

# "Sentencing, the Victim"



## Discussion Guide



## INTRODUCTION

**SENTENCING THE VICTIM** is a powerful examination of one woman's struggle to survive a brutal crime by multiple violent offenders; her powerful pleas to the criminal justice and parole systems to hold the offenders accountable and to fight for their convictions; and her quest to reform the criminal justice system and reduce trauma to victims who venture through it.

Joanna Katz was 19 years old when, on the evening of June 17, 1988, she and a female friend were abducted at gunpoint by five men from a parking lot in Charleston, South Carolina. They endured five hours of brutal assaults, rape, torture and threats of death. After Joanna escaped from what she had thought was certain death, she led law enforcement officials to her assailants, saving the life of her friend. And then she began a more than decade-long struggle to keep their attackers behind bars.

## FILMMAKER STATEMENT

### Liz Oakley

When Joanna Katz first approached me with the idea of producing a documentary, it had nothing to do with her or her experiences as a victim of violent crime. It was about exposing the injustices that she repeatedly heard about in survivor support groups. As Joanna explains in the film: "...most of them had never been able to report it. Most of them got treated like...hell. They got treated badly and misunderstood, or never told a soul...stayed in abusive relationships, got rejected by their families. Then I said, 'Oh, yeah, they do have it worse than me. They really do.' "

It became clear to me that Joanna was, in many ways, the exception to the rule in a series of injustices. She represents a best-case scenario in the aftermath of such a horrific experience. Her parents were loving and supportive, even when they had no idea what to say. A crisis worker met her at the hospital in those critical early hours, then continued to provide emotional support for months to come. The investigator who was assigned to her case understood the complexities of interviewing and working with victims of sexual assault. The prosecutor was sensitive and patient and has continued to be a strong supporter and advocate. All of these people—their reactions and actions—made a tremendous difference in Joanna's recovery. They should all feel proud and know they helped create the incredibly strong and vibrant person that she is today.

Recognizing this, we have produced a film that exposes not only what went wrong but also what went right in a complex case involving multiple defendants. This film can be used to promote positive changes in the way we, as a society, respond to victims. In sharing the untold story, Joanna Katz has given us an incredible gift—and it is now our responsibility to use that gift wisely.

### Joanna Katz

I never expected SENTENCING THE VICTIM to be a film about my own story—but then, great change and hope often take on a life of their own. During the seven years of filming, Liz Oakley and I built a friendship on trust and a shared passion to tell the story about the treatment of sexual assault victims. I saw my role as a victim advocate change because of this film.

My goal is to take this hope for change to a higher place—a place that can change minds. A place that is more compassionate and sympathetic toward victims. A place where the truth can be told about the very personal pain that victims and families alike endure. And finally, a place where survivors find their own voices to speak for themselves.



## POTENTIAL AUDIENCES FOR SENTENCING THE VICTIM

- Crime victims and survivors
- Families and friends of victims
- Victim assistance professionals
- Crisis responders
- Law enforcement officials
- Prosecutors
- Judges and court personnel
- Probation officials
- Parole officials
- Corrections officials
- Interfaith communities
- Mental health professionals
- Hospital and health professionals
- Makers of public policy
- College and university students
- Community safety advocates
- Journalists who cover crime

## PURPOSE OF THE GUIDE

There are four important goals associated with viewing ***SENTENCING THE VICTIM*** and utilizing the discussion guide to learn from the film's powerful messages. Upon completion of the viewing and group discussions, participants will be able to

1. describe the immediate, the short-term and the long-term impacts of violent crime on victims and survivors and their families.
2. describe how participating in criminal justice processes can further traumatize victims and survivors and also why it is important for victims to participate, including that it is beneficial to their healing process.
3. describe how the sensitive treatment of victims and survivors by law enforcement, health care professionals, criminal justice and parole officials, and others can affect victims' ability and capacity to heal in the aftermath of violent crime.
4. recommend ways to improve the overall treatment of victims and survivors, both by those who are in a position to assist them and by the criminal justice system.

