

# OVC NEWS & PROGRAM UPDATES

REACHING UNDERSERVED VICTIMS OF CRIME



JUNE 2012

## Responding to Male Crime Victims

By David Lisak, Researcher, Clinician, and Founding Board Member of 1in6



In responding to male crime victims, it is important to remember that their reactions to victimization are in many ways identical to those of female victims—the human reaction to trauma. Yet there are often key differences in how those common human reactions manifest themselves in men and boys and in how, or even whether, they ask for and receive help.

Virtually all men are taught that vulnerability and helplessness conflict profoundly with the idea of masculinity. They are taught this lesson early and often, by parents, in popular culture, and from their peers. If a boy or a man is victimized—if he is sexually abused as a child or held up at gunpoint as an adult—inevitably he confronts intense feelings of vulnerability and helplessness that conflict with his sense of himself as being male.

One common reaction is to deny the need for help because to need help is often to experience even more vulnerability. Men want to believe that they can take care of themselves, and this belief is often intensified in the wake of being victimized. Another common reaction is to mask many of the emotions that typically roil a victim of crime. Fear, sadness, and feelings of powerlessness may be hidden

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### MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This issue of the *OVC News & Program Updates* marks our first anniversary of publication, and we hope you've found the previous issues of practical value and inspiration. In this issue, we are especially pleased to include an in-depth interview with Mary Lou Leary, who was appointed Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) on March 1, 2012, capping a stellar 30-year career in criminal prosecution, government leadership, and victim advocacy.



At OVC and OJP, we are well aware of long-standing, persistent issues for which skillful planning and programs are urgently needed, beginning with a better understanding of the issues themselves. This month, we are bringing you background information, promising projects, and other resources on a variety of underserved victims of crime.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta recently reaffirmed the military's commitment to preventing sexual assault and providing services and support to victims of sexual violence. Read about OVC's new training opportunities to strengthen military-civilian partnerships, as well as insights into male victimization, sobering data on crossover youth, an OVC-funded program that assists American victims of domestic violence living overseas, and adaptable resources such as "Show Me Love!," a successful, OVC-supported LGBTQ online campaign.

As always, our "Voices of Victims" stories are moving and memorable, and underscore the need for our continued commitment to crime victims. In this issue, a gay Native American man recounts his brutal victimization and how, years later, he found healing and purpose in life.

—Joye Frost, Acting Director  
Office for Victims of Crime

### TALK BACK TO US!

OVC publishes this newsletter to increase the exchange of information between our office and the field, where the daily work of rebuilding shattered lives takes place. We ask that you help us by providing feedback on content and suggesting subjects for inclusion. Please send your comments to [Keely.McCarthy@usdoj.gov](mailto:Keely.McCarthy@usdoj.gov). Thank you!

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beneath a veneer of bravado or camouflaged under a surge in alcohol or drug use.

What does this mean for advocates who work with male victims? Mainly, advocates should be aware of these reactions and should recognize them as they listen to and interact with male victims. For some men, it may be important to steer away from framing the interaction as “help” and instead frame the relationship as a partnership aimed at solving a problem. Focus on the many ways that male victims can regain a sense of control or help them normalize their reactions to help them understand that they are human reactions and not signs of weakness or vulnerability.

These are some important considerations in working with male victims of crime and, of course, they are generalizations. Male reactions run the full gamut of human responses to victimization.

## Suggested Best Practices

Service providers who work with male crime victims should—

- Provide education and materials about trauma and its aftermath.
- Explore victims’ coping skills, encourage them to apply those skills, and help them develop additional ways of coping.
- Help victims engage their support systems.
- If appropriate, educate the victims’ families about red flags and teach them ways to support the victim or seek help if needed.
- Provide victims with a list of resources for counseling, support groups, and online information and support.
- Actively assess victims for suicidal thoughts and know how to intervene appropriately.
- Seek support and consultation for yourself if you feel that you are in over your head or lack expertise in serving male crime victims.

Source: Adapted with permission from Stacy Miles-Thorpe, 2011, “Working with Male Crime Victims,” *The Prosecutor* 41(6).

## Victims’ Voices

*Hate Crime Against the Two-Spirit Community*

By Elton Naswood (Navajo)

In 1994, I was in my second year of college in Phoenix, Arizona, away from the reservation. I became a victim of violence because I am gay. That night is a blur, but I remember that my friends warned me that “they” were outside the bar, and I should be careful. I didn’t take their advice. As I went to the parking lot, a cute Latino approached me and lured me to his truck where others were waiting. I remember being kicked, hit, and beaten. They repeatedly called me a faggot “hoto”! I instinctively put my arms over my head and curled up into a fetal position—I think that saved my life. I was struck on the head by a large rock, over and over.

