutions, and especially of victimology.

### **Socio-anthropologic and demographic aspects of infanticide practice and its victims**

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***MSc Ana Bilinović***

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This paper will discuss the socio-anthropologic and demographic aspects of the practice of infanticide and the structural characteristics of infants as victims of this crime. The paper will be based on the existing theoretic and empirical sources in the field of anthropology, ethnology, demography and comparative criminology as disciplines that deal with this phenomenon. Based on the exact examples of the historical forms of infanticide with regard to the dimension of victim, we will discuss its function in the pre-industrial societies, as well as in some societies with simple social structure that exist nowadays: on the example of Australian Aborigines we will discuss the function of population control and infanticide of twins, function of maintaining the genetic health of the community and infanticide of infants with physical deformities, and the function of regulating the relations in the age and sex structure on the examples of infanticide in Japan and India. In the last part of the paper, the conclusions reached by existing empirical research (studies of fertility, study of albinism, population censuses) will be presented, based on the two models

that stood out: 1. socio-biologism and the practice of infanticide as a model of selective removal made by conscious intent and 2. malthusian model of infanticide as a cultural construct and mechanism of population control in various stages of socio-economic development.

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### **Thematic session 3: Online victimization and abuse of other technical achievements**

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#### **Social networks as a means of sexual harassment of female juveniles**

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Under conditions of rapid technological development virtual space becomes a convenient means and place of perpetuation of various criminal behaviors. Information and technological literacy of young people and their virtual lives on social networks, with minimal possibilities for protection, lead to the risk of their victimization by various forms of violence in the virtual world, which consequences are often manifested in real-life circumstances. Accordingly, the subject of the paper is sexual harassment of female juveniles on social networks. The paper aims to present the results of the survey on sexual harassment of female juveniles on social networks conducted by the authoress of the paper. The survey was conducted from February to May 2012, using qualitative methodology, with data collected by focus group interviews of 20 female juveniles between the ages of 14 and 17 and individual interviews with their parents. In the first part of the paper the main methodological characteristics of the survey will be presented. This will be followed by presenting the results related to the forms and dynamics of sexual harassment of female juveniles, as well as the characteristics of victims and virtual sex perpetrators. At the very least, throughout an analyses of experiences of female respondents and their parents, the consequences this, in many aspects specific form of victimization, have left on the mental and social life of female juveniles and their families, will be pointed to.

#### **Online victimization: cyber stalking**

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Global social networks contributed to the creation of new, sophisticated, inconspicuous, technically perfect shape of criminality which is hard to resist because of its “invisibility” and “intangibility”. There are many reasons why social networks are great hiding place for the perpetrators of this kind of crime and troubled ground for protection of victims: extremely large number of users, data availability, openness in communication and lack of legislation at national and international level. Online communication connects people around the world – in this way the world is able to visualize the connections between individuals, but at the same time opening the space for its misuse. The most common forms of virtual communications’ abuse are: cyber stalking and harassment, identity theft, online fraud, manipulation and misuse of



personal information and personal photos, monitoring e-mail accounts and spamming, interception and recording of chat rooms.

Cyber stalking is defined as persistent and targeted harassment of an individual by using electronic communication. This behavior can be purely “virtual” and restricted to online communication environment, but it can also be transferred from the “virtual” into the “real” world presenting an introduction to the most dangerous forms of victimization. Similar as real stalkers, cyber stalkers are trying to oversee the activities of the victim, to find more information about the victim, to contact persons closely related to the victim, to have unauthorized access to victims’ emails and to follow the victims’ online activities. The victim becomes insecure, frightened, intimidated and does not figure out the best reaction which will terminate the harassment. Online victimization is an expression of “moral panic” in society, which results in fear from the strangers.

The aim of this paper is to emphasize the importance and necessity of studying cyber stalking, and to point out to its forms and most common victims. Basic topics that will be analyzed in this paper are: the definition of online harassment, characteristics of victims and determination of online victimization factors, possible methods for apprehending the perpetrator and for identifying and locating victims in order to review the scope and frequency of online stalking, as well as the ways of preventing cyber stalking.