## USING THIS DISCUSSION GUIDE WITH THE FILM

**SENTENCING THE VICTIM** is 88 minutes long. It is important to view it in its entirety to fully understand the impact these crimes and ongoing participation in the parole process have had on Joanna and her family.

The videotape/DVD and discussion guide are divided into four sections.

- **Section One** addresses the impact of the crimes on Joanna and her family.
- **Section Two** discusses how criminal justice processes can be traumatic for victims and witnesses.
- **Section Three** addresses the need for sensitive treatment of victims by justice and helping professionals.
- **Section Four** includes recommendations to improve the justice system and its response to and services for crime victims.

Each section includes questions and facilitator probes for group discussion. Incorporated into the questions and probes are additional insights offered by Joanna—into the crimes, their aftermath, and their impact on her and her family.

### Facilitator Tips

- **SENTENCING THE VICTIM** contains detailed and graphic descriptions of a brutal crime. The facilitator should verbally prepare participants for this and encourage them to discuss their possible reactions to the film and its content. In addition, it is helpful to have a mental health professional or victim advocate present who can provide support to anyone who may need it.
- Prior to facilitating a group, you should view the film in its entirety and read the discussion guide.
- When facilitating a group, use the information and help in this discussion guide to evoke issues, questions and concerns from participants after they view the film. Be prepared to facilitate further discussion and input from participants.
- Strong group facilitation skills are helpful in engaging participants in a group discussion, in guiding their analysis of the film's content and messages, and in enabling them to clarify what they have learned.

*Beyond the film, Joanna Katz has additional insights into the crimes, their aftermath, and their impact on her and her family. These valuable insights are also included in this discussion guide.*



## Before Viewing the Film

- Welcome participants to the viewing event and express your gratitude for their attendance.
- Ask participants to introduce themselves and to tell the group their reason for attending the event.
- Briefly describe the film and the agenda for the viewing event.
- Clearly inform participants that the film is very graphic and that its impact may be emotionally draining or traumatic for some viewers. Let them know that helping professionals are available to provide support as needed and upon request.
- Ask participants to consider their own state's criminal justice and paroling processes—and their impact on victims and witnesses—as they view the film. Tell them their ideas and views will be utilized for a group activity following the film.

## After Viewing the Film

The questions included in this discussion guide reflect on Joanna Katz's experiences, yet the answers are relevant to victims and survivors in states across America. Following the film, guide participants in a discussion that helps them identify 10 things that the criminal justice and paroling systems can do to be more sensitive to the needs and concerns of victims in their jurisdiction.

Summarize the group's recommendations, then make use of them.

- Incorporate them into a letter to the editor of the local newspaper.
- Send them to state and local criminal justice officials, including law enforcement, prosecution, defense bar, judiciary, probation, corrections and paroling authorities.
- Send them to the state legislative committee that addresses criminal justice—and victim-related issues

## Section One

### THE IMPACT OF CRIME ON VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS AND THEIR FAMILIES

*...I'm devastated. I'm horrified...there's nothing I can do. I feel totally helpless.*

*—Joanna Katz*

*You don't know what kinds of things are the right things to say. You don't even know what the wrong things are to say.*

*—Joanna's father*

Violent crime often has a significant and profound impact on victims and survivors and their loved ones and can result in what some victims describe as a “life-altering experience.” In general, there are four types of victim impact.

- Emotional/psychological
- Physical
- Spiritual
- Financial

Although the traumatic impact of crime is seldom linear, it is often identified in three ways.

- Immediate impact, which occurs in the hours and days following a crime
- Short-term impact, which occurs in the weeks following a crime
- Long-term impact, which occurs in the months and years following a crime

The long-term impact of crime can depend on many factors: how the victim/survivor was treated by his or her family and friends and helping professionals; the degree of exposure to the criminal justice system and its treatment of the victim; access to mental health, victim support and victim assistance services in order to identify and cope with victim trauma; and the level of social support that victims and survivors receive from family members, friends and others close to them who can help.

