# Impact of crime on communities – Transcript

***In what ways does Victim Support work with communities?***

**Kate Caskie, Victim Support Scotland**: In terms of the communities and working with the communities, Victim Support Scotland has a massive knowledge of crime and a massive knowledge of what it’s like to be a victim. So we can bring that into the debates about communities.

When communities want to feel safer, we can talk to them about it and work with them and bring that vast knowledge to it. We work very closely with the police, we work very closely with for example local ethnic minority communities where crime can be quite racist and we help to work with them and explain to them how the criminal justice system works and so forth because really people don’t understand the criminal justice system in Scotland.

Many people think for example that there will be 12 people on a jury, there aren’t 12 people on a jury in Scotland, there are 15. But if you watch American films or English court dramas, you’ll think that. So people have very unrealistic expectations of the criminal justice system and part of our job is to help people to understand that.

Victims in Scotland can’t withdraw their case. You see that perhaps in crime dramas, people saying: 'I want to drop the charges.' Well, in Scotland you can’t drop the charges because the charges are being done on your behalf, you can’t withdraw your charges from the police. So people don’t understand what’s happening and Victim Support’s knowledge and advice can really help working with communities to a greater understanding of crime, the impact of crime and hopefully how to prevent it and how to create resilience in communities when crime does happen.

[End of transcript]