After seeing the dust of the car as it left, I got up slowly and felt a huge pain in my head. I collapsed and passed out for several hours. I finally got up and began walking—not knowing where or in which direction I was going. I walked for about 8 miles, somehow reaching my apartment as the sun came up. Looking in the

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bathroom mirror, I saw dried blood all over my clothes, from head to toe. I took a shower and felt the pain from my head as blood continued to drip into the tub. I staggered into my bedroom and collapsed on the bed. I woke up sick—physically and emotionally. I did not want to go to Indian Health Service, and I did not report the crime to the police. I felt hurt. I felt ashamed. I did not tell my mother, or anyone else in the family, because I did not want to bring them shame.

I held this secret for many years. I would cover up reminders of my secret by telling family that the scars on the back of my head were from an accident. I would use black eyeliner to cover the scars and to cover the hurt. Hair cuts were difficult because I had to tell the stylist why I had scars on my head, which triggered my emotional trauma. I felt an enormous sense of guilt and self-blame. I used alcohol to numb my emotions and feelings. It was not until I befriended a colleague and victim services trainer that I told my secret. She listened to my words, felt my pain, and helped me to understand that it was not my fault. She encouraged me to keep telling my story to help others like me, a gay Native man.

It wasn't until 2006 that I publically disclosed my story. I presented a workshop at the Native North America HIV/AIDS conference in Anchorage, Alaska. It was the first time I shared my story of the events of that night in front of a crowd. I felt empowered. The audience felt empowered as many other lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT)/Two-Spirit Natives shared their own stories of being victims of crime—both on and off the reservation. It was the beginning of my healing and the healing for others.

### Two-Spirit Natives

*Two-Spirit Natives refers to Native American/Alaska Native lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals. The term is from the Anishinabe language and means "to have both female and male spirits within one person."*

After the workshop, I was approached by a reporter from AP who wanted to do an interview. I agreed, not knowing that "AP" was not the Alaska Paper, but the Associated Press. I did the interview and told my story of being gay and being a victim of an

*To read more on the subject of Native LGBT/Two-Spirit crime victims, see [OVC's Web Forum Guest Host Session with Harlan Pruden](#).*

unreported hate crime. The article appeared in the local newspaper the next day, as well as newspapers across the country, including our tribal paper, the Navajo Times. My brother called to tell me my mother read the story and wanted to speak with me.

She was stunned about the incident and asked why I did not tell her personally. I explained that I was afraid and ashamed. She assured me that I would be fine, that I should not feel scared or ashamed, and that I was special because I was gay—nadleeh—and should always feel safe to talk with her.

Finding the strength to tell my story was part of the healing process. The stigma of being a victim of a violent crime as a gay Native man is overwhelming. It can be difficult to report to law enforcement because frequently they believe that the victim is at fault for being drunk and being flamboyant as a gay person. I have accepted that the crime was not my fault, just as it is not anyone's fault to be a victim of crime or a Native gay/Two-Spirit person.

I feel that tribal and non-tribal service providers and agencies need to be educated on LGBT issues and to be culturally aware of the challenges and needs of the LGBT/Two-Spirit community. It is critically important for victims to feel accepted, understood, and safe. Providing a nonjudgmental and safe space, and making programs inclusive of LGBT/Two-Spirit individuals, will assist in providing adequate services. There are many issues, such as acceptance, alcohol/substance abuse, mental health, bullying, and so forth, that affect the LGBT/Two-Spirit community. Further, it is important for service providers to be aware of federal hate crime legislation as well as the hate crime laws within their states. The jurisdictional tribal laws and policies need to address hate crimes and include the rights and protections of Native LGBT/Two-Spirit individuals.

I have been sober for 5 years and have become an advocate for the Native LGBT/Two-Spirit community. I have helped develop curricula and presented workshops for tribal programs and law enforcement that address victimization of LGBT/Two-Spirit individuals. It is through knowledge and sharing our stories that our communities will begin to heal and hear the voices of all of our victims.

*The Victims' Voices column is a recurring feature of OVC News & Program Updates. Let us know if you or someone you know would like to share a story with the field about the journey from crime victimization. Our hope is that hearing directly from victims themselves will educate and inspire others. Victims' Voices contributors may choose to remain anonymous. Contact William Petty at [William.Petty@usdoj.gov](mailto:William.Petty@usdoj.gov) for more information.*

# Get to Know Leadership at the Department of Justice: Mary Lou Leary, Acting Assistant Attorney General

By Bethany Case, MSW, LICSW, Keely McCarthy, and Debra Whitcomb, Visiting Fellows, Office for Victims of Crime

The Office of Justice Programs' (OJP) Acting Assistant Attorney General (AAAG) Mary Lou Leary, a New England native, was destined for a life of public service. The daughter of a teacher and nurse, she and three of her seven siblings followed in their father's footsteps into teaching careers. For AAAG Leary, who assumed her current position within the Department on March 12, 2012, that career path kindled a passion for helping victims of crime, which ultimately led to leadership roles that allowed her to transform her passion into positive action.

