Book Review: A Global Perspective on Victims of Crime and Victim Assistance: Best Practices around the World

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The book, “A Global Perspective on Victims of Crime and Victim Assistance: Best Practices around the World is an important scholarly contribution that has been published at a critical time when the discipline of victimology is going through a transition. The book is envisioned as a collaborative project between the Jindal Institute of Behavioural Sciences (JIBS), O.P. Jindal Global University, Karunya Institute of Technology & Sciences, and the University of Madras. The book comprises chapters written by eminent professors, law enforcement experts, legal scholars and practitioners, human rights activists, social workers, and research scholars of international repute.

I congratulate the editors of the book, Professor (Dr.) Sanjeev P. Sahni, a professional and practical Psychologist, Professor and Principal Director, Jindal Institute of Behavioural Sciences, O.P. Jindal Global University, Professor (Dr.) Beulah Shekhar, Emeritus Professor, Karunya Institute of Technology & Sciences (KITS), Professor (Dr.) M. Priyamadha, Professor, University of Madras (UNM), and Dr. Vipin Vijay Nair, Assistant Professor, JIBS, which has made this publication highly readable and relevant for students, teachers, instructors, policy makers and professionals in the field of criminology, social work, rehabilitation psychology and victimology.

Societies have always strived to understand various facets of crime to prevent victimization and enable victim assistance measures. The suffering of the victim at the time of the commission of a crime and later during the criminal justice process requires the attention of society at large. Chapters such as “A contemporary victimological dimension of technology: the algorithmic society and politics of legitimate victimization” underscore the challenges of artificial intelligence and technology and how they may cause new forms of victimization. The chapter “Fear and Justice: The heart of the response to victimization” explores a new dimension of Maslow’s basic hierarchy of human needs with fear, terror, and justice. The role of victim assistance is highlighted through crime prevention and proactive policing suggesting useful tools that can be adopted to protect Individuals, communities and institutions.

The book contains well-researched articles, original thoughts, and innovative approaches of the authors on subjects ranging from conflicts and internal displacement to sexual victimization, trafficking, restorative justice, terrorism and victims’ rights around the globe. The need to have dedicated victim assistance programmes in place has been repeatedly emphasized. It is heartening to observe that the contributions of these experts will add great value to knowledge and literature on the subject. In addition, this publication will inform the development of new research projects and initiatives.