# [**The 100 Best Shows on TV, Ranked**](https://www.tvguide.com/amp/news/100-best-shows-tv-right-now-2020/?__twitter_impression=true&s=09)

## **87. *Law & Order: SVU* (NBC)**

**How to watch:** [**Hulu**](https://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=Bs9ZhlULz2w&offerid=615841.58&type=3&subid=editorial)



Throughout its 21-year history, [***Law & Order: SVU***](https://www.tvguide.com/tvshows/law-order-special-victims-unit/100257/) has walked the tricky line between bringing awareness to important issues and exploiting trauma for melodrama (though it has not always done this well). Along the way, its beating heart, Olivia Benson ([**Mariska Hargitay**](https://www.tvguide.com/celebrities/mariska-hargitay/164490/)), transformed into a folk hero for many survivors who wished there was someone like the moral and dedicated captain to help them but who were never fooled into believing Benson was an accurate depiction of real NYPD officers.

*SVU* has never ignored the ways our legal and criminal justice systems are built to protect the (white, wealthy) elite and undermine the administration of true justice at the expense of survivors, particularly those from marginalized communities. And thanks to fan-favorite detective Carisi ([**Peter Scanavino**](https://www.tvguide.com/celebrities/peter-scanavino/263359/)) moving into the ADA's office, and new officers joining the fold, including SVU detective Kat Tamin ([**Jamie Gray Hyder**](https://www.tvguide.com/celebrities/jamie-gray-hyder/1421235/)) and transit bureau sergeant Hasim Kalddun (Ari'el Stachel), fresh energy and new perspectives shook up the squad room and forced familiar characters to look at issues through new lenses in its 21st season. The show's ability to constantly evolve and tackle timely issues — particularly under showrunner [**Warren Leight**](https://www.tvguide.com/celebrities/warren-leight/183309/)'s reign — is why *SVU* is one of the few current police procedurals we trust to at least try to navigate what it means to be a cop show right now and to use its platform to address the realities of police brutality, racism, and systemic oppression, while highlighting the voices of those who need to be amplified, both onscreen and off. *–*[***Sadie Gennis***](https://twitter.com/sadiegennis)