## Discussion Questions

### 1. How did these crimes affect Joanna and her family emotionally, physically and spiritually?

*FACILITATOR PROBES:*

#### Emotional/Psychological Impact

- Shock
- Fear
- Horror
- Unpredictable feelings
- Helplessness
- Nightmares
- Avoidance
- Emotionally struggling to “do what you can to survive”
- Being threatened multiple times with death and the fear that resulted from these threats
- Having no control over the criminal acts (“I did what I was told to do”)
- Self-blame
- Joanna’s concerns about how her parents and brother would react
- “Wanting to die” when the criminal acts became unbearable
- Concerns about personal safety and security (“I never felt safe again”)
- Long-term feelings that “I’m going crazy”
- Mentally reliving the traumatic events
- Impact on important relationships
- Loss of hope of regaining a sense of “normalcy” (a fear of “losing the old Joanna”)
- At times, a loss of the will to live
- Others?

#### Physical Impact

- Being choked, beaten and dragged across the ground
- Being repeatedly raped and otherwise sexually assaulted
- Having a gun repeatedly held to the head and being pistol-whipped
- Being knocked unconscious
- Long-term sleep disorders.
- Other long-term physical manifestations of the emotional trauma
- Others?

#### Spiritual Impact

- Praying to God for help and guidance as the assaults and rapes were occurring
- Seeking “self-preservation through divine intervention”
- A profound spiritual impact that Joanna describes simply as “not tangible”
- Others?

## 2. What was the emotional impact of this crime on Joanna's parents (based on the film and a personal interview with Dr. and Mrs. Katz)?

### *FACILITATOR PROBES:*

- Disbelief
- Alarm
- Numbness
- Helplessness
- Relief (upon discovering that their daughter was alive)
- Anger
- Not knowing how they would get through the trauma
- Fear that Joanna would never return to "normal"
- Not knowing the right things to say and being afraid of saying the wrong things

## 3. What long-term impacts, positive and negative, did the crime have on the Katz family as a whole?

### *FACILITATOR PROBES:*

#### **Negative**

- Worrying about Joanna's safety for years after the crime occurred
- Realizing that the impact on Joanna's mental health was still evident
- Friends or family who do not know what to say, so they say nothing, which can be painful
- Feelings of guilt about not being emotionally able to offer enough help to the parents of other victims

#### **Positive**

- The satisfaction of watching Joanna transform from victim to advocate
- Seeing that Joanna came out of the trauma empathetic and strong
- Hearing from others that they were good parents
- Hearing that it would get better
- Learning that avoiding negativity and offering positive support can promote a healthy long-term healing process for the victim

## 4. What are some of Joanna's parents' needs?

### *FACILITATOR PROBES:*

- Gaining a better understanding of reactions common to many victims/survivors, such as withdrawal, anger and fear of being alone
- Learning what to do to help their loved one
- Being reassured that most victims get through the trauma and return to normal
- Addressing a sense of hopefulness
- Accepting that they will experience discomfort when sharing Joanna's story and their own experiences with other family members and friends and learning to get past the discomfort

## 5. What helped Joanna's parents help her?

### *FACILITATOR PROBES:*

- A victim advocate who was available to visit Joanna at home, to answer questions, and to facilitate the dialogue between Joanna and her parents
- Knowing that the victim advocate was also a victim/survivor
- Information about and access to help from mental health professionals who specialized in rape trauma syndrome and post-traumatic stress disorder



## 4. Although the film does not address the financial impact of these crimes on Joanna and her family, what do you think are some of the costs associated with the effects of these crimes?

### *FACILITATOR PROBES:*

- Immediate medical care
- Long-term medical and mental health care (for example, the costs associated with mental health treatment and prescription medications for symptoms associated with post-traumatic stress disorder)
- Psychological counseling for Joanna and her family (the statute of limitations for counseling and mental health services in many states does not adequately address victims' needs for long-term counseling)
- Costs associated with driving to Columbia each year to attend multiple parole hearings
- Costs associated with taking time off from work to attend multiple parole hearings
- Others?