### **Victims of computer-financial crime**

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*MPhil Marijana Blaževska*

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Computer-crime in recent years has increasingly new appearing forms, and one of that forms is a computer-financial crime, or making and using false payment cards. In the Macedonian Criminal Code of 2009, in chapter 25 called “Offences against public financing, payment and economy”, a new incrimination was introduced called “Making and using of fraudulent payment cards”. Criminal cases with the elements of this offence in the Republic of Macedonia have been discovered and the police had acted even before, but criminal charges were filed for other criminal acts that have similar characteristics. It is about financial crime, but this act is situate among the group of computer crime because in committing the criminal act computer-devices that enable providing the data from computer system, making fraudulent payment cards and their use for extracting money from an ATM or for the payment in the shops are used. The main aim of the criminals is to extract the money from other people’s bank accounts, targeting the amounts in a bank account, regardless of who the owner of the account is. Victims of this crime are all natural and legal persons who have bank accounts. Whether the victim contributes to be a victim of this crime with having money in his/her account or banks have a weak banking mechanisms of data protection? The fact is that both of these moments are exploited by skilled criminals of computer crime and draw people’s money using fraudulent payment cards. Computer-financial crime is a crime of recent date, which already has an international character, so that the criminals are organized in planning and committing of criminal offence “making and using of false payment cards”, while their goal is to extract more money from the bank accounts. These criminals have no interest for the

victim as a “person” or “firm”, they are interested only in money. Position of the victim of this crime is the same as the position of victims of the other property crimes: what the police locate and deduct, it can be returned to a victim. A new concept of the criminal investigation, which includes the financial investigation, with the use of the measure of extended confiscation allows for the investigators to locate and secure the money gained by the offense not only by direct perpetrators, but also by organizers and associates. The subject of this paper is the analysis of the certain cases from the police and the judicial practice in the period of 2010-2011, particularly focusing on the method of selecting victims, as well as on the position of the victim in the criminal proceedings, particularly from the point of view of victim’s redress. The method of case study, statistical method and comparative method are used.

### **Fixed identity of the victim – destiny or a choice?**

*Doc. dr Dragana Batić*

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Accidents are part of life for all people and the reactions they provoke may be: sadness, fear, despair, anger. People often find themselves in the position of victims affected by disasters that usually occur suddenly and unexpectedly. They can occur at the individual level (the death of the beloved one, illness, violence) or at the community level (wars, refugee, natural disasters of devastating levels).

Results from practice and research have shown that in similar situations different people react differently, depending on their personal characteristics and family history. Inadequate coping strategies can lead to “learned helplessness”, which in turn, leads to a fixed identity of the victim. The aim of this paper is to highlight the factors that lead to the fixed identity of the victim, as well as the key factors that would prevent this phenomenon.

In contrast to fixed identity of the victim is resilience as the ability to control stress and hardship. This means that there is a relatively good outcome despite the fact that the individuals are in situations that carry a high risk for the development of any psychopathology. The focus is on the relative resistance to the experience one has in psycho-social risk. The concept of resilience is the concept of positive psychology, which opposes the deterministic concepts that rely on pessimistic conception of human nature. In this view, stressful events lead to lasting determination of the identity of an individual, usually leaving a lasting impact on a person, which results in them being labeled as people that were victims of a stressful event.

Our point of view is that identity can not be fixed by stressful circumstances influencing the victim. This means that one’s various occurrences do not represent the person; they are not one’s identity. In an adequately incitement environment, all people have the capacity for positive change, even when they would find themselves in the position of victim. Psychosocial interventions and psychotherapy contribute to overcoming the trauma and the development of resilience.

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## **Thematic session 4: Victims of different forms of victimization**

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### **Persons with disabilities as victims of discrimination in the field of employment – current situation and perspectives**

