

Crimes of Violence: an evocative title for this issue, conjuring up as it does the worst images of popular crime legend, Jack the Ripper and his heirs.

But how much have we really to fear from the unknown assailant stalking the streets? How far does the reality of day-to-day violent assault match our fantasies? **Betsy Stanko** suggests that it does not. 'Stranger danger' is largely a criminologists' (and journalists') creation she suggests, tentitiously perhaps: most violent crimes are in fact committed by known assailants, in familiar settings.

The majority of our contributors agree. But some interesting angles emerge. **Edward Brunson** and **Maggie May** draw attention to the under-reporting of workplace violence. **Andrew Coyle**, Governor of Brixton, wonders why we do not see more violence in our prisons, and draws attention to changes in the Scottish prison system, in relation to the management of those with least to lose. **Jayne Mooney** reports on new research into domestic violence, agreed by many to have the highest 'dark figure' of any crime. **Eric L. Jensen**, from America, shares some of his findings, from research on the Vietnam War, on the state as role model. (What happens to domestic homicide rates in the aftermath of war?)

We have a series of articles, too, from those seeking to respond, both to the victims and to the perpetrators of acts of violence. **Helen Peggs** speaks for the victims, whilst **Mary Anker**, a probation officer at Albany Prison, and **Alun Mountford**, Programme Director of Geese Theatre, describe different ways of working with those convicted of violent crimes.

Together with a Home Office statistical analysis, and an insight into the palpable results of assault - a survey of injuries sustained by victims of attack in one busy city Accident and Emergency ward - we have a short feature on **the Alternatives to Violence** project, a Quaker initiative in prisons and two contributions, this time, from serving prisoners.

Sincere thanks to all who have written for this thought-provoking issue.

*Julia Braggins*

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*The next edition of Criminal Justice Matters is to focus on **Criminal Justice Act 1991** implementation. Any reader who wishes to submit an article of between 900 and 1000 words on this topic is invited to do so and send their contribution to Paul Kiff (who is co-ordinating the edition) by July 31st. A guarantee that all articles received will be published cannot be given as space is limited. Preference will however be given to items which take a reflective (not necessarily critical) view. **Paul Kiff's address is as follows:**  
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