## Section Two

### THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS AND ITS EFFECT ON VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS

*“It’s sort of a virtual prison.... We’re sharing that sentence with them.... It starts as soon as we walk out that door [of the parole hearing]. It starts all over again.”*

—Joanna’s father

In many cases such as this, the victim/survivor also is the key witness for the purposes of criminal prosecution, parole board decision making and holding violent offenders accountable for their actions. As such, they are required to repeatedly recall painful and traumatic events to assist justice processes and ensure that justice is served.

Victims and survivors have rights to facilitate their participation in criminal justice processes. These are the seven core victims’ rights.

1. Notification/information
2. Protection
3. Participation
4. Victim impact statement
5. Restitution
6. Victim compensation information and assistance
7. Information about and referrals to supportive services

### Discussion Questions

#### 1. In what ways can participating in criminal justice processes be traumatic to victims and witnesses?

*FACILITATOR PROBES:*

- Having to think about the crime and recall painful details that are necessary for prosecution and parole decision making
- Having to face the offender(s) in court
- Insensitive statements that are patronizing to victims
- Professionals who fail to truly listen to victims/survivors and validate what they are saying (making victims feel “rushed” rather than validated and appreciated)
- Professionals who lack understanding about victim trauma (and therefore are fearful of being exposed to it)
- Being compared with other victims/survivors or other cases
- Trying to understand their role in specific justice processes and how they can be most effective while often having little information to guide them
- The sheer amount of time it takes to be an effective participant in justice processes
- Others?

## 2. How can participating in justice processes be beneficial to the healing process of victims and survivors?

### *FACILITATOR PROBES:*

- It can empower victims in significant and subtle ways by validating the harm that has occurred and the victim's vital role in seeking justice and offender accountability
- Criminal justice professionals can provide critical information and answers to victims' questions that can help them navigate justice processes
- It gives victims control over what began as an uncontrollable event and helps them address feelings of a loss of power, second-guessing what happened and self-doubt
- Positive justice system responses provide affirmation to victims that they were really listened to
- It gives victims a powerful role in contributing to community and public safety
- Other?

## 3. How can the active participation of victims and survivors benefit criminal justice processes and proceedings?

### *FACILITATOR PROBES:*

- They are key witnesses to the crime and can provide vital information for successful investigations, prosecution, parole board decisions and overall offender management.
- They can fill in the missing pieces of case information that may not be included in initial reports and case documentation.
- They give a face to crime, personalizing and humanizing the impact of violent crime on victims and survivors.
- Others?

## Section Three

### SENSITIVE TREATMENT OF VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS BY CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND HELPING PROFESSIONALS

#### Discussion Questions

*Mainly you want someone there that can be supportive that they feel comfortable with.*

—*Sherri Monk Fortenberry*  
*Victim advocate*

*It's just being there...just being there and loving them and being nonjudgmental.*

—*Joanna's mother*

Sensitive and caring treatment of victims and survivors can go far to validate them and their experiences, provide them with critical information to help them make decisions about their cases and their lives, and help them predict and prepare for their future. Similarly, insensitive treatment can evoke secondary trauma and hinder the healing and recovery processes for victims and survivors.

#### 1. What are some things that criminal justice and other helping professionals can do and say that exemplify “respectful treatment”?

*FACILITATOR PROBES* (these suggestions are provided by Joanna Katz):

##### **Sensitive Treatment by Law Enforcement and First Responders**

- Attend first to the victim's immediate needs for medical attention.
- Identify and seek to address any of the victim's safety and security needs.
- Provide a support person who can be with the victim and provide comfort.
- Explain the reason for asking specific questions, that is, that the information the victim provides is critical to the investigation and prosecution of the case. What may seem to the rest of us like a common-sense reason for getting information and taking photographs may not be at all clear to a traumatized victim, so giving a sensitive and thorough explanation will help render better cooperation and victim input.
- Provide information about the investigation and status of the case as well as details about information needed from the victim that is relevant to the case.

