



CRIME VICTIMS' INSTITUTE

October 2025

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

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CVI Updates:

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.

We are thrilled to announce that a new episode of our ongoing series, CVI Talks, is now available! This episode was recorded back in April in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness month and focuses on Understanding Sexual Assault on College Campuses. That same month, we also hosted a webinar on Crime Victims' Rights 101: A Broad Overview of Victims' Rights. If you are interested in viewing either of these videos, you may find them on our website under the Publications tab or click the following link: <https://www.crimevictimsinstitute.org/pubs/?mode=web>

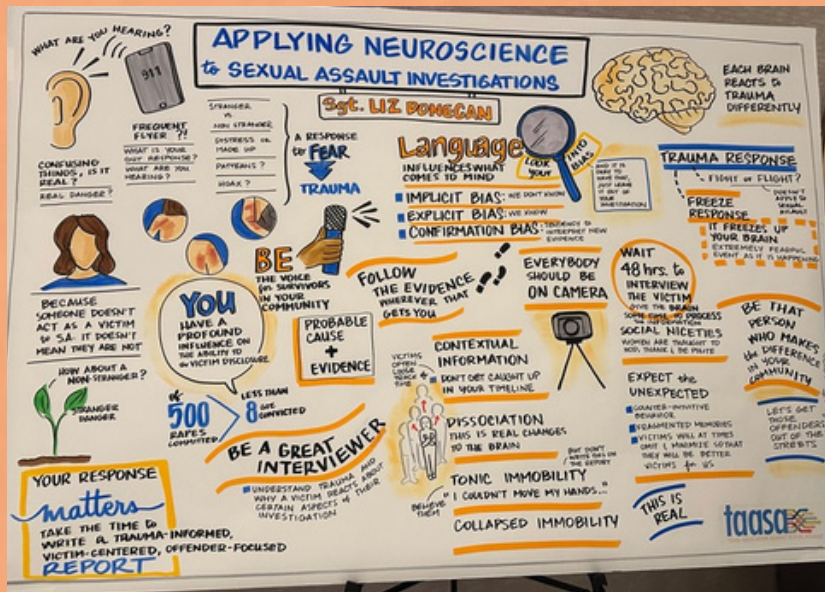
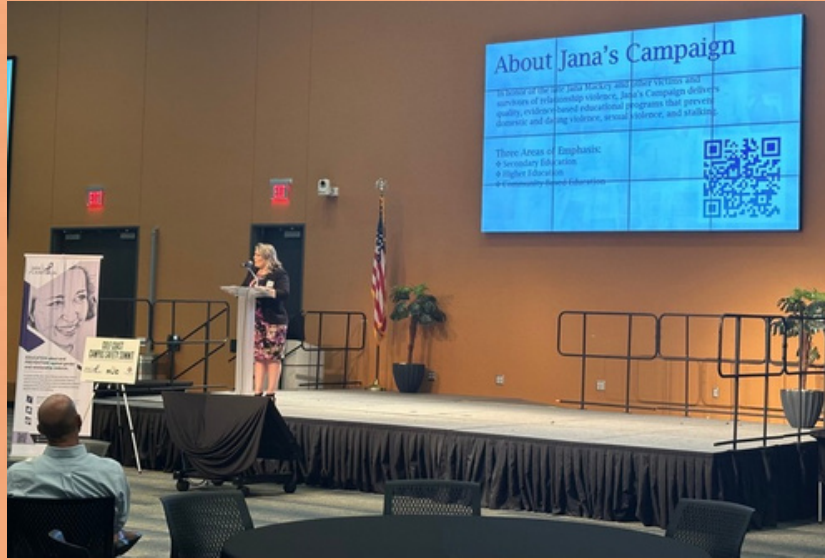
In July, CVI team members Dr. Miltonette Craig and Mayra Peña attended the 4th Annual Female Survivors of Violence Conference as exhibitors in Plano, Texas. The conference invites professionals and individuals alike to engage in meaningful discussions about trauma and recovery. Last month, Dr. Craig, Mayra, and Cristal Hernandez attended the 2025 Gulf Coast Campus Safety Summit in Houston, TX. The event, sponsored by Jana's Campaign, is a one-day conference on preventing and responding to relationship violence, sexual assault, and stalking on college campuses. The CVI served as an exhibitor, but Dr. Craig was also invited to be a speaker and led a breakout session on Recognizing and Dispelling Myths about Image-Based Sexual Abuse.

