

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.

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- Whereas the term “victim” is more than just a label and has legal standing and protections that go along with it;
- Whereas crime victims' rights acts passed here in *[state name]* and at the federal level guarantee victims the right to meaningfully participate and use their voice in the criminal justice process;
- Whereas victim service providers, advocates, law enforcement officers, attorneys, and other allied professionals can help survivors find their justice by enforcing these rights;
- Whereas the right to provide an impact statement ensures that victims' voices are considered in court during the sentencing and, when applicable, restitution processes;
- Whereas including and elevating the voices of survivors makes certain they are heard and seen and creates a path to forging and sustaining community trust;
- Whereas engaging survivors creates responses and services that are credible, meaningful, and centered on individual needs;
- Whereas survivors' lived experience can serve as a catalyst for implementing innovative programs, shifting existing programs in new directions, and changing policies or practices that prevent survivors from accessing services or pursuing justice;
- Whereas National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to recommit to listening to crime survivors in every space where decisions are made that could impact them; and
- Whereas *[your organization]* is hereby dedicated to amplifying the voices of survivors and creating an environment where survivors have the confidence that they will be heard, believed, and supported.

Now, therefore, I, as *[Governor/County Executive/Mayor, Other Title]* of _____
[City/County/Parish/Tribe/State], do hereby proclaim the week of April 23–29, 2023, 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]*

Survivor Voices: Elevate. Engage. Effect Change.



Survivor Voices

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