### **Sensitive Treatment by Hospital and Medical Personnel**

- Provide a private room that is safe and secure.
- Ask the victim if he or she would like a family member, friend or other support person to be there.
- Provide information about medical procedures to reduce the potential for further trauma or harm.
- Provide information about victim compensation to cover the costs of medical expenses that result from violent crime.

### **Sensitive Treatment by Victim Advocates**

- Be compassionate, listen to the victim and validate his or her experiences.
- Conduct a basic-needs assessment to identify the victim's most salient needs, then try to meet them.
- Explain the range of rights and services available to help victims and provide them with assistance in exercising their victims' rights and linking them to appropriate system-based and community-based victim services.
- When possible, accompany victims to key hearings related to their case.
- Try to focus on hopes for a positive outcome. Not giving victims hope will likely promote negative outcomes in healing as well as in their willingness and even ability to participate in the legal process.

### **Sensitive Treatment by Justice Professionals**

- Learn about victim trauma and the impact of crime on victims so that you understand how it affects a victim's ability and willingness to participate in justice processes.
- Explain your role and the role of your agency in the criminal justice process.
- Explain any rights that the victim may have and your role in implementing these rights.
- Explain the overall criminal justice process, including when things will happen and why.
- Inform victims about all pre- and post-hearings related to their case and about the availability of victim advocates to accompany them to the hearings (where relevant).

### **Sensitive Treatment by Corrections Officials**

- Identify the type of information that is most helpful for victims, both initially and over a longer term, whose attackers are entering the correctional system.
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of key correctional staff in providing assistance to victims and in helping them to exercise their rights.
- Recognize that your mission of ensuring public safety incorporates the victim's need for safety and protection.

### **Sensitive Treatment by Paroling Authorities**

- Talk to victims who have been through the parole hearing process. Ask them to share with you the types of comments that were helpful and hurtful.
- Don't apologize for the circumstances of a parole hearing; rather, validate the victims' presence. Be sure they know that you appreciate their attendance and input, that their active participation is important to the process.
- Victims with information about the type of input that would be most valuable and relevant to parole decisions.
- Allow victims to speak without interruption.
- Acknowledge the victims' input in a respectful manner that shows you were listening and are attempting to understand how they feel.

### **Sensitive Treatment by Reporters and Editors**

- Acknowledge the victim's pain and trauma before asking for the interview. Safe phrases include: "I am sorry for your loss" or "I am sorry for what happened to you."
- Explain the purpose of the interview and why the victim might want to speak. Reporters also should explain the limits of their power to shape the final story.
- If the victim does not want to speak, thank him or her for considering your request and leave a business card with your contact information for future reference.
- Discuss the ground rules for the interview—length of time, mutually agreeable location, topics that are off limits, how to identify off-the-record material and the victim's right to terminate the interview at any time.
- Ask permission each step of the way: "Is it okay for me to take notes (use a tape recorder, use a video camera)?"
- Resist the temptation to hug or touch victims.

### **Good Things That Were Said to Joanna by Helping Professionals and Others**

- "Everything you did during the incident is why you are alive today."
- "I think what you are doing to effect positive change is courageous and important and will make things better for a lot of people."
- "I'm glad you are talking about what happened."