AAAG Leary spoke with the Office for Victims of Crime Visiting Fellows about her career, the roots of her passion, and her vision for the field.

## **"Victims are not a piece of evidence"**

Armed with a master's degree from Ohio State University, AAAG Leary began her career with Head Start in central Harlem, New York, where her duties included such tasks as shepherding groups of children across the city for appointments with the speech and hearing clinic at Columbia University. A year later, she taught English and theater at a middle school in Bedford, New York, where she became involved with the teachers' union. It was this experience that sparked her interest in the law, ultimately leading to her enrolling in Northeastern University School of Law, Boston, Massachusetts.

During clerkships in Washington, D.C., and Boston, AAAG Leary became fascinated with the dynamics of the criminal court system. What followed was a position as a prosecutor in the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office in Massachusetts, which housed one of the Nation's first victim-witness programs. As

a Middlesex County prosecutor, AAAG Leary worked with victim advocates, learning how to treat victims, how to help them feel safe, and how to teach them to navigate through the criminal justice system. In working with victims and training new prosecutors, AAAG Leary wanted victims to "not just feel heard, but be heard."

## **"Victims have always been really, really important to me"**

AAAG Leary was an early proponent of victims' rights and interventions. In 1985, as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Washington, D.C., she pioneered the use of victim allocation at sentencing hearings, a routine practice in Middlesex County. Later, under then-U.S. Attorney Eric Holder, her office helped to establish a children's advocacy center and set up a child's waiting room in the courthouse and safe, supervised childcare at the District of Columbia's U.S. Attorney's Office for children whose parents or guardians were in court. Also established was a model program for short-term victim-witness security, which encompassed a wide range of options for victims, including the use of alternative housing arrangements.

In fact, in every one of her previous positions, from acting director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services to executive director of the National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC), AAAG Leary brought fresh attention to victims' issues and introduced innovative ideas to help victims. While she was at NCVC, for example, the center created a stalking resource center and highlighted concerns unique to teen and LGBTQ victims.

Over time, the victim services field evolved from a number of devoted individuals working for victims to "a very professionalized,



well-organized, very sophisticated" group, she said. Looking forward, AAAG Leary anticipates a greater emphasis on technology, not only as an instrument of victimization, but as an effective vehicle to reach and serve victims and to train and educate the field.

## **"The more we know about victims, the more we can assist them"**

Mary Lou Leary envisions the field becoming more evidence-based and strategic in the future. She believes that it is OJP's job to frame knowledge and research in ways that are accessible and understandable to the field. During her tenure as AAAG, she hopes to support more research on victims' issues and to create a larger database of information on victims and victimization.

Finally, in a field dominated by crisis and trauma, AAAG Leary recognizes that it's important to recognize people and their accomplishments in this critical work. "Things like the [National Crime Victims' Service Awards Ceremony](#) remind us of why we do what we do."

# Americans Experiencing Domestic Violence Overseas

By Paula Lucas, Executive Director, Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center, and Sharron Chapman, Lead Victim Program Specialist, Office for Victims of Crime

Domestic violence remains prevalent in American society, despite strengthened laws and penalties, ongoing outreach, and thousands of professionals whose services range from counseling victims to building awareness of the dynamics of this type of abuse. In some cases, there is still a tendency to minimize the brutality of this crime and its deep and lasting effects on family members, particularly children.

Americans living overseas who experience domestic violence may face numerous barriers to accessing victim services. They may be unfamiliar with the country's legal system, their rights in that country, and the resources available to them. They may not be fluent in the language of the country. Their abusers may keep them from fleeing by hiding or destroying passports, visas, birth certificates, and other essential documents. In some countries, abusers can file for a travel ban so that their victims and children cannot leave the country. Further, some countries' domestic laws may not apply to noncitizens.

Abusers may take advantage of child custody laws to pressure their spouses. Through the Hague Convention on International Child Abduction international treaty, an abuser may force a fleeing survivor to return his

or her children to the foreign country. The Hague Convention has no stated exception for domestic violence in custody disputes, so legal action may be required to resolve cases. Abusers also can use other custody laws, such as the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act, to gain custody of children.

In response to this critical gap in services, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) began funding a 3-year demonstration project in Fiscal Year 2010 to provide a continuum of services to American women and children experiencing family violence while residing in a foreign country. The project provides these services through the [Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center](#).

The center, which was established in 1999, provides domestic violence and child abuse advocacy, safety planning, case management services, help with relocation and emergency funds, and other tools and resources to help victims navigate complicated jurisdictional, legal, and social landscapes in order to live free of abuse. Tools include an international toll free crisis line, 866-US-WOMEN, which is accessible from 175 countries. The center carries an average active caseload of 50 families at any one time. In 2010, the center received 2,289 crisis calls, e-mails,

and live chats on behalf of 481 families in 68 countries.

