STRUGGLES SURVIVORS MAY EXPERIENCE

1. Seeming indifference of the community, especially the police to the plight of survivors.
2. Isolation, helplessness in a world that is seen as hostile and uncaring and that frequently blames the victim.
3. Feelings of guilt for not having protected the victim.
4. Growing public sympathy for the perpetrators of crimes of passion.
5. Disparities in the judicial system.
6. Sensational and inaccurate media coverage.
7. Feelings that law enforcement officers are not doing an adequate job or when there are too many unanswered questions.
8. Anger over a plea bargain.
9. Outrage about the sentence of the murderer.
10. Frustration at not being allowed inside the courtroom at the time of trial.
11. The memory of a mutilated body at the morgue.
12. Lack of information as to what is going on.
13. Unanswered questions—about the crime, the criminal justice system (why if the killer on bail, walking the streets, after he has confessed to the crime; why was the confession thrown out; why do they keep postponing the trial and not letting us know, etc.).
14. Financial burden of medical and funeral expenses and perhaps for professional counseling for surviving family members.
15. The feeling that the murderer, if he’s found, gets all the help; that as survivors of a murdered loved one, you don’t have any rights.
16. The seemingly endless grief.
17. Loss of ability to function—on the job, at school, in the home…
18. The strain this puts on marriages and family relationships, most frequently ending in divorce.
19. Getting back the personal effects of a murder victim, even those which are not essential to a trial, or after the trial.
20. The disparity between what is spent for murderers and what is spent for victims’ families.