### **Bad Things That Were Said to Joanna by Helping Professionals and Others**

- "What was the race of your perpetrators?"  
*This is irrelevant and was offensive to Joanna.*
- "If that had happened to me..."  
*It didn't happen to you.*
- "Why did they get only 30 years?"  
*This minimizes the effect of the sentence and of Joanna's struggle for justice.*
- "Will you be afraid for your life when they are eventually released?"  
*A more suitable question is "Do you have any concerns about your safety and security?"*
- "Have you considered forgiving your perpetrators?"  
*Forgiveness is a highly personal issue that should not be open to public discourse unless the topic is first raised by the victim/survivor.*

**2. In what ways did the criminal justice system prove traumatic to Joanna’s family (based on an interview with Dr. and Mrs. Katz)?**

*FACILITATOR PROBES:*

- Fear of the effect on Joanna of the trial and testifying
- Fear of how questioning from the defense attorney would affect Joanna
- Anger at the sight of the perpetrators
- Distress watching Joanna tell details of her experiences to an open courtroom, which included the simply curious among its ranks
- The perpetrators’ staring at and making inappropriate gestures to the Katz family during the trial
- Running into acquaintances at the trial that were uninformed about the crime



**3. How was the criminal justice system sensitive in its treatment of Joanna and her family during the trial (based upon an interview with Dr. and Mrs. Katz)?**

*FACILITATOR PROBES:*

- The prosecutor was caring and compassionate.
- The detective was empathetic and effective.
- The other victim, the prosecutor’s staff, the detective and the victim advocate all sat with them during the trial.
- Community-based victim services—for example, the rape crisis center and People Against Rape—provided support services, including information on other resources.
- Neighbors and friends were supportive.

#### 4. How were those involved in the parole process sensitive in their treatment of the Joanna and her family during the process?

##### *FACILITATOR PROBES:*

- Community-based victim advocates from Citizens Against Violent Crime (C.A.V.E.) helped secure thousands of signatures to protest parole release.
- The prosecutor attended all of the parole hearings.
- Police officers attended in support of Joanna and her family.
- Joanna was able to make her statement to the parole board in a facility separated from the offenders by sight and sound.
- The parole hearing facility had a secure and comfortable waiting room designated for victims.

#### 5. How was the parole process traumatic for the Katz family?

##### *FACILITATOR PROBES:*

- The need to attend multiple parole hearings each year, instead of combining hearings to make the process less stressful, less costly and less time-consuming for victims
- The parole board's unwillingness to take the initiative to combine hearings
- Discussing the case with others in order to get signatures for the petition
- The process of obtaining petitions, which was time-consuming and stressful for the entire family
- Attending hearings at the prison and being searched
- Seeing Joanna relive the trauma when she testified before the parole board
- Knowing the board would say "the same thing they said the last time"
- Apprehensive at the outcome
- Feeling rushed by the parole board
- Perceiving the board's negative response to the prosecuting attorney who accompanied the Katz family to each hearing, which was hurtful to Joanna and her family
- The parole board's decision being made prior to receiving input from the victim, which negates the relevance and importance of the victim impact statement

#### 6. What was helpful about the paroling process for the Katz family?

##### *FACILITATOR PROBES:*

- The offenders were denied parole.
- Joanna's parents had an opportunity to give their perspective as parents.
- Appearing before the parole board makes a statement in itself.
- Showing up as a support system may make the board pay more attention, affirming that many others are affected by and concerned about the crimes.

## Section Four

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

*The law needs to change. There's no reason why somebody shouldn't challenge that. And who's a better candidate than someone like me?*  
—Joanna Katz

The powerful and often painful experiences of victims and survivors can lead to significant improvements in criminal justice processes as well as in how victims are viewed and treated by the justice system. For many victims, such as Joanna, the arduous path to healing includes a significant role of activism and advocacy for positive change.

After viewing SENTENCING THE VICTIM, you may clearly see the need for criminal justice and parole process reforms and for reforms in how victims are treated by the justice system. The recommendations in this section are from Joanna Katz, based upon her experiences as a victim and survivor since 1988.

### Discussion Questions

1. How can the justice system enhance or reform its processes to better facilitate the effective participation of crime victims and survivors and at the same time ensure their sensitive treatment?

#### FACILITATOR PROBES:

- Provide victim sensitivity training to all professionals and volunteers whose responsibilities include victim assistance or interactions with victims and survivors.  
*Knowledge of victim trauma—including the immediate, short-term and long-term impacts of crime on victims and their loved ones and how participation in criminal justice processes can exacerbate victim trauma (see Section One)—is essential for professionals and volunteers who have contact with victims and survivors.*



- Provide victims and survivors with the opportunity to participate in parole decision hearings via video teleconferencing.

