

Internet Based Support

Surviving the loss of a loved one to homicide can take you along different paths in search of support. The “virtual world” might turn out to be one of them. Here, we have put together a sampling of internet sites to demonstrate the range of information, resources and support available to those who experienced loss of their loved one through homicide. Listed below are some Australian and overseas websites set up by agencies or organisations that assist secondary victims and survivors in memory of their loved ones. Also listed are sites that deal with grief and bereavement through other losses. In the virtual community you might find comfort or inspiration but might also come across strong opinions and emotions - we all are different, grieve differently and have different life histories. Victim Support Service is not able to review or monitor information these sites contain and we are not in the position to endorse them. Your access to and reliance on information provided by these sites remains your responsibility. Their content varies and information they provide reflects opinions of the individuals, agencies or organisations.

Some sites ask for a small contribution to cover their running costs or offer items, like cards and books, for sale. Most of the sites listed here contain links to other websites. All sites listed here were available at the time when information was collated.

If you do not have access to the internet at home, most public libraries in South Australia provide free access, however you may need to book in advance. You can also access the sites at the Victim Support Service Resource Centre.

Australian Sites

Homicide

www.angelhands.org.au

Angelhands is a web based service for family and friends of homicide victims. The site is funded by Ann O’Neil who lost her two children to homicide. This site, available since September 2003, with some parts still under construction, offers relevant, practical, compassionate information and resources to survivors of homicide across Australia.

www.angelfire.com/tv/hvsq

The South Australian Homicide Victims’ Support Group website has not been updated for some time and contact details as well as the meeting place have changed. The group now meets every third Wednesday of the month at the Loss & Grief Centre – 184 Port Road, Hindmarsh. Contact 8301 4200 for details.

www.hvsgnsw.org.au

The NSW Homicide Victims’ Support Group website provides information relevant to all homicide survivors and offers services to those affected by homicide that occurred in NSW.

www.ghvsg.org.au

The QLD Homicide Victims’ Support Group website contains information relevant to all homicide survivors and offers services to those affected by homicide that occurred in Queensland.

www.hvsg.org.au

The Western Australian Homicide Victims’ Support Group website provides links to information and articles on topical issues with a discussion area and memorials.

Grief

www.grieflink.asn.au

A comprehensive South Australia based website with links to other relevant organisations and internet sites. The site includes facts sheets on different aspects grief and a range of losses, exploring losses in relation to different relationships and forms of death.

www.grief.org.au

The website of The Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement – an independent and not for profit organisation set to support grieving people. The site provides general grief support with resource materials and links.

www.compassionatefriendssa.org.au/compassionate_freinds.htm

The South Australian website of the worldwide organisation supporting bereaved parents. The site provides information about support meetings in SA, 24 hours contact details and links to resources.

USA Sites

www.pomc.com

A comprehensive site of the National Organisation of Parents of Murdered Children Inc. – an organisation set up by survivors 25 years ago for families and friends of those who died by violence. It offers information, support and access to net based discussion groups open to survivors from any country.

madd.org

The website of Mothers Against Drink Driving – a grass root organisation funded in 1980 by Cindy Lightner and a small group of other mothers; now one of the largest crime victims' organisations in the world.

www.willsworld.com/william.htm

This website is dedicated to the memory of William Benjamin Jenkins, a sixteen year-old homicide victim. Created by William's father Bill, author of the book "What to do when the police leave?" this website has links to other resources for the bereaved.

www.dougy.org

The Dougy Center (American National Center for grieving children and their families) assists children, teenagers and families coping with the death of a family member.

www.webhealing.com

This site offers an opportunity to share your own story of grief, and to offer appropriate support to others who grieve. The site contains excerpts from "Swallowed by a Snake" by Tom Golden (social worker) that explores a man's grief.

www.griefnet.org

An internet community of people dealing with grief, death, and major loss. It is directed by Cendra (Ken'dra) Lynn, Ph.D., a clinical grief psychologist, educator, and traumatologist who lives in Michigan, USA. It offers e-mail support groups and has two web sites as well as a companion site for children that provides a safe environment for kids and their parents to find information and ask questions.



UK Sites

samm.org.uk

SAMM (Support after Murder and Manslaughter) is a support group for friends or relatives bereaved by murder and manslaughter.

www.samm.org.uk/samm_aboard.htm

The sub group of SAMM dedicated to issues faced by families and friends whose loved ones have been murdered and who are confronted with issues relating to the investigation and judicial systems in other countries. They are able to offer limited support to people living outside the UK mainly through putting people in touch with someone whose loved one was murdered in the same country, in similar circumstances, or who lost someone of a similar relationship (mother, brother, daughter, girlfriend etc), They can advise about compensation procedures abroad (where they exist). Their helpline is always answered by someone who has been bereaved by murder or manslaughter abroad and they will respond to emails.

