

# WHO WE ARE

The Peace Corps is committed to providing a compassionate, effective, and coordinated response to all Volunteers who are affected by crime. The Office of Victim Advocacy (OVA) is a resource to current and returned Volunteers who have been victims of sexual assault, stalking, and other crimes, and works to ensure Volunteers have access to the full range of support services provided by the Peace Corps. Highly trained victim advocates are available to assist Peace Corps Volunteers who have been victims of crime during service.

# WHAT WE DO

OVA is committed to ensuring that all Volunteers who report a crime are treated with compassion, dignity, and respect throughout the reporting process. We provide comprehensive advocacy services, including the following:

- Information on available mental health, medical, and legal options
- Accompaniment overseas to participate in investigative and legal proceedings
- Assistance with safety planning
- Connecting resources for support services, both within the Peace Corps and from outside organizations
- Updates throughout the investigative process, legal proceedings, and internal investigations

Victim advocates are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Help is always available.

## Sexual Assault Risk-Reduction and Response Program

The Peace Corps' sexual assault program ensures that any Volunteer who is a victim of sexual assault during service is provided with compassionate and effective support services.

The Peace Corps offers a wide range of services, including

- Advocacy and support from a victim advocate and sexual assault response liaison (SARL)
- Emergency health care and counseling
- Legal representation
- Safety planning

### HOW TO REPORT

The Peace Corps offers two ways to report a sexual assault: standard and restricted reporting.

Standard reporting provides you with the opportunity to initiate an official law enforcement investigation, as well as receive support from your country director. Standard reporting also allows for a site or host family change.

Restricted reporting allows you to confidentially access services without law enforcement involvement or notification to the country director.

Even if you are unsure that you have been victimized, we strongly encourage you to talk to a designated staff member at post who can assist you with reporting:

- Peace Corps medical officer (PCMO)
- Safety and security manager (SSM)
- Sexual assault response liaison (SARL)—Each post has two SARLs who receive 40 hours of specialized training on victim assistance. They provide dedicated support, information, and accompaniment to victims of sexual assault.

You can choose to report to any staff member, however designated staff will ensure your confidentiality and preserve your ability to file a restricted report.

**You can also contact the Peace Corps victim advocate 24 hours a day by calling or texting 202.409.2704.**

## Peace Corps' Commitment to Sexual Assault Victims

- 1 We will treat you with compassion, dignity, and respect.
- 2 We will provide for your ongoing safety.
- 3 We will provide you with the support you need to aid in your recovery.
- 4 We will help you understand the relevant legal processes and your legal options.
- 5 We will keep you informed of the progress of your case should you choose to pursue prosecution.
- 6 We will work closely with you to make decisions regarding your continued service.
- 7 We will respect your privacy. Without your consent, we will not disclose your identity or share the details of the incident with anyone who does not have a legitimate need to know.
- 8 We will provide you access to a victim advocate, who will ensure you know your options for services.

# COMMON QUESTIONS

## What crimes can a victim advocate assist with?

Victim advocates assist Volunteers who report sexual assault, stalking, kidnapping, robbery, physical assault, burglary, threat, or any other crimes committed against them.

## Is the information I share with my victim advocate confidential?

The victim advocate only shares information that is necessary to facilitate access to the services requested by a Volunteer. The victim advocate will inform the Volunteer of who is being told, what they are being told, and why, so that the Volunteer can make an informed decision regarding the information being shared.

## What should I do if a fellow Volunteer tells me they were a victim of a crime?

Volunteers play a vital role in getting a fellow Volunteer the help they need. Here are three steps to take in any situation:

1. Ensure the Volunteer is safe; if they need immediate medical attention, contact the duty officer.
2. If the Volunteer is safe, encourage them to report the crime by contacting the duty officer or the safety and security manager as soon as possible.
3. If you are with the Volunteer, offer to stay until help arrives. Respect the Volunteer's privacy by not discussing the situation with other Volunteers.