*The process of thinking about and preparing for parole decision hearings in itself can be traumatic to victims and their families. And the need to travel to the hearing site—which is often in a correctional institution—poses an additional burden in terms of time, cost and stress.*

*Videoconferencing technology would enable victims to attend the hearings and interact with the board without the burden of travel and additional loss of wages.*

*This technology should be available for all victims, including those no longer living in the same state in which the crime against them occurred.*

- Review parole decision hearing processes to seek improvements in how victims and survivors are treated.

*Although every state has different processes for making decisions about parole, all states should attempt to make their process victim-sensitive and victim-friendly. For example, the paroling authority can inform victims about staff recommendations relevant to the offender's potential release or further incarceration; victims should be allowed to make their victim impact statements prior to the paroling authority's decision; and victims' needs for safety and security at the hearing should be identified and addressed.*

- The most effective way to assure quality victim assistance services and continually attempt to identify and meet victims' most salient needs is to conduct victim satisfaction surveys, which should elicit information about

*victims' perceptions of their treatment by criminal justice and helping professionals.*

*victims' views on the quality of services and assistance they received, with opportunities to recommend improvements.*

*whether victims were able to exercise their core rights in accordance with their statutory and constitutional rights.*

- Provide opportunities for victims and survivors to effect changes in public policy that guide the implementation of victims' rights and delivery of victim services.

*Since the inception of the victim assistance field in 1972, the power of the personal story has been a driving force behind the development and implementation of public policy that defines and protects crime victims' rights. Victims and survivors like Joanna Katz cannot change what has happened to them, but they can change justice processes to promote greater sensitivity toward and improved treatment of future victims.*

**2. After viewing the film and listening to Joanna’s experiences, are there any other recommendations you would make that could improve the treatment of victims and survivors and the implementation of their rights?**

*FACILITATOR PROBES:*

- Based upon your experiences in your state or jurisdiction?
- Based upon the laws and agency policies in your state or jurisdiction?
- Based upon your personal experiences interacting with victims and survivors (or, if relevant and you wish to discuss them, your own experiences as a victim/survivor)?

**NOTE: Suggested stop cues for a SENTENCING THE VICTIM viewing and discussion are available at [www.itvs.org/outreach/sentencingthevictim](http://www.itvs.org/outreach/sentencingthevictim).**

## NATIONAL PARTNERS

**American Probation and Parole Association (APPA)** is an international association that explores issues relevant to the field of adult and juvenile probation, parole and community-based corrections. [www.appa-net.org](http://www.appa-net.org)

**Justice Solutions** is a national nonprofit advocating for rights, resources and respect for victims and communities affected by crime. [www.justicesolutions.com](http://www.justicesolutions.com)

**Maryland Crime Victim Resource Center, Inc. (MCVRC)** strives to ensure that victims of violent crime receive justice and are treated with dignity and compassion through comprehensive rights and services. [www.mdcrimevictims.org](http://www.mdcrimevictims.org)

**National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators (NAVAA)** is an organization of jurisdictions and agencies designated to administer U.S. Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) victim assistance formula block grants. [www.navaa.org/links.html](http://www.navaa.org/links.html)

**National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center at the Medical University of South Carolina** is devoted to achieving a better understanding of the impact of criminal victimization on adults, children and their families, focusing on four major areas: scientific research, evidence-based treatment, professional education and consultation. [www.musc.edu/cvc/](http://www.musc.edu/cvc/)

**Security on Campus** is a nonprofit organization that seeks to ensure safer college and university campuses for students, through education, victim assistance, advocacy and public policy initiatives. [www.securityoncampus.org](http://www.securityoncampus.org) Hotline: 1-888-251-7959

**Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)** carries out programs to prevent sexual assault, help victims and ensure that rapists are brought to justice. [www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org) Hotline: 1-800-656-HOPE