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Persons with disabilities are entitled to all rights that are guaranteed to all human beings by general international legal acts. As far as the right to work is one of the basic human rights, it also belongs to people with disabilities, and the state and society are obliged to make the field of labor opened, accessible to and fair for all. However, discrimination based on disability is a complex phenomenon that exists in all spheres of social life, especially in the field of labor. The reasons for this are numerous: living conditions, social and economic policies of different times, but also many social factors such as ignorance, carelessness, neglect, fear and prejudices. Therefore, on both international and national level various documents that contain provisions prohibiting discrimination against persons with disabilities have been adopted, providing a legal framework for their employment. Accordingly, the Serbian national legislation was significantly harmonized with the standards of the international community and the European Union in this field; thus, it opened the way for more effective protection of persons with disabilities. However, one of the main problems is the application of the laws in practice. Hence, the employment rate of persons with disabilities is very low: only some 13% of persons with disabilities are employed, out of which 10% are employed in the non-government sector (mostly in organizations of persons with disabilities) and only 1% in the commercial and public sectors. Consequently, a large number of these people live below or near the edge of poverty, in addition to facing a variety of physical and social barriers, so discrimination continues to exist even after the adoption of relevant laws. The lack of official records on the number of persons with disabilities in Serbia results in the fact that it is very hard to identify the indicators on the state of affairs of unemployment and other facts related to work and employment of persons with disabilities. Therefore, in this paper we used the data of the National Employment Agency, the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, as well as some research conducted primarily by various non-governmental organizations dealing with the protection of this group of people. Special attention is paid to people with disabilities as victims of discrimination in respect to employment and the factors that contribute to this problem. We tried to review all relevant documents of international and domestic law, to point out to some of their shortcomings and to propose certain amendments to existing legislation *de lege ferenda*. Keeping above mentioned in mind, in the conclusion we will recommend some practical measures for the reduction of discrimination of people with disabilities in the field of labor and employment.

## **Environmental criminal offences – victimless crimes?**

***Dr Ana Batrićević***

*Institute of criminological and sociological research, Belgrade, Serbia*

Environmental criminal offences (such as pollution of environment, poaching, illegal fishing and illegal logging) represent the most serious forms of harming and threatening of the environment or its integral parts (soil, air, water, flora and fauna). These criminal offences are becoming a global phenomenon, rapid expansion of which has been confirmed in numerous researches conducted by eminent national and international organizations and individual experts in the field of environmental protection. It has also been proven that criminal offences directed against environment carry a far more serious level of social hazard than one might conclude at first glance. They often appear as parts of the web of organized transnational criminality and are closely connected with the commission of criminal offences against life and bodily integrity, corruption, tax evasion and discrimination. However, the fact that neither in theory nor in practice has the consensus been achieved on the nature of the subject these incriminations are intended to protect, imposes a question: “Who can be considered as the victim (whether direct or indirect) of ecological criminal offences – an individual whose right of healthy living environment is violated, social groups that are most exposed to negative impacts of these criminal offences, society as a whole, the entire humankind, including not only present but future generations as well or environment, i.e. its components as values per se?” Perceiving environmental criminal offences as victimless crimes might diminish the importance they have in the eyes of public and, at the same time, it threatens to narrow the circle of subjects who might be interested to unveil, prove, prevent, suppress and impose punishments for these criminal offences. That is the reason why the author of this paper discusses, as key topic, the sustainability of the scope and the contents of the traditional, anthropocentrically defined term of victim in the context of fundamental postulates of contemporary ethics based upon biocentrism. The author emphasizes the growing influence of biocentrism on the formulation of predominant standpoints in criminal law, criminology and victimology. After that, attempting to answer the question whether environmental criminal offences represent victimless crimes, she analyzes the term of victimless crimes and its sustainability in general and particularly in the context of ecological crime. Finally, the author focuses on the characteristics of social values that are protected by environmental criminal offences in order to determine their direct or indirect victims and how to recognize and protect them in the most efficient way.

## **Factors that influence human trafficking and the connection between victimization and criminalization**

***Mr Marija Kuzmanović***

*Penitentiary Institution in Sremska Mitrovica, Serbia*

Trafficking in human beings as a form of criminal behavior is a serious and complex social problem; it has existed for ages but it was actualized only in 1990s. It is estimated that criminals earn about \$ 6.75 billions per year by smuggling migrants and, according to the data of the US Department of State (2012), even 27 million of men, women and children all over the world are victimized.

The subject of this paper are perpetrators of trafficking in human beings as an organized criminal activity, and the aim is to present some of the researches that deal with traffickers and factors that contribute to the commitment of this crime, with special emphasize on the connection between victimization and the commitment of this criminal offence.

Trafficking in human beings was operationalized by the definition given in the UN Convention from 2000, which was implemented in the Criminal Code of the Republic of Serbia in 2005. This paper will present analysis of relevant concepts, as well as analysis of the factors that have an impact on the commitment of the criminal offence of trafficking, which presents both a form of crime and victimization in which etiology almost all macro and micro criminogenic and victimogenic factors are interconnected.