# CONTACT

## Office of Victim Advocacy

Support for Volunteers who become victims of crimes call or text (24/7):

**202.409.2704**

[victimadvocate@peacecorps.gov](mailto:victimadvocate@peacecorps.gov)

## PC SAVES Helpline

Anonymous sexual assault support  
Call or text

Outside the U.S.: 001.408.844.HELP (4357)

Within the U.S.: 408.844.HELP (4357)

Live chat or call-back: [pcsaveshelpline.org](https://pcsaveshelpline.org)

## Office of Inspector General

Report fraud, waste, abuse, and staff or Volunteer misconduct

202.692.2915

[oig@peacecorps.gov](mailto:oig@peacecorps.gov)

[peacecorps.gov/contactOIG](https://peacecorps.gov/contactOIG)

## Post-Service Unit

Medical support for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

202.692.1540, option 7

[psu@peacecorps.gov](mailto:psu@peacecorps.gov)

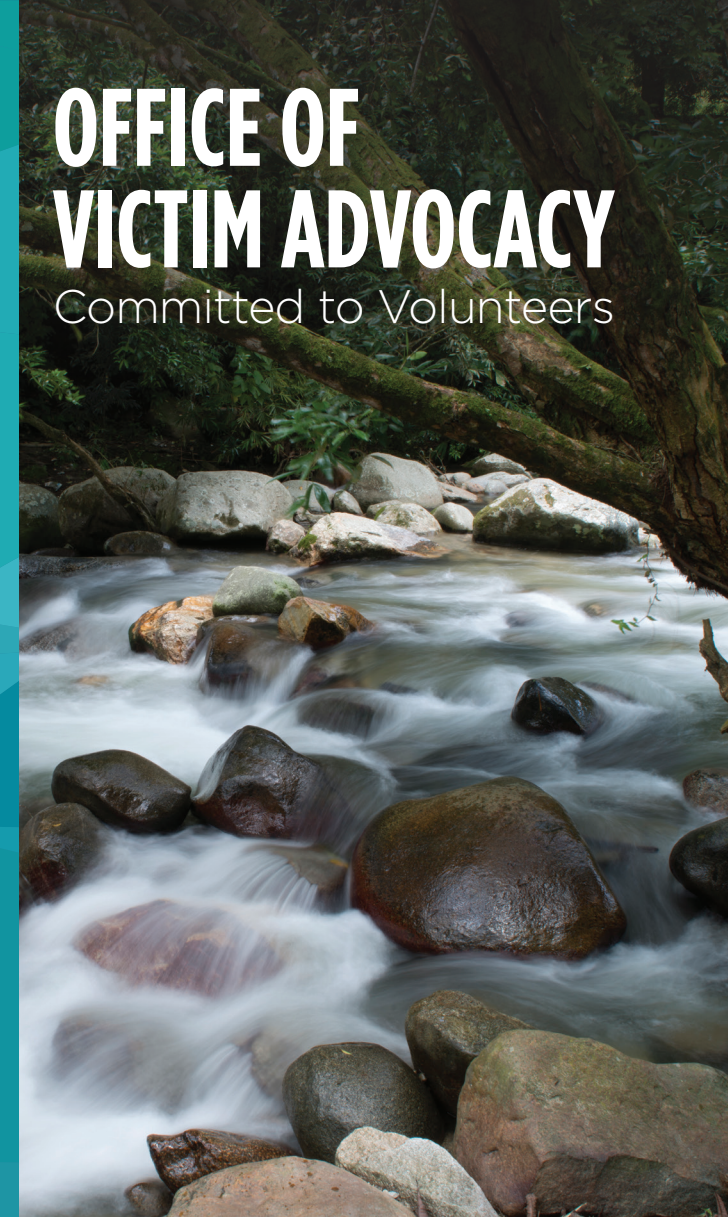


**Peace Corps**

Office of  
Victim Advocacy

# OFFICE OF VICTIM ADVOCACY

Committed to Volunteers



**Peace Corps**

Office of  
Victim Advocacy

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