Additionally, Dr. Craig and Cristal were invited to attend and observe the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) Law Enforcement Sexual Assault Training (LESAT) in South Padre Island, TX. Attendees, which included 140 Law Enforcement from across Texas, learned about trauma-informed approaches to investigation and victim support strategies through multiple sessions.

The following week, Dr. Craig returned to South Padre Island once more to attend the Conference on Crimes Against Women (CCAW) Summit on behalf of team CVI, which serves as an extension of CCAW to highlight the specific gender-based challenges that are unique to coastal cities, rural towns, and resort communities.

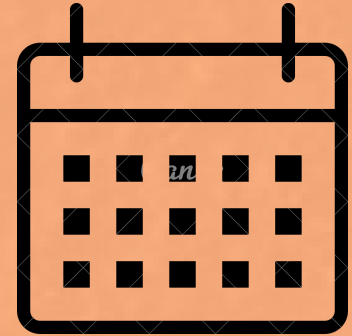


Crime Victims' Institute



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

- Bullying-Related Absenteeism from School: The Intervening Role of Depressive Symptoms and Suicidality by Dr. Peter Lehmann (Technical Report)
- Firearm-related Homicides Fact Sheet
- Working with Survivors of Trauma and Trafficking: Legal and Mental Health Perspectives (Webinar)
- Understanding Intimate Partner Violence Among Hispanic Students: A Texas Perspective by Dr. Fei Luo (Technical Report)



Other commemorative events/upcoming activities:

October

Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Cybersecurity Awareness Month
Substance Use & Misuse Prevention Month

November

Native American Heritage Month
Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month

December

Impaired Driving Prevention Month
Universal Human Rights Month

January

Human Trafficking Prevention Month
Stalking Awareness Month

Texas Victim Services Association (TVSA)

Texas Advanced Academy for Victim Assistance

TVSA's application period for the 2026 Texas Advanced Academy for Victim Assistance (TAAVA) is still open! Applications are due by **Friday, November 7**. The Academy is scheduled to be presented in person at the Williamson County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Training Center in Hutto on February 25-27, 2026. All applicants will be notified of their acceptance status on or before December 9, 2025. The academy class will be capped at 45. To apply, or for more information on the Academy, please visit: <https://txvsa.org/event-6371979>

If you have any questions or concerns, please email director@txvsa.org.



Working with Survivors of Trauma and Trafficking:

Legal and Mental Health Perspectives Webinar

The CVI is hosting a webinar on **Wednesday, November 19** from 2:00-3:30pm CST via Zoom. The purpose of this webinar is to educate attendees on and expose them to legal and mental health perspectives of working with survivors of trauma. Panelists include Davina Ugochukwu, ESQ. (MiCreate), Brian Simmons, MA, LPC (New Solutions Counseling & Trauma Center), and Christina Richardson, NCC, LPC (Trauma Support Services). If you are interested in attending, please complete our registration form: <https://forms.office.com/r/qE3awjUJQx>

If you have any questions or concerns, please email crimevictims@shsu.edu

Crime Victims' Institute Advisory Board

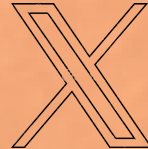
Heather F. Ayala Grand Prairie National Director of Victim Services, Mothers Against Drunk Driving	Hon. Lee Ann Breeding Denton District Judge, 462nd Judicial District Court	Melissa Carter Bryan Victim Assistance Coordinator, Brazos County District Attorney's Office	Hillary A. England, MSW Pflugerville Deputy Director of Victim Services and Prevention Programs, Office of the Governor
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Jeffery "JD" Robertson Wimberley Independent Consultant & Retired Major, Texas Rangers	David E. Schwartz Bellaire Retired Pharmacist	Hon. John Smithee Amarillo Texas State Representative District 86 & Chair of the Texas House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee	Hon. Erleigh N. Wiley Forney Criminal District Attorney, Kaufman County

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Resources

- Aging and Disability Resource Center 855-937-2372
- Cyber Civil Rights Initiative 844-878-2274
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving 877-623-3435
- National Child Abuse Hotline 800-422-4453
- National Domestic Violence Hotline 800-799-7233
- National Human Trafficking Hotline 888-373-7888
- National Sexual Assault Hotline 800-656-4673
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 988
- Texas Abuse Hotline 800-252-5400
- Texas Council on Family Violence <https://tcfv.org/survivor-resources/>
- Texas Association Against Sexual Assault <https://taasa.org/get-help/>
- Victim Connect Resource Center 855-484-2846



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