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It is an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to write some introductory words in the first edition of this new journal in the field of victimology.

Why should we be happy to have yet another academic journal? To be honest, in our daily life we are faced with an avalanche of journals. Sometimes new initiatives cover a virtual square inch of a subset of an academic discipline. This pattern reflects currently prevailing standards in academia. Colleagues openly admit or confess that they do not have time to read, because they are forced by management to write. This is not the kind of culture we would like to perpetuate.

And now we witness the emergence of the *Revista de Victimologia/Journal of Victimology*. Befitting modern times, it is an electronic journal. And I do not hesitate to welcome this new journal wholeheartedly and without any reservation. There are several reasons for my unqualified endorsement of this enrichment of the body of knowledge in our field. First, it underscores the recognition of victimology as an academic discipline in its own right. There are thousands of scholars carrying out research on victims, without ever labeling themselves as a victimologist. Many of them present themselves for instance as a traumatologist or an expert in public health, without ever making the connection to the substantive field of victimology. This is partly due to the lack of respectfully recognized journals in our area. We do have the *International Review of Victimology* and the *International Perspectives in Victimology*. These are valuable outlets for knowledge, but it is highly desirable to have additional vehicles for disseminating the results of our research. This is the only way to enhance the academic stature of victimology as an interdisciplinary field of study.

Of course, a new journal only deserves support if it contributes to the quality of research. It is not the numbers that count, but the quality of content. In this respect I can only pay my highest respect to Josep Tamarit for assembling a great Editorial Committee, warranting a very high level of the articles that will be allowed to be published in this new journal. This is evidenced and confirmed by the composition of the assembly of authors in this, the first issue of *Revista de Victimologia/Journal of Victimology*. Colleagues like Murray Straus,

Jan van Dijk, John Dussich and Enrique Echeburua all rank among the world leading researchers in our profession. If and when the first issue sets the standard for all subsequent volumes, we will all greatly benefit from this new initiative.

As President of the World Society of Victimology, I congratulate the founders of this academic enterprise. I wish them well in their efforts to be successful in engaging in this new responsibility. And I express my happiness for all victimologists worldwide for having an additional source of knowledge. Perhaps this can assist us in our modest effort to make this world a better place for fellow citizens who have suffered from terrible events.