During the 3-year project, the center will develop a series of technical assistance bulletins for victim service providers to highlight the challenges faced by victims both while living abroad and after they return to the United States. The center will produce a final report on project implementation, successes, challenges, and lessons learned, which OVC will disseminate to victim service professionals.

In addition to the OVC funds, the center receives funds from multiple foundations and corporations. This support has enabled it to help abused American women and children in countries around the world. The center's Global Campaign To Empower Americans Experiencing Domestic Violence Abroad began in fall 2009 in Europe and expanded to Asia, Central America, South America, and Northern Africa over the next 3 years.



## Related Resources

### [The Hague Domestic Violence Project](#)

The Hague Domestic Violence Project is a team of individuals from various professional backgrounds who are dedicated to creating a comprehensive resource that will enable parents, attorneys, judges, and advocates to better prepare themselves for Hague Convention cases in the U.S. legal system.

### [Overseas Citizens Services](#)

The State Department's Office of American Citizen Services and Crisis Management assists Americans abroad.

### [Family Advocacy Program](#)

The U.S. Department of Defense's Family Advocacy Program serves as a resource for military families experiencing family violence by providing prevention efforts, early identification and intervention, support for victims, and treatment for offenders.

# U.S. Department of Defense Authorization 2012

By Marnie Shiels, Attorney Advisor, Office for Victims of Crime, and Diana Rangoussis, Senior Policy Advisor, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, U.S. Department of Defense

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (NDAA, Public Law 112-81), signed into law on December 31, 2011, contains several provisions designed to improve responses to military sexual assault victims. The U.S. Department of Defense's (DoD) Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, which provides policy oversight on sexual assault in the military, works with the military services to implement many of the provisions.

Following are some of the highlights of NDAA provisions, followed by actions that DoD has taken to implement these provisions:

- **NDAA provision:** Access to legal assistance and the services of sexual assault response coordinators (SARC) and sexual assault prevention and response victim advocates (SAPR VA).

#### DoD actions:

- Statutorily provides that a member or dependent who is a victim of sexual assault may be provided the services of a SARC or SAPR VA.
- Requires notice to victims of the availability of legal services and services of a SARC or SAPR VA and that such services can be declined.
- Specifies that these services are available regardless of whether the victim elects restricted or unrestricted reporting. Restricted reporting is confidential and allows victims to receive treatment without notifying command or law enforcement. Unrestricted reporting involves an official investigation.
- Specifies that a victim who is a member or dependent may receive counseling, medical treatment, or legal assistance and may disclose the details of an assault confidentially to a SARC, SAPR VA, or certain health care personnel without triggering an official investigation.
- In October 2011, DoD issued guidance on extending legal assistance to victims of sexual assault. This guidance clarified that the legal assistance available

under existing law for military members and their dependents includes legal assistance for members or dependents who are victims of sexual assault.

- In January 2012, DoD reissued its SAPR Directive 6495.01. The directive expanded support to sexual assault victims to include military spouses and adult military dependents, who will now be able to file restricted (confidential) reports and receive the services of a SAPR VA and a SARC.
  - In addition, DoD civilians stationed abroad (and their adult dependents) and DoD U.S. citizen contractors in combat areas (and their U.S. citizen employees) will receive emergency care and the help of a SARC and a victim advocate during that emergency care. (DoD civilians and contractors can only file an unrestricted report.)
- **NDAA provision:** Application for permanent change of station or unit transfer.

#### DoD actions:

- Requires regulations that allow for a decision, within 72 hours, on an application for a change of station or unit transfer submitted by a sexual assault victim.
- If a request is denied, a subsequent review by the first general officer or flag officer must be done within 72 hours of submission.
- DoD issued a [directive-type memorandum](#) on December 16, 2011, before NDAA was signed. DoD's expedited transfer policy allows victims who report sexual assault to their commander to quickly transfer from their unit or installation to protect them from possible harassment and remove them from proximity to an alleged perpetrator. It also includes the victim's spouse and dependents.



- **NDAA provision:** SARCs and SAPR VAs.

#### DoD actions:

- Requires at least one full-time SARC and one full-time SAPR VA for each brigade or equivalent unit level.
- Specifies that only military members and civilian employees may serve as a SARC or SAPR VA.
- Requires the Secretary of Defense to establish a uniform training and certification program for SARCs and SAPR VAs in consultation with outside sexual assault advocacy and prevention experts.
- In January 2012, the Secretary of Defense announced several new initiatives to enhance the ways DoD prevents and responds to sexual assault. Included in this announcement was the establishment of a DoD Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program, which will require SARCs and SAPR VAs to obtain a credential aligned with national standards.

- **NDAA provision:** Sexual assault prevention and response training and education.

#### DoD actions:

- Requires prevention and response training and education for members and

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civilian employees developed in consultation with outside experts. The training is required to cover initial entry and accession programs, annual refresher training, professional military education, peer education, and specialized leadership training.