**Victims and the Media** explores ways to assist the media in reporting on crime, trauma and catastrophe. [www.victims.jrn.msu.edu](http://www.victims.jrn.msu.edu)

**Victims Assistance Legal Organization (VALOR)** is dedicated to enhancing the legal rights of victims of crime in the civil, criminal and juvenile justice systems, promoting public awareness about the rights and needs of crime victims, and advancing victim’s rights through public policy efforts at federal, state and local levels. [www.valor-national.org](http://www.valor-national.org)

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC)** is dedicated to forging a national commitment to help victims of crime rebuild their lives. [www.ncvc.org](http://www.ncvc.org) Hotline: 1-800-FYI-CALL

**National Organization for Victims Assistance (NOVA)** is an organization of victim and witness assistance programs and practitioners, criminal justice agencies and professionals, mental health professionals, researchers, former victims and survivors, and others committed to the recognition and implementation of victim rights and services. [www.trynova.org](http://www.trynova.org) Hotline: 1-800-TRY-NOVA

**Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)** is the department within the U.S Department of Justice that oversees diverse programs that benefit victims of crime, providing substantial funding to state victim assistance and victim compensation programs and training to criminal justice and allied professionals. [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc)

**Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)** within the U.S Department of Justice handles legal and policy issues regarding violence against women and administers grants to state, tribal and local governments and community-based agencies to train personnel, establish specialized domestic violence and sexual assault units, assist victims of violence, and hold perpetrators accountable. [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo)

**Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR)/National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC)** is an organization working at the state and national levels to prevent sexual violence by challenging public attitudes, raising public awareness, and effecting critical changes in public policy protocols and responses to sexual violence. [www.pcar.org](http://www.pcar.org) Hotline: 1-888-772-PCAR

## Evaluation Form

*Suggested Time: 10 minutes*

We appreciate hearing about your community and classroom activities. In order to better understand how individuals and communities are using our films and outreach resources, please take time to submit an event evaluation form online at [www.itvs.org/outreach/sentencingthevictim](http://www.itvs.org/outreach/sentencingthevictim).

## Acknowledgements and Credits

**SENTENCING THE VICTIM** was produced by Liz Oakley and Joanna Katz in association with Independent Television Service (ITVS), with funds provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Additional funding was provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.

To purchase a tape, contact IVS Video at 843-577-0609 or visit [www.sentencingthevictim.com](http://www.sentencingthevictim.com).

**An Independent Lens premiere**, March 2, 2004 at 10:00 P.M. on PBS. Check local listings at [www.itvs.org](http://www.itvs.org).

To download FREE outreach and educational materials for this film, go to [www.itvs.org/outreach/sentencingthevictim](http://www.itvs.org/outreach/sentencingthevictim). For more information about ITVS's Community Connections Project, go to [www.itvs.org/outreach](http://www.itvs.org/outreach) or contact [outreach@itvs.org](mailto:outreach@itvs.org).

## Discussion Guide Credits

### Writers:

Anne Seymour, Director, Justice Solutions  
Joanna Katz, Co-producer, SENTENCING THE VICTIM

### Guide Reviewers:

Bonnie Bucquereux, Coordinator, Victims and the Media, Michigan State University  
Trudy Gregorie, Director, Justice Solutions  
Melissa Hook, Deputy Executive Director, Victim Assistance Legal Organization  
Joyce Lukima, Director, Training and Technical Assistance, Pennsylvania Coalition  
Against Rape/National Sexual Violence Resource Center  
Alyssa Reingold, Ph.D., National Crime Victim Research and Treatment Center

### National Outreach Development:

Melissa Hook, Deputy Executive Director, Victim Assistance Legal Organization  
Joanna Katz, Co-producer, SENTENCING THE VICTIM  
Jim Sommers, National Outreach Manager, ITVS-Community Connections Project

**Photos:** Ed Bates

**Design:** Steven Katz and Brad Bunkers