Relatively small number of surveys on traffickers and trafficking as an organized criminal activity has been implemented worldwide before 2011. Significantly larger number of researches dealt with trafficking victims, whose victimization and criminalization is explained by “push” and “pull” factors that exist in countries of origin and destination. The researches suggest that women and children are mainly exposed to trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

In Serbia, the so far research on trafficking in women, children and men were mainly conducted with the aim to gain a knowledge about the phenomenon itself, number of victimized persons, violence against women in the period of transition, and the position of Serbia on the trafficking routes. Researches about the characteristics of traffickers and organized criminal groups point out to the factors of criminalization, gender of perpetrators, their ethnicity, age, level of education, profession and position in the criminal organization.

### **Who are the victims of reformed judicial system?**

***Olivera Kuljić***

*Basic court, Zrenjanin, Serbia*

Three years ago there was a reform of judicial system in the Republic of Serbia. How and why? It was rashly, arbitrarily and without any public debate. The victims of these reforms should be brought to light. Are they „the old ones“, i.e. those who have successfully survived the reform, or the „new ones“, i.e. those who, as it has been announced, are returning to work after a traumatic dismissal? What will be the relation between „the old“ and „the new“ judges and prosecutors? Who is responsible

for the constructed division between victims and executioners in judicial system? How to compensate the casualties of reform financially and morally? This is only a part of the questions of how political revenge reflects in the judicial system after the change of the government. Is it possible to trace the victims in this process, or are we all victims? I will talk about this problem on the basis of different concrete cases in the Basic court in Zrenjanin. It is about the returning colleagues - judges who have been returning to work in the last month.

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## **Thematic session 5: Victims, institutions and NGO**

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### **Persons deprived of liberty – potential victims of the system due to the violation of the right to health care in the Republic of Serbia (The European Court of Human Rights practice)**

*Mr Dragan Obradović*

*Law center for children and juveniles Valjevo, Serbia*

The subject of this paper is a specific form of protection of persons deprived of liberty - their exercise of the right to health care in the conditions of isolation. A person may be deprived of liberty in different types of court proceedings – procedure for misdemeanors, criminal procedure. After being sentenced to imprisonment by the irrevocable verdict, enforcement of the prison sentence in the institutions for serving imprisonment in Serbia becomes relevant. One of the basic human rights that belong to all categories of persons deprived of liberty is the right to health care.

The aim of the paper is to introduce professional public to the way relevant officials are behaving towards persons deprived of liberty in various stages of the procedure and enabling this category of persons to realize the right to health care in the conditions of isolation. When it comes to the field of the right to health care of the persons deprived of liberty, it seems to be important to introduce the scientific community to the extent of violation and denial of this basic human right. In this regard, recent practice of the European Court of Human Rights is very important, particularly in terms of the decisions made in regard to the Republic of Serbia.

Basic topics to be covered in the presentation include: an overview of the existing legislation of the Republic of Serbia in regard to the possibility of depriving certain categories of persons of liberty, overview of the most important international regulations relating to persons deprived of their liberty, and overview of some judgments of the European Court of Human rights relating to certain categories of persons deprived of their freedom and violations of their right to health care. We will particularly point out to the previous case law of the European Court of Human Rights in relation to Serbia. It is important to determine whether the detainees are victims of a system in terms of realizing the right to health care in the conditions of isolation in Serbia. In addition, we will point out to the major problems that burden the efficiency of the competent state bodies in respect to the exercise of the right to health care of persons deprived of liberty - the national courts and institutions where persons deprived of their liberty are accommodated, and we will give some proposals and conclusion.

## **How we provided support to battered women who committed crime?**

***Jasmina Nikolić***

*Victimology Society of Serbia*

The aim of this presentation will be the introduction of victim support provided by the Victimology Society of Serbia to battered women who are incarcerated. Victim support was provided within the project *Promoting respect for human rights of women in prison – Advocacy for battered women who commit crime*.

Support to incarcerated women was provided through direct conversation in the prison premises, by phone and through letters. Following forms of support were provided to female prisoners: emotional support, information on their rights, legal aid, assistance in adjusting to life in prison, and preparation for the release from prison.

During the process of providing support to these women, we realized how important it is to empower them and raise their self-confidence in order for them to be able to bear the long prison sentences and other problems and challenges they encounter during trial, life in prison and after being released.