- There will also be training specific to firefighters, emergency medical technicians, law enforcement, criminal investigators, health care providers, judge advocates, and chaplains.
- DoD finished a multiyear effort to revise and strengthen minimum training requirements for all military personnel and specialized training requirements for all responders, including those listed in NDAA and others, such as chaplains

and legal assistance attorneys. These updated training requirements will appear in the revised SAPR Instruction DoDI 6495.02, expected to be reissued later in 2012. DoD reissued its SAPR Directive 6495.01 in January 2012.

- **NDAA provision:** Policy and procedure on retention and access to records and evidence.

**DoD actions:**

- Requires a comprehensive policy for storing and retaining evidence and records relating to sexual assault; requires physical and forensic evidence to be stored for 5 years.
- Provides that if a victim testified during a court-martial, the victim shall be given

a copy of the record of the proceedings free of charge and as soon as the records are authenticated.

- On December 16, 2011, DoD issued a second [directive-type memorandum](#) covering document retention. Under this new policy, DoD requires that documentation from unrestricted reports must be kept for 50 years and that documentation from restricted reports must be kept for 5 years. Having these records available makes it easier for veterans to file a claim with the Department of Veterans Affairs at a later date.

## OVC Fellow Profile: State Compensation and Assistance

The State Compensation and Assistance Team Fellows BJ Horn and Grace Call are working to assess the services provided with the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) formula funding and the challenges still to be overcome. Ms. Horn and Ms. Call began their fellowships in October 2011. Through this project, they will showcase innovative practices developed, adapted, or implemented by state programs; articulate challenges faced by the field in general and those specific to one jurisdiction; suggest modest and manageable changes to enhance victims' access to assistance services and compensation benefits; and link jurisdictions facing challenges to jurisdictions that have developed or implemented solutions to similar challenges. The data currently reported to the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) through formula grants do not provide sufficient information to highlight innovative practices or document challenges faced by the field.

Ms. Horn and Ms. Call have managed state VOCA grants and are therefore familiar with the obstacles and opportunities many administrators handle:

- Working with unpredictable state budgets.
- Processing claims and awarding grants.
- Adapting to the dynamic needs of victims.
- Building strong networks of providers and practitioners.
- Supporting the organizational health of subgrantees.
- Managing tensions between long-term planning and uncertain federal allocations.

- Responding to the increased demand for services and benefits.
- Overseeing staff.
- Measuring outcomes (not outputs!).
- Doing all this while documenting successes, counting processing days, and meeting reporting deadlines.

The bulk of this work will be accomplished through visits to VOCA assistance and compensation programs. Ms. Horn's project area is east of the Mississippi River; Ms. Call's area is west. In addition to meeting onsite with administrators, Ms. Horn and Ms. Call will be replicating pieces of the 1999 Urban Institute Study to compare and collect aggregated data.

Ms. Call started working directly with victims of crime as a volunteer at the Rape Recovery Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, more than 15 years ago. She also worked at the Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault. Most recently, she administered the VOCA assistance formula grant as part of the Victims of Crime team at the Office of Crime Victims Advocacy in the State of Washington.

Ms. Horn worked for and with victims of crime for 20 years. For 5 years, she was the director of the Office of Victims' Services at the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and administered VOCA assistance and compensation grants. She is a graduate of Gettysburg College and has a certificate in management from Messiah College.

Ms. Horn and Ms. Call are looking forward to working with VOCA assistance and state compensation programs during their fellowships.

# Strengthening Military-Civilian Community Partnerships

**S**trengthening Military-Civilian Community Partnerships to Respond to Sexual Assault is an interactive 2-day training designed to help community-based sexual assault advocates partner with local military installations to respond effectively to the needs of sexual assault victims in the military. The curriculum was developed through a cooperative agreement between the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) and the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape in partnership with the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), and the U.S. Department of Defense's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO).

Participants learn about military systems, protocols, and culture to improve service provision to sexual assault victims in the military and to develop an appreciation for that unique perspective. The goals and objectives

of the training are for participants to—

- Establish partnerships with local military installations.
- Be able to identify steps toward successful collaborations (e.g., developing memorandums of understanding/agreement between community-based programs and military installations).
- Serve as knowledgeable resources for victims on military installations throughout the United States.

In May 2011, the curriculum was piloted in three locations: San Antonio, Texas; San Diego, California; and Charlotte, North Carolina. The feedback and evaluations were overwhelmingly positive, but the number of participants was much lower than expected. Since then, OVC and OVC's Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) developed a far-reaching, national marketing

plan to promote the training by coordinating closely with SAPRO, State Victims of Crime Act administrators, OVW, state sexual assault coalitions, and the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network. As part of this plan, OVC TTAC secured a list of military installations and a list of rural bases and those that serve the National Guard and Reserves from SAPRO to find those experiencing a high number of sexual assault reports and targeted them for this training. The list helps focus outreach and marketing to the locations that need this training the most. In the near future, this training will be offered nationally by request through OVC TTAC.

