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OVS Newsletter

Nov 30, 2022

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# Speakers Urge Better Care For Youth In Justice System

Advocates for reducing juvenile incarceration told a recent webinar audience that the sooner trauma and other problems are addressed, the less likely it will be that children commit crimes serious enough to invite decades-long sentences.

Please click [here](https://www.ncja.org/crimeandjusticenews/speakers-urge-better-care-for-youth-in-justice-system) to read.

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# Human Rights Campaign Foundation Marks Ten Years Of Tracking Violence Against Transgender And Gender Non-Conforming People

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation, recently released “[*An Epidemic of Violence: Fatal Violence Against Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming People in the United States in 2022*](https://reports.hrc.org/an-epidemic-of-violence-2022)” a report honoring the lives of at least 32 transgender and gender non-conforming people killed in 2022 and shining a light on data that HRC has continued to collect on the epidemic of violence.

Please click [here](https://www.hrc.org/press-releases/human-rights-campaign-foundation-marks-ten-years-of-tracking-violence-against-transgender-and-gender-non-conforming-people-recording-32-fatalities-in-2022) to read.

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# What Is OVA?

In this 2 ½ minute video, learn the ways that OVA provides victim services and restorative justice opportunities to crime survivors.

Please click [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ejyH-pe0vc&t=10s) to access.

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# Increase In Felony Assaults With Guns Reported During Pandemic

An analysis of FBI crime data shows felony assaults with guns increased during the pandemic in the vast majority of larger communities that track and regularly report incidents to the federal government.

Please click [here](https://www.newsy.com/stories/felony-gun-assaults-increasing-in-hundreds-of-communities/) to read.

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# How Mass Violence Affects Teen Mental Health

An increased risk for anxiety, depression, and other mental health consequences.

Please click [here](https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/democratizing-mental-health-care/202211/how-mass-violence-affects-teen-mental-health) to read.

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# Readiness, Response, Resilience & Recovery – The Essential Roles of Partnerships and Resources

The National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center (NMVVRC) collects the best evidence needed to achieve a comprehensive understanding of mass violence and terrorism incidents (MVIs) upon which civic leaders, mental health professionals, journalists, policy makers and victim assistance professionals can rely.

Please click here to read.

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# Preventing Youth Hate Crimes & Identify-Based Bullying Fact Sheet

This fact sheet provides an overview of the participation OJJDP's Preventing Youth Hate Crimes & Identity-Based Bullying Initiative, including the 2021 Virtual Symposium, webinars, youth roundtables and topics to be included in a forthcoming prevention curriculum.

 Please click [here](https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/library/publications/preventing-youth-hate-crimes-identity-based-bullying-fact-sheet?utm_campaign=OJP_Digests&utm_content=November&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) to read.

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#  Immigrant Survivors Of Domestic Violence Have The Right To Safety

All domestic violence survivors, regardless of immigration status, have the right to seek help and get free services. However, many immigrant survivors may feel afraid to reach out for help. But[resources exist](https://www.phila.gov/departments/office-of-domestic-violence-strategies/resources/) for *anyone*who is experiencing domestic violence, and there are some specific rights and protections for immigrant survivors, including people who are undocumented.

Please click [here](https://www.phila.gov/2022-11-07-immigrant-survivors-of-domestic-violence-have-the-right-to-safety/) to read.

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# Safety Planning With Children

No one deserves to be abused and no child should have to witness domestic violence against a parent. Our hope is that if you are being abused, you will be able to find a way to protect yourself and your children. This page offers tips on safeguarding your children’s physical and emotional health while still in an abusive relationship as well as legal and other considerations if you plan to leave the abuser.

Please click [here](https://www.womenslaw.org/about-abuse/safety-tips/safety-planning-children) to read.

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# How The National Association Of Social Workers Are Supporting Domestic Abuse Survivors

According to the NASW website, "Social workers are at the forefront in preventing domestic Violence and treating victims of domestic Violence. For instance, social workers provide counseling and support through shelter programs, individual counseling, and court advocacy. Social workers also advocate for programs and legislation to address domestic Violence.

Please click [here](https://www.forbes.com/sites/jenniferpalumbo/2022/10/31/how-the-national-association-of-social-workers-are-supporting-domestic-abuse-survivors/?sh=176051a85123) to read.

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# Justice Department Awards $20 Million To Help Register Track Sex Offenders, Protect Young Athletes And Prevent Sexual Violence

The Office of Justice Programs’ Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking recently announced it has awarded approximately $20 million to help states, U.S. territories and tribal communities register and track sex offenders and protect Americans from sexual violence.

Please click here to read.

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# Title IX Data Show Lenient Outcomes, Weak Systems

Universities' enforcement of Title IX protections against sexual harassment and gendered violence suffers from inconsistent and generally lightly sanctioned outcomes as understaffed offices struggle to reach victims and effectively address complaints, [USA Today reports](https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/investigations/2022/11/16/title-ix-campus-rape-colleges-sexual-misconduct-expel-suspend/7938853001/).

Please click [here](https://www.ncja.org/crimeandjusticenews/title-ix-data-show-lenient-outcomes-weak-systems) to read.

