

RoadPeace

the national charity for road crash victims
supporting crash victims reducing road danger



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The discrimination against road crash victims A summary

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Right to support

- Families bereaved by road crashes involving law breaking do not qualify for Victim Support's Homicide Service (this was incorrectly reported in their press releases).
- The Ministry of Justice decided this summer that support services for families bereaved by culpable crashes will not have a national service, unlike homicide families. At present, the MOJ funds some support services for road crash victims, including RoadPeace's Resilience Building programme, a six week support programme for those bereaved by crashes.
- Support services for those bereaved by crashes will be decided locally by the Police and Crime Commissioners. This is also the case for those injured by law breaking drivers.
- Victims of other crime are treated as victims of crime as soon as it is reported to the police. This does not apply to road crash victims. Injured road crash victims do not qualify for Victim Support assistance even after a driver has been charged.
- The first Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses initially focused only on homicide families and had to be lobbied to include those bereaved by road crashes. RoadPeace was then included on her Policy Working Group.
- The umbrella association, Victim Services Alliance, coordinated by Victim Support, was established for homicide charities. It took a year of negotiation before its terms of reference was extended to include those bereaved by road crashes.

Right to information

- The vast majority of those injured by a law breaking driver do not qualify for the Code for Victims. Those excluded include injuries caused by drink drivers, or those speeding or driving carelessly as these crimes are not reported under the police Crime Recording Information System and they also do not mention when a casualty has occurred.
- The proposed revised Code for Victims is to prioritise families bereaved by homicide, but not by culpable crashes.

Right to be counted

- The number of innocent victims of law breaking on the road is not known. No statistics are gathered on the number of innocent people killed or injured by drivers who are prosecuted

for driving dangerously, carelessly, speeding or drink-driving. Victims of culpable crashes are excluded from victim of crime statistics.

- The number of road death inquests is not known as there is no separate road death verdict (although the number of road death related Rule 43 reports is counted).
- The number of road deaths abroad is not known as they do not have to be reported to the Foreign Commonwealth Office (FCO). The FCO estimates that four times as many people are killed overseas in crashes than by murder/manslaughter.