To inquire about bringing this training to your community, contact—

[Crystal Park](#)  
Training Delivery Specialist  
OVC TTAC  
703-225-2188

## Request Training in Your Local Area

**T**he Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) offers training by request (TBR) for program leaders who wish to organize a specific training for their own region. Through OVC's Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC), training can be provided to your local area on an array of instructor-led topics relevant to the field of victim services. Those topics are listed in the OVC TTAC [Trainings Catalog](#), and they include [Serving LGBTQ Victims of Crime](#), [Strengthening Military-Civilian Community Partnerships to Respond to Sexual Assault](#), [Program Evaluation](#), and many more.

Victim service providers, criminal justice professionals, and allied professionals (e.g., mental health, medical, clergy) can apply for TBR. Public agencies, federal agencies, nonprofits, and other organizations that provide services to victims are all eligible to apply, regardless of whether the agency is an OVC discretionary grantee.

Because OVC's trainings are based on adult learning theory, much of a participant's learning occurs as a result of activities and interactions with the other participants and instructors. To gain full benefit from these trainings, participants must attend in person. Participants can apply for a [professional development scholarship](#) to help cover the costs of attending a TBR event.

OVC TTAC provides instructors, an onsite coordinator, instructor training materials, and participant manuals at no cost to the organization or to the participants for TBR events. The organization requesting the TBR is responsible for the following:



- Guaranteeing a minimum number of participants (numbers vary, but the average is 35, up to a maximum of 40).
- Coordinating local marketing.
- Providing a complete participant contact list.
- Securing an appropriate training facility.
- Providing audiovisual equipment and Internet connection.
- Providing onsite copying services.
- Identifying a suitable hotel near the training facility.
- Providing information about ground transportation.
- Covering the costs for the training facility and audiovisual equipment.
- Confirming the minimum number of participants 2 weeks prior to the start date of the training.

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Requests for TBR must be made at least 135 days before the proposed date for training. It takes up to 3 weeks for OVC TTAC to finalize the application paperwork before submitting it to OVC. OVC makes all final TBR application approval decisions and consultant selections and usually makes a funding decision within 2–3 weeks after receiving the final application paperwork from OVC TTAC. You should be cognizant

of these time restrictions when completing your application. Your organization (or coalition from the same area) is eligible to receive one TBR within a 12-month period.

Visit the [OVC TTAC Web site](#) for additional details about the TBR program, including application instructions.

## Sexual Assault in the Military

By Major General Mary Kay Hertog, Director, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, U.S. Air Force

Sexual assault has no place in the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). As Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta mentioned earlier this year, this crime is an affront to the basic American values the Department upholds and is a stain on the honor of the Department's troops and their families.

The unfortunate reality is that sexual assault occurs both inside and outside the military. In Fiscal Year 2011, DoD received 3,192 reports of sexual assault; however, in both the civilian and military worlds, sexual assault is an underreported crime. Even though DoD defines sexual assault more broadly than the civilian world does (anything from unwanted sexual touching of genitalia through the clothing to completed rape), these figures are alarming.

Sexual assault is a crime of power and control. Reporting and survey statistics tell us this crime mostly victimizes people between ages 18 and 25. In the Department, this means that most of the victims are our younger enlisted men and women. The perpetrator can be anyone from a stranger to a trusted friend, peer, colleague, or supervisor.

To combat this crime and to care for its victims, DoD established the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program in 2005 to promote prevention, encourage increased reporting of the crime, and improve responses to victims. Working hand in hand



The graphic is a white rectangular box with a teal border. On the left, there is a logo for 'DoD Safe Helpline' with the text 'Sexual Assault Support for the DoD Community' below it. To the right of the logo, there are three lines of contact information: 'Click www.SafeHelpline.org' with a mouse cursor icon, 'Call 877-995-5247' with a telephone handset icon, and 'Text\* 55-247 (INSIDE THE U.S.) 202-470-5546 (OUTSIDE THE U.S.)' with a mobile phone icon. Above the contact information, there are three small text elements: 'Live 1-on-1 Help', 'Confidential', and 'Worldwide 24/7'. Below the logo, there is a quote: 'A confidential and anonymous sexual assault hotline for the DoD community.' At the bottom right, there is a small asterisked note: '\*Text your location for the nearest support resources.'

with each military service, the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office oversees the program's implementation and effectiveness.

There is no simple solution for stopping this devastating crime. Secretary Panetta commented at a press conference in January 2012 that the very nature of sexual assault makes it essential to devote energy and attention to this issue. DoD and the military services are doing just that. We are intent on building a climate to prevent this criminal behavior, holding those who commit sexual assault appropriately accountable, and responding to and caring for victims when it happens.