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# Older Generations Have Failed To End Gun Violence. These Young Black Activists Are Doing Something About It

As mass shootings and gun violence have continued to rise over past year, it’s become a significant issue for both elected officials and the advocates belonging to [Everytown for Gun Safety](https://www.everytown.org/).

Please click [here](https://www.essence.com/news/black-youth-activists-gun-violence/?amp=1) to read.

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# Conversations With Former Prosecutors On Prosecuting Sexual Violence Cases

AEquitas staff, former prosecutors have developed a 10-part podcast-style series focused on the foundational elements of prosecuting sexual violence cases.  Each episode focuses on different topics including: trauma informed practices, working with victim service providers and alcohol facilitated sexual assault.

Please click [here](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6mgW2q1WRStOpZLDi18vNsIvdYDLHcaM) to access.

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# Dangerousness And Lethality Assessment

This course gives participants a more in-depth look into intimate partner violence, and the importance that dangerousness and lethality assessment can play in either initial response for the patrol officer, or the follow-up investigator that may be assigned the case. This course will help attendees recognize the significance for all to be aware of the importance of lethality assessment as they provide services to either a victim of abuse or if in the position of holding abusers accountable. Participants will also see methods from various surrounding states and how it may be utilized in rural settings compared to urban settings, but with the importance of taking all approaches to be victim centered and with trauma-informed lenses.

WHEN: Friday, Dec. 9, 2022 TIME: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. WHERE: Zoom COST: FREE

Please click [here](http://winservices.org/event/dangerousness-and-lethality-assessment/?instance_id=75) to register.

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# 2023 Foundational Academies Save The Date

**MARCH 22 - 24, 2023**

**JULY 12 - 14, 2023**

**OCTOBER 18 - 20, 2023**

All Academies will be held **in-person** at

The Graduate Hotel

125 South Atherton Street

State College, PA 16801

*There is no virtual or hybrid option.*

Registration is free and hotel rooms, parking, and lunch are included. Participants are on their own in the evenings.

**THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR EACH ACADEMY WILL BE OPEN APPROXIMATELY 60 DAYS PRIOR TO THE START DATE** UNDER THE PDAI TRAINING CALENDAR AT [WWW.PDAA.ORG](http://WWW.PDAA.ORG/) FOR VOCA, VOJO, & RASA FUNDED INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND PER PCCD’S CONSOLIDATED VICTIM SERVICES STANDARDS. Registrations will no longer be automatic and accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Instead, applications to attend will be prioritized by, but not limited to, length of time at agency, number of spots recently awarded to agency, etc. Please note that there is a supplemental online training requirement in addition to the 3-day classroom Academy.

If you have any questions or to request the supplemental online training form, please contact:

 Amy Smulktis, Restitution & V/W Training Consultant E: AJS@RestitutionConsulting.com

T: 717.333.2319

B: PDAA/I 717.238.5416/[www.pdaa.org](http://www.pdaa.org)

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# Victims Compensation Assistance Program Online Trainings

The following trainings will be held on December 7, 2022.

* “Wow, That’s Covered by Compensation” – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Counseling Expenses Clinic – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on December 13, 2022.

* Basic Compensation – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

All trainings count towards 1 hour of the required RASA/VOCA/VOJO training hours, except Basic Compensation which counts towards 2 and DAVE training which counts towards 2.25.

Please click [here](https://pccd.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=pccd&service=6) to register.

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# Turning Point Of Lehigh Valley – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](https://www.turningpointlv.org/home/employment-and-contract-opportunities/) to see current employment opportunities.

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# Safe Berks – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](https://recruiting.paylocity.com/recruiting/jobs/All/30c7801b-0ca4-49dc-80bf-6558d7b75f0e/Safe-Berks) to see current employment opportunities.

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# Crime Victims Council Of The Lehigh Valley – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](https://cvclv.org/employment/) to see current employment opportunities.

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# Women’s Resources Of Monroe County – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](https://www.wrmonroe.org/who-we-are/employment-opportunities/) to see current employment opportunities.

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The next OVS Newsletter will be published on Wednesday, **December 14, 2022**.  If you would like any training events, fundraisers, or notable news published in this newsletter, please submit them to Lea Dorsey at ledorsey@pa.gov  by Wednesday, **December 7, 2022**.

You have signed up to receive the OVS Newsletter from the Office of Victims' Services.  This newsletter will be sent to you on a biweekly basis via email.  If your email address changes or you would like to be removed from the OVS Newsletter distribution list, please contact Lea Dorsey at (717) 265-8733 or via email at ledorsey@pa.gov.

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Pennsylvania’s [Office of Victims’ Services](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/default.aspx)  |  3101 North Front Street  |  Harrisburg, PA  17110 |

(717) 783-0551

[www.pccd.pa.gov](http://www.pccd.pa.gov)

**PA Crime Victims Website**

[www.pcv.pccd.pa.gov](http://www.pcv.pccd.pa.gov)

**Twitter:** [@PaCrimeCom](https://twitter.com/PaCrimeComm)m.