In the presentation I will introduce: the project entitled *Promoting respect for human rights of women in prison Advocacy for battered women who commit crime*; analyses of support provided for incarcerated women, with special reference to the women who committed a criminal offence of domestic violence or they murdered a spouse, the link between victimization and criminalization, and a case study of one battered woman who committed a crime, and who has been supported and followed up on by the Victimology Society of Serbia since she was in custody in the District prison in Belgrade in 2000.

From the conversations with these women we have learnt their life stories and dramas that are happening right before our eyes, across Serbia, both in large cities and in the countryside. Unfortunately, in most of these cases there has been a complete absence of social response. In my presentation, through the analysis of support we have provided to these women, I will try to draw attention to the problems these women are facing with during their time in prison, but also to the problems that had contributed to the commitment of a crime. The analysis will be illustrated by an authentic life story of one of the prisoners.

## **Institutional protection of human rights in cases of overstepping the authorities by police**

***Doc. dr Tatjana Gerginova***

*Faculty of Security, Skopje, Republic of Macedonia*

The main goal of any modern democratic state in achieving the protection of human rights and freedoms should be the establishment, strengthening and promotion of independent national institutions in the field of human rights and rule of law. Every democratic country, including the Republic of Macedonia should strengthen democracy as the only system of government, where protection and promotion of human rights are first obligation of the government and their observance is an important for the protection from the organs of coercion in the illegal use of power. In addition, their enjoyment and full realization are the foundation of freedom, justice

and peace. The basis of democracy makes respect for human personality and the rule of law.

Within this paper I will analyze the need of establishing institutional protection of human rights in Macedonia. The process of assessing the situation and needs of the legislative and institutional mechanisms established in the country, and investigations of alleged cases of abuse of power by police and other authorities responsible for enforcement, with special emphasis on those cases that resulted in serious violation of human rights, show that there is compatibility of national legal and institutional system with the requirements of the European Convention on Human Rights, its case law and other applicable international standards. A proposal which includes the adoption of legislation to establish a complete, comprehensive and consistent system of external control of police and other agencies with police power and covers interventions in the Criminal Procedure and Law on Internal Affairs, as well as changes in national laws institutions responsible for control over the police: the Public Prosecutor, the Ombudsman, courts, etc, was adopted.

There is a basic assumption that citizens have confidence in state institutions and system and therefore they do not want to initiate proceedings for prosecution of police officers. The severity of this phenomenon is even greater if we consider that even for the media exposed cases of police abuse and torture citizens do not want to complain and thus seek to adequately investigate their findings on infringement of rights in police procedure. It is necessary to establish a mixed secondary external control system which will bring together representatives of the citizens in cases when there is excess of force and police torture, and to establish a special unit of police abuse and torture within the Public Prosecution.

Together with international instruments and national legislation, inseparable element of the system of promotion and protection of human rights are non-governmental organizations. In his work, non-governmental organizations use different methods and strategies. Among the most common are the following: conduct their own investigations of violations of human rights in specific cases; analysis of realizing human rights in individual countries, regions and situations, compiling reports and their submission to national or international forums; presence of separate trials; legal and material assistance to victims of violations of human rights; submitting complaints to the national and the international institutions protecting human rights, organizing public discussions sway public opinion in order to increase the vulnerability of society on issues of respect for human rights and many other methods and techniques.

### **NGOs protection of crime victims in the Republic of Macedonia**

*Doc. dr Vesna Stefanovska,*

*Mr Nataša Jovanova*

*Faculty of Security, Skoplje, Republic of Macedonia*

The paper elaborates the role, position and development of NGOs in the Republic of Macedonia, which provide directly or indirectly appropriate support and assistance to victims of crime. Thereby, in this paper we will particularly elaborate on the specific field of interest of NGOs for providing certain protection to crime victims, their organizational structure, types of services they offer, and their financial and human



capacities and resources. The scan and the analysis of NGO sector regarding above mentioned issues identify advantages and disadvantages they face with.

The goal of this paper is to estimate the impact of the civil society sector on the improvement of the position of crime victims and to acknowledge and recognize its complementary role to the existing public services and institution that provide victim support services. In addition, the analysis of the quality and effectiveness of provided services to the crime victims, together with analysis of the number and types of crime victims, can point out to certain indicators for the dark figure of victimization, as well as for victims' confidence in public institutions related to their satisfaction in terms of how their needs are meet. It will provide recommendations for further development of the civil society capacities aimed to improve the position of the crime victims.