One of our newest initiatives is the DoD Safe Helpline, a crisis support service for adult

service members in the DoD community who are victims of sexual assault. Available 24/7 worldwide, users can "click, call, or text" for anonymous and confidential support. Safe Helpline is operated by the nonprofit Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, the Nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization, through a contractual agreement with DoD. By the end of March 2012, Safe Helpline received more than 34,000 unique visitors, and at least 2,500 visitors were helped through a live session.

Everyone in the DoD SAPR program is working toward our vision—a military free from sexual assault. Achieving this goal is going to take all of us working together. If you would like to learn more, please contact [sapro@wso.whs.mil](mailto:sapro@wso.whs.mil) or visit the [SAPR Web site](#).

# Crossover Youth

By Bethany Case, MSW, LICSW, Visiting Fellow, Office for Victims of Crime

The term *crossover youth* can be used when referring to various issues related to youth, such as aging, development, maturity, and spirituality. With respect to crime and victimization, this term illustrates the troubling pathway that leads child victims to becoming offenders, crossing over from the child welfare system to the juvenile justice system. Most professionals who work with children and youth witness this crossing over in one way or another—whether by finding out that a child identified as a victim years ago is now identified as a youth offender or by discovering that a youth in the juvenile justice system was victimized as a child.

The data are disturbing:

- Abuse or neglect of a child increases his or her risk for arrest as a juvenile by 55 percent. A child's risk of committing a violent crime increases by 96 percent.<sup>1</sup>
- Persistent maltreatment extending from childhood to adolescence, and maltreatment during adolescence only, are significantly correlated with increased risk of juvenile and young adult delinquency.<sup>2</sup>
- Researchers interviewed 1,829 youth (ages 10–18) who were detained for delinquency in 1995 and 1998. They found that 16.3 percent had a court record of maltreatment, yet 82.7 percent reported some level of maltreatment, and 9.4 percent identified high levels of maltreatment.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> C.S. Widom, 1989, "Child Abuse, Neglect, and Violent Criminal Behavior," *Criminology* 27(2): 251–71.

<sup>2</sup> T.P. Thornberry, 2008, "Co-occurrence of problem behaviors among adolescents," presented at the Multi-System Approaches in Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice: Wingspread Conference.

<sup>3</sup> M. Swain, D. Whitaker, C. Phippen, R. Leeb, L. Teplin, K. Abram, and G. McClelland, 2006, "Concordance Between Self-Reported Maltreatment and Court Records of Abuse or Neglect Among High-Risk Youths," *American Journal of Public Health* 96(10): 1849–53.

Though the numbers seem daunting, there are ways to turn this disturbing trend around:

- **Early identification** of child victims provides a mechanism to intervene with families and children, particularly when there is risk of continued victimization.
- **Accurate identification** of adolescent victimization, particularly when youth enter the juvenile justice system, can ensure that adolescents get resources to address the victimization that may be the root cause of the offending.
- **Comprehensive interventions** address the full spectrum of ways that youth are affected by victimization (e.g., educational difficulties, substance abuse, mental health issues, behavioral problems, family struggles).
- **Cross-agency collaboration** ensures that systems (e.g., education, juvenile justice, child welfare, victim services) that are working with the same youth and families will communicate and develop strategies that are comprehensive, are based on the child's and family's needs, and are not duplicative.

For more information about crossover youth and how you can play a role in changing outcomes for youth, go to:

- The [Center for Juvenile Justice Reform](#), Georgetown University.
- [Project ONE](#), National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

## Start Your Own Show Me Love! Campaign

The Show Me Love! campaign seeks to provide information to all people affected by intimate partner violence in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) communities. It celebrates fun, vibrant, healthy LGBTQ relationships and supports people surviving unhealthy relationships by engaging them in creative activities and connecting them with available resources.

Women Empowered Against Violence, Inc. (WEAVE), created this public awareness campaign under an Enhancing Services and Public Awareness Outreach for Victims in Underserved Communities grant from the Office for Victims of Crime. It was guided by a community advisory committee comprising 12 activists, service providers, artists, and community members.

WEAVE launched Show Me Love! in June 2010 to promote healthy relationships in Washington, D.C.'s LGBTQ communities. Through the campaign, WEAVE reached out to members of LGBTQ communities through a dynamic Web site, culturally competent outreach materials, and face-to-face contact at targeted events throughout the city. This was part of an effort not only to promote healthy relationships but to bring attention to the crime of intimate partner violence and provide appropriate local and national resources to victims.

*It effectively "outs" the existence of IPV [intimate partner violence] and healthy relationships in a model that can be replicated elsewhere. It is a point of reference and inspiration.*

—Anonymous National Service Provider

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"We created the campaign with a positive message to encourage all folks in the LGBTQ community to imagine healthy, beautiful, equitable relationships free from abuse and control," said Morgan Lynn, technical assistance attorney at Break the Cycle and former manager of WEAVE's LGBTQ program, who also spearheaded the development of the campaign.

