

**Class #4: Victims and Violence**

**Discussion Questions for September 10**

*Readings: Friedman; Paymar*

Because writing assignments are meant to prepare you for class discussions, you must post a draft question on the Moodle Forum for this date if you want your submission to count. After posting a draft, you must revise and resubmit your final response for a grade by the following Sunday night. In the case of questions posted below, the final draft of your question is due by the end of the day on Sunday, **September 15**. Include your name, the full question number, and the text of the question on both your draft and final submissions.

**Discussion Questions**

4-1. When Hunter and Milofsky talk about rights, one thing they emphasize is the right to safety. Does this mean that people who might make others feel unsafe should be targets of police control to make society a more comfortable place for others?

   *This has two sides to it. We ought to be allowed to live safely without the feeling of being under threat or at risk. On the other side, those who some think are dangerous have their rights limited when the police question, arrest, and perhaps punish them even though they did nothing wrong in the first place. Do you feel comfortable having the authorities restrict the rights of innocent individuals whose appearance might make others feel uncomfortable? This might include people who appear middle eastern or blacks who some believe look suspicious, walking in the “wrong” neighborhoods?*

4-2. The victims movement gives us one perspective on the right to safety since it grows out of the failure of that right to be respected. Think about the rights of victims. Some victims continue to feel anger towards offenders, especially when violence or sexual abuse has been involved. How does this relate to the notion that by serving time offenders “pay their debt to society”? Can or should offenders ever be allowed to move past their acts and rebuild a self-respecting, law-abiding life?

4-3. In the chapter “It’s More Than Just Physical Violence,” Paymar gives us Jim’s story. Jim had been abused as a child and this seemed to lead to his being abusive as an adult in his relationships with women. Why, in Paymar’s framework, does childhood abuse lead to adult violence?

   *Be careful here because we have stock answers in our culture to this question. The answer Paymar gives requires breaking down a chain of causation so that we can find ways to intervene and break the cycle of violence.*