In order to determine the role of the civil society in the area of improving the position of the victim, a survey that included certain NGOs as a target group that provides specific assistance and support to victims of crimes has been conducted. Survey sample encompassed thirty NGOs acting in the territory of the Republic of Macedonia and the data were gathered through interviews using a structured questionnaire comprising open and closed questions.

Existing findings show that in the of Republic of Macedonia, most of the NGOs have special field of interest in delivering services to children and women as vulnerable victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and trafficking in human beings.

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## **Thematic session 6: Victimogenic and criminogenic factors and prevention of victimization**

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### **The importance of identifying repeat victimization for crime prevention**

*Dr Danica Vasiljević-Prodanović*

*Faculty for special education and rehabilitation, University of Belgrade, Serbia*

Research has shown that small percentage of victimized people experience relatively large number of all crimes. Some findings indicate that 40 to 60% of all sexual incidents are repeated crimes against the same women. Repeat victimization occurs relatively soon after the initial victimization. Greatest probability of repeat victimization is during the first weeks after previous incident. In other words, victimization is a good predictor of repeat victimization. Therefore, it makes sense to focus preventive efforts to victims of crime. Identifying persons and places that are likely to suffer victimization means that we know where and when crime may happen. However, the police usually do not pay enough attention to cases of repeat victimization. The main reason for this is that the police are primarily focused on perpetrators rather than the victims of crime. Arresting and processing of perpetrators is considered the primary means of crime prevention. The other important reason for neglecting the significance of repeat victimization, arising from the previous, lays in the methodology of recording crime. It is the fact that official crime recording systems lack information on victims and are inadequate in identifying repeated victimization. Inaccurate and incomplete data entry makes difficult data processing and detecting locations of previous victimization. Due to lack of information on victims, police treat repeat victimization as independent incident. It is similar with judicial statistics on

crime. It is well known that information on victims of crime have only been recently included in domestic judicial statistics. Improvement of computer programs and data entry procedures can increase reliability in locating repeat victimization. The aim of this paper is to stress the importance of identifying repeat victimization for crime prevention. Victim oriented crime prevention could be the adequate means of crime reduction, as well as efficient manner of targeting the needs of those repeatedly victimized. To achieve this it is necessary to change the way criminal system treat victims of crime and improve the mechanisms for recording repeat victimization.

### **Alcoholism as criminogenic and victimogenic factor**

***Mario Stanojević***

*Volunteer of the Victimology Society of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia*

***Bejan Šaćiri***

*Victimology Society of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia*

Alcoholism represents a complex phenomenon which can be observed from different perspectives. Above all, its medical, psychological and sociological aspects have been examined. On the other hand, plenty of research points at the correlation between alcoholism and criminal behavior, which supports the claim that it is essential to study its criminological and victimological aspect as well.

The aim of this paper is to show the results of the relevant studies examining the correlation between alcoholism and certain types of criminal acts. An extensive definition of alcoholism has been applied in this paper, defining it as every use of alcoholic drinks causing detrimental effects to an individual, society or both.

Relevant research shows that alcoholism is present as an influential factor at various types of criminal acts including domestic violence, murders, sexual offences and traffic offences as well. Thus, the results of the research into the correlation between alcoholism and certain types of criminal acts provide an insight into the nature of alcoholism as a criminogenic and victimogenic factor in certain types of criminal acts, which supports the thesis that we need greater number of papers investigating its criminological and victimological aspect, both through theoretical and empirical research.

### **Exposure to abuse as a factor of adaptive functioning in children with mild intellectual disability**

***Prof. dr Milica Gligorović,***

***Mr Nataša Buha***

*Faculty for special education and rehabilitation, University of Belgrade, Serbia*

Children with disabilities are under greater risk of victimization and re-victimization compared to typically developed children. Having in mind that early childhood abuse represents potential risk factor for developing challenging behavior during late childhood, adolescence and adult period, this research was conducted with the aim to determine the relationship between exposure to abuse and adaptive functioning in children with mild intellectual disability.

