

*There’s a gap between what Victims of Crime want and what the Criminal Justice System Delivers*

What if the **Victim** was the central figure in the criminal justice system? Not the offender.

The Five Needs of Victims

(Taken From Ruth Morris’ Book – Penal Abolition: The Practical Choice)



**Safety** – Physical, Emotional and Psychological.



**Answers** – Why me? (If there’s a guilty plea, they get no answers; accused may not testify so they get no answers; can’t ask questions)



**Recognition of Wrong** – Victims want people to recognize the harm done to them



**Restitution** – Want to be made whole again

**Significance** – They want society to be better so no one else will have to suffer (ie: MADD Canada; Alexa’s Team; Amber Alert all are ways to make a tragedy have significance.)



“We don’t need a system that reacts – we need a system that considers” – Dr. Melissa Munn

If we are Victim Centered, then we also need to view the offender as a person; not as a criminal.



**ACTIVITY**: Let’s Look at some legal scenarios or case studies through the lens of a Victim and see if it changes our sentencing. What if we took incarceration right off the table as an option? What would you do instead?