

## Commemoration Guide

# Letter From Director Rose



## DEAR COLLEAGUE:

I am pleased to present the 2023 **Collaboration, Transformation, and Impact: 20 Years of OVC's Anti-Trafficking Efforts Commemoration Guide**. It contains outreach tools and sample materials to help you develop and implement your awareness campaign during the January 2023 Human Trafficking Prevention Month, and throughout the year.

OVC is committed to enhancing the Nation's capacity to assist crime victims and to provide leadership in changing attitudes, policies, and practices to promote justice and healing for all victims of crime. It strives to uphold the intent of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), and its subsequent reauthorizations, to ensure that all trafficking victims receive support in accessing the services they need, regardless of their immigration status, gender, or form of trafficking.

2023 marks the 20th anniversary of OVC's anti-trafficking support to the field. OVC awarded the first federal grant to respond to human trafficking in 1998. Two years later, the TVPA authorized the Attorney General to make grants to victim service organizations to develop, expand, or strengthen services for victims of trafficking. In fiscal year 2002, Congress appropriated \$10 million for the Services for Trafficking Victims Discretionary Grant Program and designated OVC to administer the funding within the Department of Justice. The following year, OVC awarded the first 12 grants under the new human trafficking program.

Today, OVC manages the largest amount of anti-trafficking funding across the Federal Government. Our anti-trafficking programs support the delivery of direct services such as case management, housing, and legal assistance, as well as multidisciplinary collaboration and state-level approaches to identifying and serving victims of human trafficking. In addition, OVC manages a broad array of training and technical assistance for anti-trafficking victim service providers, law enforcement, and allied professionals, with a focus on building capacity and enhancing the quality and quantity of services available to trafficking victims.

Yet there is still much work to do to ensure that all victims of human trafficking can access victim assistance, ensuring equity and inclusion for all. As President Biden states, "Since human trafficking disproportionately impacts racial and ethnic minorities, women and girls, LGBTQI+ individuals, vulnerable migrants, and other historically marginalized and underserved communities, our mission to combat human trafficking must always be connected to our broader efforts to advance equity and justice across our society." My office will continue to listen and learn from you—the experts in the human trafficking fields, professionals and individuals with lived experience, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, the judiciary, researchers, and people who work in community-based programs. We will work to address the challenges and barriers you face and support strategies and promising practices to enhance trauma-informed, victim-centered justice, access, and empowerment for all.

This January, we invite you to join us in renewing our commitment to serving all victims of human trafficking and supporting the anti-trafficking stakeholders across the country who respond to the call for help through their efforts to *collaborate* with colleagues, *transform* the response to victims, and generate meaningful *impact* that will be felt for years to come.

On behalf of the Office for Victims of Crime, thank you for all you do to assist and support survivors.

Sincerely,  
Kristina Rose  
Director