The sample consists of 40 children with mild intellectual disability (13 children with confirmed presence of abuse and 27 children not being exposed to abuse), of both gender, aged between 10 and 14. Inclusion criteria were as follows: non-specific intellectual disability, no medical history of neurological impairment, and/or genetic problems. The research was conducted in schools for children with disabilities in Belgrade, during the year of 2010.

The data on age, intellectual abilities, and exposure to abuse was collected by the analysis of the documentation obtained from pedagogical-psychological services.

The data on adaptive behavior was collected through standardized interviews with special educators, by applying AAMR Adaptive Behavior Scale. Based on the factor analysis adaptive behavior scores are grouped in 5 factors: Personal Self-Sufficiency (practical skills), Community Self-Sufficiency (conceptual skills), Personal-Social Responsibility (social skills), Social Adjustment (presence of externalizing challenging behavior) and Personal Adjustment (presence of behaviors that could be qualified as autistic, stereotyped, hyperactive or socially inappropriate).

Based on the results of the variance analysis it is determined that exposure to abuse represents a significant factor of practical skills ( $p=0,002$ ), conceptual skills ( $p=0,004$ ), social skills and externalizing challenging behavior ( $p=0,048$ ). There was no statistically significant relationship between abuse exposure and Personal Adjustment factor.

By summing the results of the research, we can conclude that exposure to early childhood abuse represents a significant factor of development and modulation of various domains of adaptive functioning in children with mild intellectual disability.

### **Protection of pedestrians as one of the largest category of victims of crimes against public traffic safety**

*Vesna Stevanović*

*Niš Appellate Court, Serbia*

The new Law on Traffic Safety contains many new provisions relating to the protection of road users. Special attention is paid to improving the safety of certain categories of road users. In this respect the provisions of the new law represents a significant improvement compared to the previously applicable regulations (federal and republic) in the field of transportation in our country.

The paper focuses on the most important provisions relating to improving pedestrian safety as one of the largest and most vulnerable road users, which provisions are incorporated into the new Law on traffic safety, and the differences from the previous regulations in relation to this category of road users.

The aim of this paper is to point to the innovations in the legislation in this field, to estimate them, to highlight the need for further improvement of certain provisions in order to improve the current legislation. In addition, we will point to certain attitudes of case law when it comes to pedestrians. This is necessary because the official figures show that road users quickly forgot the positive effects of the new provisions of the law and return to the old model of irresponsible behavior in traffic, leading to an increase in the number of casualties in traffic, including pedestrians.

Basic topics covered in the presentation are the most important legal norms of the Republic of Serbia in the field of traffic safety, in particular those from the criminal law. In particular, we will point out to the case law of domestic courts. It is

important for the proper consideration of the contribution of pedestrians - victims of traffic accidents as participants in traffic for the occurrence of adverse events that result in appropriate criminal proceedings. Also, we will point out some problems in practice when this category of victims is concerned, in regard to the group of offenses against traffic safety, which are encountered by the police, public prosecutors and courts.

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

*Child rights centre  
Belgrade, Serbia*

The poster presentation will include a brief description of the development of the Child Rights Centre in the period of fifteen years of its existence with a review of the mission, vision, values and principles of the Centre's action. The central place in the poster presentation will be dedicated to remembering the main results of the Child Rights Centre in the following areas: monitoring and reporting on the state of children rights in the Republic of Serbia, research, policy making, impact on the legislative changes, lobbying, campaigning for civil society development, cooperation and networking, developing of child participation, children rights education and informing in the field of children's rights. A special emphasis in the review of the most important previous results will be primarily on the activities that have been done to improve the situation of children victims of exploitation and abuse (we shall present activities of the representatives of the Centre who were in the last ten years directly involved as members of working groups in the preparation of certain legal solutions, as well as the development of strategic documents directly relevant to improving the position of children victims of violence).

### **Violence against women in the family and in intimate partner relationship**

*Jovana Čvorić  
Sociologist and volunteer in the Victimology Society of Serbia*

The poster presentation will include a display of violence against women in the family and in the intimate partner relationships, obtained from the comparative analysis of several national surveys. The focus of the analysis was on gender inequality in family-based system of the so called "rule of men", so the presentation will first briefly point out the historical and social context of family and intimate partner violence against women in our country. The unequal balance of power in the household and family, and also in other areas of society will be emphasized. Thereafter the main causes, types, characteristics and prevalence of violence, as well as myths about violence against women in interpersonal partner and family relationships will be highlighted. The cases of different forms of violence against women (from psychological abuse to femicide) will be demonstrated statistically, and attention will be drawn to the problem of the lack of visibility of the intimate partner violence and domestic violence against women in the public discourse. The last part of the presentation will be devoted to the social and institutional accountability and responses to such violence. The organisations that provide support to the women survivors of violence in intimate partner and family relationships, the activism of women's organizations, as well as the specific legislation (national and international) will also be denoted. The overall aim of the presentation is to extricate violence against women out of the context of our private lives and position it as a serious social (i.e. public) problem.

