

National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 10-16, 2016

- Whereas, Americans are the victims of more than 20 million crimes each year,* and crime can touch the lives of anyone regardless of age, national origin, race, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, immigration, or economic status;
- Whereas, Many victims face challenges in finding appropriate services, including victims with disabilities, young victims of color, Deaf and hard of hearing victims, LGBTQ victims, tribal victims, elder victims, victims with mental illness, immigrant victims, teen victims, victims with limited English proficiency, and others;
- Whereas, Too many communities feel disconnected from the justice and social response systems, and have lost trust in the ability of those systems to recognize them and respond to their needs;
- Whereas, Victims of repeat victimization who fail to receive supportive services are at greater risk for long-term consequences of crime;
- Whereas, The victim services community has worked for decades to create an environment for victims that is safe, supportive, and effective;
- Whereas, Intervening early with services that support and empower victims provides a pathway to recovery from crime and abuse;
- Whereas, Honoring the rights of victims, including the right to be heard and to be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect, and working to meet their needs rebuilds their trust in the criminal justice and social service systems;
- Whereas, Serving victims and rebuilding their trust restores hope to victims and survivors, as well as their communities;
- Whereas, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 10-16, 2016, is an opportune time to commit to ensuring that all victims of crime—even those who are challenging to reach or serve—are offered culturally and linguistically accessible and appropriate services in the aftermath of crime; and
- Whereas, *(Your organization)* is hereby dedicated to serving victims, building trust, and restoring hope for justice and healing;

Now, therefore, I, _____, as *(Governor/County Executive/Mayor, Other Title)* of _____, do hereby proclaim the week of April 10-16, 2016, as

Crime Victims' Rights Week

And reaffirm this *(City/County/Parish/State/Tribe's)* commitment to creating a victim service and criminal justice response that assists all victims of crime during Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year; and to

Express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for those community members, victim service providers, and criminal justice professionals who are committed to improving our response to all victims of crime so that they may find relevant assistance, support, justice, and peace.

_____ (signature)

_____ (date)

* Jennifer L. Truman and Lynn Langton, *Criminal Victimization, 2014*, (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 2015), 1, accessed November 6, 2015, <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv14.pdf>.