

# Journey Towards Justice

## -Who Are the Victims?

Capital thinking. Globally minded.



*“We face opposition from people who put the rights of criminals before the safety of the police and public. There are people out there who would rather look out for the country’s burglars, thieves, rapists and killers than those who put their lives on the line to uphold the law”.*

Hon Judith Collins,  
Opening Speech at  
Sensible Sentencing Trust Conference, 2009.

Capital thinking. Globally minded.



“*Those who promote this ‘strange morality’ can be counted on to speak out in opposition whenever reforms are made to the justice system so it better serves victims rather than offenders.*”

Hon Judith Collins,  
Opening Speech at  
Sensible Sentencing Trust Conference, 2009.

Capital thinking. Globally minded.



*“It is very easy to talk about victims and offenders as if they were two quite separate groups (both demographically and morally). Of course, the world is not that black and white.*

*The New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey tells us that 50% of all victimizations are experienced by only 6% of New Zealanders and that the social and demographic indicators that identify those who are most likely to be victimized are identical to the markers for those likely to be offenders.*

*The life stories and cultural contexts that weave victims and offenders together (often within the same person) make any artificial separation between offenders and victims just that: an artifice that oversimplifies our complex world.*

Tony Paine, “Victim Support, Victims Rights: an agenda for prevention” an address delivered at ‘Addressing the underlying causes of offending; What is the evidence? – February 2010, Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University

Capital thinking. Globally minded.



*From a distance, the world may appear neatly divided into guilty perpetrators and innocent victims. The closer we get, however, the more the line between guilty and innocent blurs and we see an intractable maze of small and large hatreds, dishonesties, manipulations, and brutalities, each reinforcing the other. ... Intertwined through the wrongdoing committed and suffered, the victim and violator are bound in the tragic and self-perpetuating solidarity of sin.*

Miroslav Volf, 1996, *Exclusion and Embrace*  
(Nashville: Abingdon, 1996) 81-82.

“Offenders and victims fall through not the cracks, but the gaping holes of government service delivery. State agencies have blood on their hands.”

Hon Chester Borrows  
Opinion Piece,  
New Zealand Herald  
8<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Capital thinking. Globally minded.