## **Deprivations and homosexuality in women's prisons**

***Milica Popović,***

***Una Radovanović***

*Students of the Faculty for special education and rehabilitation, University of Belgrade, Serbia*

Prisons are typical examples of total institutions, which are characterized by self-mortification and numerous deprivations that affect the prison population. This poster presentation will present deprivations and homosexual relationships in women's prisons with special emphasis on the situation in Serbia. The poster will include aspects of deprivation listed in the international literature, but also those set forth in our area, as well as deprivation and importation models of explanation of the development of specific relationships among female convicts. Most important deprivations that affect women in prison are the deprivation of motherhood, partners and heterosexual relationships. Another peculiarity of the female prison population are traditional female roles (such as mother, daughter, wife) which strengthen, along with the deprivations to whom women are subjected in prison, the need for finding the right family substitute, which is referred to as creating pseudo-family relationships in the literature. Besides the pseudo-family relationships among the convicts, there is a type of relationship that is characterized by the satisfaction of sexual urges. Therefore, homosexuality of women in prison can be divided into dispositional (real) and situational. The characteristics and subtypes of both will be shown. We will use the conducted researches and thus indicate the existence of homosexual relationships between female inmates in Serbia, as well as some interesting facts about them.

## **Prostitution-social reactions in Serbia and worldwide**

***Zorica Milosavljević,***

***Aleksandra Arandelović***

*Students of the Faculty for special education and rehabilitation, University of Belgrade, Serbia*

The poster presentation will include a review of existing legislation relating to prostitution in Serbia and the countries of the world, with special emphasis on the advantages and disadvantages of legalization and criminalization of this social phenomenon. The introductory part of the poster presentation will be devoted to the historical origin of the concept of prostitution, defining the term by different authors and the basic characteristics of the modern definitions of prostitution from the social, criminological and criminal aspect. The central part will be devoted to the social reaction to prostitution with the comparison of regulation of prostitution in Serbia, which has an ambivalent attitude towards this phenomenon, the USA as a country representative for strictly prohibitive response in relation to it, and the regulations of the Netherlands and Germany, which represent countries with legal regulation of this phenomenon. A special emphasis will be on the issues which follow prostitution, like the prostitutes' involvement in crime and abuse of psychoactive substances, women trafficking in purpose of sexual exploitation and forced prostitution. In the end there will be a comparison of both the prohibitive and the permissive systems and how they

contribute to the emergence and maintenance of these problems and to which extent they act on suppression of this social phenomenon and the before mentioned problems.

### **Educational workshops for constructive conflict resolution for Drop in center users**

*Jelena Simić,*

*Ana Nedić*

*Students of the psychology at Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, Serbia*

The “Drop in center” is one of the programs of the Center for Youth Integration, whose users are predominantly Roma children who live and/or work on the street. This population does not have an equal status in our society, and is exposed to a high degree of discrimination and belittling, which makes vulnerable to various types of victimization. Therefore, this project deals with the problems of violence and inadequate responses in everyday circumstances. The main goal of the project is to teach children how to react appropriately in situations of peer conflicts, in order to prevent aggressive actions and the passing of this negative model of behavior onto other children. The primary method used in this project is the workshop approach. Specifically, this project will be implemented through four main workshops: the introductory lecture, educational films and cartoons, the interactive theatre and group discussions. Project implementation will also include the team of experts working at the “Drop in center”. Their roles will be the following: maintaining discipline and an optimal level of working activity, participation in the workshops, assessments during the project implementation as well as evaluation of its effects. This project is vital to the community because it strives to diminish prejudice and discrimination toward the Roma population and to promote their integration into society. Should these kids learn to behave more adequately in social circumstances (at school, in the public transport), the image others have of them will start to change gradually for the better.

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