

NOTABLE QUOTABLES

A key goal of NCVRW is to inspire and motivate your community to support victims' rights. Your speeches, announcements, and presentations may benefit from including a few powerful quotations to underscore this message of collective support. The quotations compiled here build on the 2022 NCVRW theme. Bear in mind that quotes are most effective when the quoted figure is one of recognized authority. A short descriptive phrase may be necessary to establish that authority (e.g., Civil rights activist DeRay Mckesson said . . .).

Victims' Rights

We must remember that a right lost to one is lost to all.

– William Reece Smith, Jr. (1925–2013)

In giving rights to others which belong to them, we give rights to ourselves and to our country.

– John Fitzgerald Kennedy (1917–1963)

True freedom requires the rule of law and justice, and a judicial system in which the rights of some are not secured by the denial of rights to others.

– Jonathan Sacks (1948–2020)

We are not to simply bandage the wounds of victims beneath the wheels of injustice, we are to drive a spoke into the wheel itself.

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906–1945)

Access to Services

We want to turn victims into survivors—and survivors into thrivers.

– Tarana Burke (1973–)

Making real the promise of equal justice under law was the founding principle of the Department of Justice and is the mission for which it must always stand. There can be no equal justice without equal access to justice. And because we do not yet have equal access to justice in America, the task before us is urgent.

– Merrick B. Garland (1952–)

Justice exists only if it is accessible to all.

– Vanita Gupta (1974–)

What is the American dream? The American dream is one big tent. One big tent. And on that big tent you have four basic promises: equal protection under the law, equal opportunity, equal access, and fair share.

– Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. (1941–)

Equity and Inclusion for All

Justice that is not rooted in equity, in social welfare, and in community is not justice at all.

– DeRay Mckesson (1985–)

It is not possible to be in favor of justice for some people and not be in favor of justice for all people.

–Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929–1968)

If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.

–Desmond Tutu

