

Crime Victims' Institute

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October 2021



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Our Mission

The mission of the Crime Victims' Institute is to :

- Conduct research to examine the impact of crime on victims of all ages in order to promote a better understanding of victimization
- Improve services to victims
- Assist victims of crime by giving them a voice
- Inform victim-related policymaking at the state and local levels.

New Research Coordintaor

The Crime Victims' Institute (CVI) is proud to announce Dr. Kathleen Ratajczak as our Research Coordinator! Dr. Ratajczak is an Assistant Professor in the Victim Studies Department at Sam Houston State University. She received her PhD from the University of Kentucky in Sociology, and also has a master's degree in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from the University of Cincinnati. Her research centers on interpersonal violence, help-seeking experiences after victimization, as well as how place and identity impact individuals' experiences and responses to victimization-related trauma. Her research includes work on victims, service professionals, and policy, to bridge the gaps between these key aspects. She is a published author in journals such as *Violence Against Women*.

Dr. Ratajczak is a compassionate professor who has been involved with the CVI since her start at Sam Houston State University. In October of 2020, the CVI and the Department of Victim Studies hosted events in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, in which Dr. Ratajczak was more than happy to lead and encourage her students to attend. Biannually, the CVI and the Department of Victim Studies hosted Careers in Victim Studies Panels, in which students have the opportunity to listen to career experiences from practitioners in the field. For both of the past events and our upcoming November panel, Dr. Ratajczak has been an asset in having her students create questions to ask the panelists and encouraging them to attend. In recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April of this year, Dr. Ratajczak again was willing to volunteer her time to attend events that promoted awareness and provided resources (such as After-Care kits) to survivors. In addition to these specific events that Dr. Ratajczak has been an avid leader in, she developed a Victim Studies minor for the College of Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University and serves as the advisor for the Crime Victim Services Alliance student organization on campus. She is a community- and student-centered professor who encourages her students to care about those around them. The CVI cannot be more excited to work with such a proponent in victim advocacy!



Sam Houston
STATE UNIVERSITY

BEHOLD THE FORCE OF OUR UNCOMMON SENSE

Published by
The Crime Victims' Institute
College of Criminal Justice
Sam Houston State University

People-Centered Services: Embracing Diversity in Victim Services Webinar

The CVI and the Department of Victim Studies at Sam Houston State University are excited to announce our upcoming webinar: People-Centered Services: Embracing Diversity in Victim Services! Our webinar will be led by the Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion for the College of Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University, a social justice researcher, and practitioners who have experience in working with different populations of survivors. Our goal is for others to learn to embrace different types of diversity and practice techniques in how to approach working with diverse populations. The webinar will be held on November 10, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. CST over Zoom. If you would like to attend this free webinar, please register at <https://www.cjcenter.org/rsvp>



Domestic Violence Awareness Month Events



In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Department of Victim Studies at Sam Houston State University, the CVI, and various student and community organizations will host community-engaging events to assist survivors. It is our hope that these events raise awareness for domestic violence victimization and the diversity in survivors. First, on October 5, 2021, David Garlock, a domestic violence survivor, will speak on his experiences and the need for change within the system. On October 12, 2021, we will host a Survivor Support Sign Making Event to create signs to show support for survivors of domestic violence and their families. These signs will be used at the SAAFE House, a local domestic violence resource center, demonstration at the Walker County Courthouse on October 21, 2021. Next, on October 26, 2021, we will help make Aftercare kits filled with comfort items and necessities to be given to men, women, and children who have survived sexual

assault. These kits will be distributed at the local Huntsville hospital through a partnership with SANE nurses. Finally, on October 27, 2021, we will host the Assisting All Domestic Violence Survivors panel discussion in which panelists will speak about how to better assist domestic violence survivors, including those who have often been overlooked or received unfair treatment in the system. Panelists will cover helping females, individuals within the LGBTQ+ communities, male survivors, and immigrants dealing with residency status.¹ We are grateful for everyone that has come together to make these events possible and are excited to raise awareness for this type of victimization!

¹ College of Criminal Justice– Upcoming Events. (n.d.). <https://www.shsu.edu/academics/criminal-justice/events/recurring.html>

Look for upcoming publications, CVI Talks episodes, and fact sheets from the Crime Victims' Institute:

- Texas Youth Camps' Response to Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting Standards by Bailey Vautrain
- Intimate Partner Homicide Victimization Fact Sheet
- Diversity in Victim Services Fact Sheet
- CVI Talk: Veterans' Mental Health Victimization
- Veterans' Mental Health Victimization Fact Sheet
- Stalking Victimization Fact Sheet

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Upcoming Events



Domestic Violence Awareness Month	October
National Training Institute 2021 Atlanta, Georgia	October 6-8, 2021
2021 National Labor Trafficking Conference Louisville, Kentucky	October 13-15, 2021
People- Centered Services: Embracing Diversity in Victim Services Seminar Virtual	November 10, 2021
Key Personnel & Victim Assistance Coordinator Conference- Texas District And County Attorneys Association Kerrville, Texas	November 10-12, 2021
2021 Crime Victim Law Conference- National Crime Victim Law Institute Virtual or Portland, Oregon	November 11-13, 2021
Victim Advocacy Training- National Children's Advocacy Center Virtual or Huntsville, Alabama	November 16-19, 2021

Resources

- Texas Abuse Hotline (suspicions of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children, adults with disabilities, or people 65 years or older) 800-252-5400
- Texas Council on Family Violence <https://tcfv.org/survivor-resources/>
- Texas Association Against Sexual Assault <https://taasa.org/get-help/>
- National Domestic Violence Hotline 800-799-7233
- National Sexual Assault Hotline 800-656-4673
- National Human Trafficking Hotline 888-373-7888
- National Child Abuse Hotline 800-422-4453
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving 877-623-3435
- Cyber Civil Rights Initiative (revenge/ nonconsensual porn) 844-878-2274



**GET
HELP**