



# CRIME VICTIMS' INSTITUTE

Executive Director: Mary M. Breaux, Ph.D.

April 2024

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## CVI Updates:

### New Research Coordinator

#### 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.

Dr. Miltonette Olivia Craig is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Sam Houston State University. Previously, she was a faculty member in the Department of Criminal Justice Sciences at Illinois State University. She earned her J.D. from Georgia State University College of Law and Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice from Florida State University. Dr. Craig's research examines race and gender across criminal legal institutions, such as disparities in traffic stops and community supervision decision-making.



Her work also examines intersectionality and intimate partner violence. Her work has been published in peer-reviewed journals such as *Victims and Offenders*, *Crime and Delinquency*, *Criminal Justice Review*, and *Policing: An International Journal*. She has contributed to discussions on system reform in the *Chicago Tribune* and *Houston Chronicle*, as well as on Illinois Public Radio and Texas Standard Radio. At SHSU, Dr. Craig teaches Fundamentals of Criminal Law, Legal Aspects of Criminal Justice, Seminar in American Courts, and the Ethics of Criminal Justice. Dr. Craig is excited to take on her new role as CVI Research Coordinator. She truly appreciates CVI's support of her victimology work, and shares its dedication to promoting scholarly research that centers the experiences of victim-survivors and aids in the provision and improvement of services.



# Inaugural Crime Victims' Institute Conference

The Crime Victims' Institute (CVI) of Texas is pleased to announce the First Annual CVI Conference titled, "*Championing Advocacy, Policy, and Research for Victims and Survivors Through a Broader Lens.*" The conference will be held on October 16th-18th, at the George J. Beto Criminal Justice Center, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas. The main purpose of this conference is to provide a platform to examine, discuss, and educate individuals on best practices and emerging trends in the field with innovative information on current research to improve policy and advocacy targeting victims and survivors. The focal points of the conference are *restorative justice, mass violence, and victimization-related policies and procedures.* The conference aims to discuss models in which victims and communities can heal and move forward, analyze dynamics of mass violence from prevention to intervention, and examine current victimization-related legislative policies and procedures. The target audience includes individuals who serve, support, and work with victims directly or indirectly in their community. More details (e.g., how to register) will be available soon. Join our email list to get the latest CVI news.

## Other Updates:

The latest episode of our ongoing series, CVI Talks, is now available on our website. This episode focuses on barriers to identifying human trafficking victims. The 2023 Crime Victims' Institute Dashboard is now available on our website as well. Additionally, the CVI will be an exhibitor at the 19th Annual Conference on Crimes Against Women in Dallas, TX from May 20-23, 2024. If you are attending, please be sure to stop by our booth for some giveaways.



## April 21-27 is National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW)

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice Victim Services Division is hosting a NCVRW Commemorative Ceremony to honor and support victims of crime and those criminal justice professionals who serve them on April 23, 2024 from 11:00am - 12:00pm at the Texas Prison Museum in Huntsville, TX.

Please visit <https://ovc.ojp.gov/events/national-crime-victims-rights-week-commemorative-ceremony> for more information regarding this ceremony, as well as other local NCVRW events.

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

- Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy Fact Sheet
- The History of Victim Rights and Services by Alyssa Linares and Dr. Taylor Robinson
- Virtual Victim Studies Career Panel
- CVI Talks: Cybervictimization Among Adolescents
- Elder Financial Abuse and Exploitation Fact Sheet
- The Impact of Wrongful Convictions on Crime Victims Fact Sheet
- Image-based Sexual Abuse by Makayla Burden & Dr. Karen Holt



## Other commemorative events/upcoming activities:

### **April**

Sexual Assault Awareness Month  
National Child Abuse Prevention Month

### **May**

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month  
Mental Health Awareness Month

### **June**

Pride Month  
Gun Violence Awareness Month

### **July**

Disability Pride Month  
National Minority (BIPOC) Mental Health Awareness Month



# Crime Victims' Institute Advisory Board

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Pardons and Paroles

**Major Jeffery Robertson,  
Wimberley**

Child Abuse Issues

**Lindsay Kinzie, Keller**

Sexual Assault Issues

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**Hon. Lee Ann Breeding,  
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Criminal District Attorney,  
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Crime Victims Assistance  
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# Resources

- Texas Abuse Hotline (suspicions of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children, adults with disabilities, or people 65+) <https://www.txabusehotline.org/Login/>  
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
- Aging and Disability Resource Center 855-937-2372
- Victim Connect Resource Center 855-484-2846
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 988

