## Learning Activity 1.1: What is victimology?

### Overview and Aim

Victimology continues to be an area that is evolving as there is increasing recognition of victims and their experiences and rights. In the activity below, What is 'victimology'?, you will help to develop a definition or explanation of 'victimology'.

First, you will need to read this definition:

**Read: Karmen, A 2016, 'Victimology',→ in K Corteen, S Morley, P Taylor & J Turner (eds), A companion to crime, harm and victimisation, Policy Press, pp. 253-255.**

There are some good reasons not to like this definition very much. Andrew Karmen skirts the edges of victim-blaming, he focuses only on primary victimisation without acknowledging secondary victimisation caused by the justice and support agency responses. He also disregards the fundamental 'subjectivity' of the law itself, and does not acknowledge that victimologists may be as diverse as any criminologist - beyond just 'morality, ethics, philosophy and personal experiences'.

Now you have read the above definition, we are going to write a new one!

This task requires you to choose a sentence in Karmen's definition of victimology and to re-write it. You will need to add your definition to the **What is Victimology Wiki** below and view/comment on the definitions of others. **No duplicates** allowed though, so be sure to check what is already up before you begin!

### Due (if applicable)

End of Week 1

### Suggested Procedure

1. Search for your resource (e.g. webpage, YouTube video, journal article via the Library, blogpost). (Do not include a Wikipedia page).
2. Develop your response initially in a word document as that will be easier than trying to do it online.
3. Once you have finalised your response, select **Edit** in the wiki below.
4. Add your full name enclosed in double square brackets, like this: **[[Bec Medhurst]]**
   * This will make a new page in the wiki where you can add your content. You'll find those square brackets on your keyboard, most often just above the return/enter key.
5. Select **Save**. Your name should now appear as a link.
6. Select your name to open your new page.
7. Select **Edit** again.
8. Copy and paste your response from your word document into the wiki.
9. Select **Save** and you're done.
10. Select **one** of the words/concepts listed below to be defined – remember no duplicates allowed.

**Karmen’s Definition (text existing inside the wiki page for students to add their comments to)**

Criminology is the study of offenders, the people they victimise, the operations of the criminal justice system and the social reaction to crime. Therefore, victimology can be considered a sub-discipline or area of specialisation within criminology, and victimologists are criminologists who pay close attention to the physical wounds, emotional turmoil and financial hardships inflicted by lawbreakers. Victimisation is an asymmetrical interpersonal relationship that is unfair, parasitical, oppressive, exploitative, abusive, painful, destructive and forbidden by law.

Victimologists have generally focused their attention on individuals and groups who have endured acts of violence and theft, especially murders (including at workplaces, on campuses and of officers in the line of duty), aggravated assaults like shootings and stabbings, hate crimes, terrorist attacks, intimate partner violence, forcible rapes (and other sexual assaults and molestations), child abuse, elder abuse, kidnappings, robberies, burglaries, motor vehicle thefts, identity thefts, and other larcenies.

… [additional text removed for this exemplar]

### NOTES FOR STAFF

The first wiki page must be created by the CC otherwise students can’t get started. There needs to be text placed within the Wiki editing space for students to start using.

Each Wiki activity will have a start page – a space above the editable Wiki space. It’s worth briefly restating the purpose of the activity again and putting the procedure (steps) here so students do not have to navigate away from the page to re-check instructions.

Ensure you include the instructions to students about adding their name in double brackets [[student name]] to create their own page in the wiki to add their answers.

**Additional info/tip you might want to include in your description:**

Wiki's are like websites for sharing resources. The more you contribute the better the resource becomes for everyone. It can take a moment to get your head around how to use them at first; so, check the handy [**Wiki help→**](https://uo.unisa.edu.au/course/view.php?id=40&sectionid=1976) resource to get started.