WEAVE used online social media via Facebook and Twitter; placed both print and online public service announcements in local LGBTQ publications; conducted community outreach by participating in workshops, street festivals, and webinars; and provided resource materials to community service agencies. Many of the resources and activities that WEAVE developed, such as a [postcard project](#), are available online for replication; communities can use these to start their own Show Me Love! campaigns.

"Show Me Love! is not only bilingual, with all materials and Web content provided in English and Spanish, but was also created to be bicultural. Many of our advisory committee members are members of the Latina community, and we intentionally created a campaign that would speak, beyond words, to LGBTQ Latinas," said Ms. Lynn.



*The focus on positive relationship skills is exactly where I think our movement should be heading. It's a place from which we can do our work that affects everyone, not just LGBTQ survivors; all community members can be improving their relationship skills.*

—Anonymous National Service Provider

According to feedback from the field in Washington, D.C.:

- Show Me Love! is a helpful resource for providers and straight and LGBTQ survivors.
- It is helpful to have specific materials for LGBTQ communities because LGBTQ

survivors often feel uncomfortable and unwanted at mainstream antiviolence organizations.

- The materials help validate the experiences of LGBTQ survivors in a powerful way.

For more information, visit the [Show Me Love! Web site](#).

## Resources

### Web Forums

#### [OVC HELP for Victim Service Providers Web Forum](#)

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) developed this resource as an online tool for victim service providers and allied professionals to share ideas, suggestions, and recommendations concerning promising practices, best practices, and victim issues. Guest hosts lead online discussions on various topics, a sample of which are found below:

- [Assisting Male Survivors of Sexual Violence \(August 2011\)](#)
- [Responding to Native LGBT/Two Spirit Community Crime Victims \(June 2011\)](#)
- [Working with LGBTIQ Survivors of Violence \(June 2009\)](#)
- [Using Online Communications to Assist Crime Victims in the Military \(September 2011\)](#)

### Publication

#### [Why It Matters: Rethinking Victim Assistance for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Victims of Hate Violence and Intimate Partner Violence](#) (March 2010)

This joint policy report from the National Center for Victims of Crime and the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs focuses on crimes of hate violence and intimate partner violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ) people. The report briefly reviews what is already known about this topic, discusses why more is not known, reviews key findings from surveys conducted by the two organizations, and recommends how to address the gaps in services to this underserved population.

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## Government Organization

### [Victim and Witness Assistance Council, U.S. Department of Defense](#)

The council's Web site offers information and links to assist victims of and witnesses to crime on military installations. Resources include contact information for victim and witness assistance coordinators for the U.S. Coast Guard; U.S. Departments of the Air Force, Army, and Navy; U.S. Marine Corps; and the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Each branch of service has an interdisciplinary Victim and Witness Assistance Council, a family advocacy program designed to prevent and treat child and spousal abuse, and a central repository for tracking notice of the status of offenders confined in military correctional facilities. In addition, local councils have been established at each major military installation to ensure that an interdisciplinary approach is followed by victim and witness service providers.

## Nongovernmental Organizations

### [Community United Against Violence](#)

Community United Against Violence offers violence prevention services (particularly for hate and domestic violence) to LGBTQ communities.

### [Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project](#)

This project supports victims and survivors through education, advocacy, and direct services.

### [1in6](#)

1in6 offers outreach, education, and services, in person and over the Web, to men with histories of unwanted or abusive childhood sexual experiences and their loved ones. 1in6 offers an informational Web site, professional training resources for service providers, and community education and outreach programming for various audiences.

### [National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs](#)

This coalition addresses the pervasive problem of violence committed against and within the LGBTQ and HIV-affected communities.

### [Safe Schools Coalition](#)

This coalition is an international public-private partnership in support of LGBTQ youth that works to help schools become safe places where every family can belong, where every educator can teach, and where every child can learn, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation.



## STAY TUNED . . .

In the next issue of OVC News & Program Updates you'll learn—

- The USDOJ's final rule to prevent, detect, and respond to prison rape in accordance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act and its significance to the victim services field
- How research and statistics can be useful to the crime victim services field
- Another survivor's inspiring journey to heal
- An update on Vision 21

## ABOUT THE OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

The Office for Victims of Crime is one of six components within the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

Led by Acting Director Joye E. Frost, OVC is committed to enhancing the Nation's capacity to assist crime victims and to providing leadership in changing attitudes, policies, and practices to promote justice and healing for all victims of crime.

Established in 1988 through an amendment to the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, OVC is charged by Congress with administering the Crime Victims Fund. Through OVC, the Fund supports a broad array of programs and services that focus on helping victims in the immediate aftermath of crime and continuing to support them as they rebuild their lives. Millions of dollars are invested annually in victim compensation and assistance in every U.S. state and territory, as well as for training, technical assistance, and other capacity-building programs designed to enhance service providers' ability to support victims of crime in communities across the Nation.

For more information, visit [www.ovc.gov](http://www.ovc.gov).

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