

# Stalking Victims News

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*Feel Safe Again, Inc... "Be Strong, Be Safe and Be Heard!"... Vol. 5, Issue 2 - Mar. 2008*

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Dear Friend,

Sorry for the delay...had to include last minute details for upcoming events. Welcome to your next issue of "Stalking Victims News!" As always, I hope this newsletter finds you all well.

This is a bi-monthly newsletter, with the most current and up-to-date information about stalking and the effects it has on victims.

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*The founder of Feel Safe Again, Inc. testified before the Joint Committee on the Judiciary at the State House in Boston, on March 4, 2008, in support of Senate Bill 1002, An Act to Prevent Harassment, on behalf of the organization and her sister Sandra Berfield. Please click on link below to go to our News and Events page to read her testimony...*  
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## ~~~~~ ***"REFLECTIONS OF A LIFE WITH FREEDOM AND PEACE"*** ~~~~~

Feel Safe Again, Inc. was officially established September 2003, incorporated in December, and publicly announced January 2004 during a press conference at the Statehouse in Boston. We are a statewide grassroots 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit organization for Victims of Stalking.

Our goal is to provide potentially life-saving information and support group services to victims and survivors of stalking. Our hope is that no other victim has to live their life in fear. We want to help you "Feel Safe Again" by teaching you how to be safe again. Together we CAN make a difference!

If you are interested in online support, click on the link below to our website. You can join our support group at [VictimsofStalking@yahoogroups.com](mailto:VictimsofStalking@yahoogroups.com).

Copy and paste link below to our Web site...

[www.feelsafeagain.org](http://www.feelsafeagain.org)

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***Letter to the Editor: Nonprofit Extends Thanks for Successful Stalking Conference and Benefit Dinner!!!***  
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Feel Safe Again, Inc., a statewide grassroots non-profit organization for victims of stalking would like to take a moment to personally thank all of its board members, the speakers, clinicians, law enforcement officials, firefighters, advocates, victims, survivors, family and friends who attended our First Annual Stalking Conference and Fourth Annual Benefit Dinner on March 14, 2008, at the Devens Common Center in Devens, Mass.

We successfully accomplished our goal of educating others, creating public awareness and raising additional funds to help victims become survivors. The conference was a very thorough training which included key individuals in the investigation of my sister's murder on January 20, 2000, by a package bomb her stalker hand-delivered to her Everett, Mass. home.

Copy and paste link below...

<http://feelsafeagain.org/conference.html>

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***Who Is Stalking Your Teenager? by Adam Leech***  
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February 19, 2008, Durham, NH - Contrary to stereotype, most Internet sex offenders are not adults who target young children by posing as another youth, luring children to meetings, and then abducting or forcibly raping them, according to a University of New Hampshire study.

Most online sex offenders are young adults who target teens and seduce them into sexual relationships, according to the study, "Online 'Predators' and Their Victims: Myths, Realities and Implications for Prevention." They take time to develop the trust and confidence of victims, so that the youths see these relationships as romances or sexual adventures.

Copy and paste link below...

<http://www.seacoastonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080219/NEWS/802190407>

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***AG: Parents Must Stay Vigilant Online by Ryan J. Halliday***  
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February 25, 2008, Concord, NH - The state's top law enforcement officer is concerned that a recent University of New Hampshire study debunking stereotypes about Internet sex predators could cause parents and their children to drop their guard against online threats.

"I hope that the study does not leave a false sense of security for parents and children about the safety of the Internet," said state Attorney General Kelly Ayotte. "I think that the cases we've seen in our state give us plenty of reasons to be vigilant."

Copy and paste link below...

<http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008537040555>

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***National Center Calls On States to Strengthen Stalking Laws***  
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Although this information has been available since January 2007, it is important for each state to consider the facts of this report if they haven't had an opportunity to review it.

Washington, DC - The National Center for Victims of Crime, the nation's leading advocacy group for crime victims, today released a policy report that calls on states to evaluate the adequacy of their stalking laws and provides model legislation designed to increase stalker accountability and victim safety. The release coincided with commemoration of National Stalking Awareness Month in January.

Copy and paste link below...

<http://www.ncvc.org/ncvc/AGP.Net/Components/documentViewer/Download.aspxnz?DocumentID=41822>

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*Inspirational Thoughts*

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"If you become a victim...don't allow the traumatic experience to further victimize you; you can shape your attitude to give you the courage to get back up again." ~*Author Unknown*

"We truly believe knowledge is power...therefore, prevention is our ultimate goal."  
Remember...YOU'RE NOT ALONE! ~*Cheryl*

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*National Crime Victims' Rights Week...April 13-19, 2008*

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It's that time of year again!!! Please join us in Concord, NH on Tuesday, April 15, 2008, for a press conference at St. Paul's Church at 11:00am, followed by several events throughout the day. We will also be at the Statehouse in Boston, MA on Wednesday, April 30, 2008, from 9:00am-3:00pm. There will be hundreds of organizations coming together to setup displays which include available resources for victims. These are both very powerful and inspirational events...so please consider volunteering your time to help us recognize Victims' Rights Week!

Thank you in advance...to everyone who is willing/able to show their support to victims, and for helping us to offer our resources to other providers.

Copy and paste link below...

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ncvrw/welcome.html>

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