

Vera Institute of Justice

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://www.vera.org/blog/righting-wrongs-against-domestic-violence-victims>

Public Facing Advocacy Writing

When one of my colleagues read [Vanessa OConnells article in yesterday's Wall Street Journal](#) describing the practices that have brought national attention to Scott Kessler, chief of the Queens (NYC) district attorneys Domestic Violence Bureau, she contacted me to see if I found his aggressive techniques to be at odds with the philosophy of [Veras Center on Victimization and Safety](#) (CVS).

She was surprised to learn the answer: Not at all.

CVSs work is centered in victim safety and holding perpetrators accountable for their actions. Kesslers trademark approach, known as evidence-based prosecution, does not equate to victim safety being compromised in most cases.

In fact, for years, advocates in the field of violence against women have been pushing for evidence-based prosecution. Victims are often pressured to recant, but work in the field suggests that they would actually prefer that the prosecutor move forward. Evidence-based prosecution allows this to happen.

Transformative change, sent to your inbox.

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