

SAMPLE PROCLAMATION

National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) ceremonies often include proclamations from public officials—governors, mayors, or county council presidents—to inspire the community, raise awareness of victims' rights, and address unmet needs. Officials may hold public signings of these proclamations and invite sponsoring agencies and the local media to attend. Increase the likelihood that officials will issue a proclamation by providing them with a sample; they will appreciate having an example to guide their own proclamations and public statements. Contact your officials well in advance of NCVRW to invite them to speak at your ceremony or to issue an NCVRW proclamation.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 18–24, 2021

- Whereas being a victim of crime and navigating the criminal justice system can be a frightening and confusing experience;
- Whereas progress in improving the treatment of crime victims has been made through the efforts of thousands of victims and survivors who have turned their own experiences into a force for positive change, ensuring that others can receive justice, meaningful assistance, and compassionate treatment before the law;
- Whereas since the passage of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, and through the dedicated work of advocates, lawmakers, and victim service providers, there is a growing array of services and resources available to victims and their loved ones;
- Whereas honoring the rights of victims—including the rights 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 individuals' trust in the compassion, understanding, and support of their communities is achieved through sustained, deep-rooted, and coordinated outreach;
- Whereas identifying, reaching, and serving all victims of crime—especially those from groups that often have less access to healing services and avenues to justice—is essential;
- Whereas our community's continued engagement with the challenges faced by victims of crime will ensure that the progress made to date is not lost, and that new ground is broken to gain greater justice and healing for all victims;
- Whereas National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to recommit to ensuring that accessible, appropriate, and trauma-informed services are offered to all victims of crime; and
- Whereas *[Your organization]* is hereby dedicated to supporting victims and survivors in the aftermath of crime, building trust among our clients; collaborating with other service providers, and engaging our community in response efforts;

Now, therefore, I, as *[Governor/County Executive/Mayor, Other Title]* of _____
[City/County/Parish/Tribe/State], do hereby proclaim the week of April 18–24, 2021, as

Crime Victims' Rights Week

reaffirming this *[City/County/Parish/Tribe/State'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 expressing 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]*



SUPPORT VICTIMS. BUILD TRUST. ENGAGE COMMUNITIES.