



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Office for Victims of Crime

Washington, D.C. 20531

Dear Colleague,

We are pleased to present the *2016 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide*, developed by the Office for Victims of Crime in partnership with the National Center for Victims of Crime.

This year's theme—*Serving Victims. Building Trust. Restoring Hope.*—underscores the importance of establishing trust with victims. Trust is of particular concern in communities that feel isolated from or invisible to mainstream service providers and the criminal justice system, including boys and young men of color, victims of human trafficking, victims in American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities, individuals who are geographically isolated or who live in economically deprived areas, older adults, people with disabilities, the LGBTQ community, and others. By meeting victims where they are, and by listening to and understanding their specific needs, we can help restore victims' hope for healing and recovery.

The significant increase in the Fiscal Year 2015 Crime Victims Fund allocation provides a tremendous opportunity—and responsibility—to ensure that those who need support the most receive it. All victims must have the ability to access services when they need them. To provide this access, we must reach victims as early as possible to expedite those first steps toward help, empowerment, and recovery.

Our outreach and responses must evolve to ensure that services are culturally relevant and that we collaborate across agencies and organizations to lessen the burden on victims. It is critical that we are flexible and open to new approaches to reach those most in need and to embrace new technologies and partnerships, understanding that the most vulnerable communicate, access, and receive information in a variety of ways.

If victims are to trust that the system will work for them, we must meet them where they are—physically, culturally, and emotionally. By serving victims, building trust, and restoring hope, the field can more effectively help victims as they rebuild their lives.

The Office for Victims of Crime appreciates your unwavering commitment and tireless dedication to victims of crime throughout the Nation. We trust that the materials provided in this guide will support and enhance your efforts to raise awareness, build new partnerships, and reach additional victims during National Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marilyn M. Roberts".

Marilyn McCoy Roberts
Acting Director

Office for Victims of Crime

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
Victims of Crime

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Mai Fernandez

Dear Colleague:

The National Center for Victims of Crime is again honored to partner with the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime to present the *2016 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide*. Produced in both English and Spanish, the Resource Guide is designed to give victim service providers and allied professionals customizable materials and information to plan 2016 National Crime Victims' Rights Week observances, April 10–16, and other campaigns throughout the year.

This year's theme—*Serving Victims. Building Trust. Restoring Hope*.—reminds us of the significant progress we have made in recognizing victims' rights and at the same time emphasizes the need to expand our reach to marginalized, isolated, and other victims who are less likely to seek services on their own. We know that early intervention—addressing victimization when it occurs—is critical and can improve victim recovery and prevent future victimization.

To help stop the cycle of violence, we challenge all of you, advocates and allies, to identify who we are missing and how to increase our understanding of ways to better serve these populations. To do this, we must intentionally expand our networks to collaborate with non-traditional service providers, building trust and expanding our ability to reach victims where they are. We must be open to different perspectives and approaches so that we are inclusive in our responses.

Please use the resources provided during National Crime Victims' Rights Week and beyond to increase public awareness about the scope and impact of victimization and our collective responsibility to respond in the aftermath.

On behalf of the National Center for Victims of Crime, thank you for all that you do and the difference you are making in your communities. Together, we will continue to elevate victims' voices and strengthen victims' rights and services throughout the country, restoring hope for all.

Sincerely,



Mai Fernandez
Executive Director
National Center for Victims of Crime

Serving Victims Building Trust Restoring Hope

2016 NCVRW RESOURCE GUIDE | AT A GLANCE

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

Dates: April 10 – 16, 2016

Theme: Serving Victims. Building Trust. Restoring Hope.

Colors: Medium Blue and Dark Gold

Font: Avant Garde Gothic, Futura Std (in varying weights)

This Year's Format

The Office for Victims of Crime of the U.S. Department of Justice and the National Center for Victims of Crime are pleased to present the *2016 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide*. With a practical and vibrant array of promotional items and outreach products, how-to's, sample communications tools, fact sheets, and more, this year's Resource Guide helps inform, brand, and promote outreach efforts during National Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year. **Please freely use and distribute these resources throughout your community on behalf of crime victims.**

Anyone previously registered for the Resource Guide has received a copy of the **Theme Poster**, as well as notification of the **2016 NCVRW website** launch at www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2016. The website houses all Resource Guide content, including the Theme Video, Theme Artwork, public awareness posters, and extensive educational resources to help you build a successful public awareness campaign. All material is available for download in both English and Spanish, and visitors can also order additional copies of the large Theme Poster for a small shipping fee.

Resource Guide Contents

- **Theme Poster**
- **Theme Video**, which highlights how serving victims and building trust restores hope and strengthens communities.
- **Resource Guide Artwork**, including a smaller Theme Poster, Theme Artwork, and public awareness posters—all in multiple electronic formats (JPEG, fillable PDF, and Adobe Creative Suite files), in both color and black and white, and English and Spanish.
- **Resource Guide Website**, containing all 2016 NCVRW Resource Guide content above, as well as the following educational resources and sample outreach tools:
 - > Section 1. **Resource Guide Overview**
 - > Section 2. **Developing Your Campaign: Partnerships & Strategies** (*with sample products and PowerPoint slide artwork*)
 - > Section 3. **About the Resource Guide Artwork**
 - > Section 4. **Communicating Your Message: Media Tips & Tools** (*including sample products, basics on using social media, and a primer on working with the media*)
 - > Section 5. **Landmarks in Victims' Rights and Services**
 - > Section 6. **Crime and Victimization Fact Sheets** (*new design for enhanced outreach!*)
 - > Section 7. **Additional Resources**

Quick Planning Tips

- Review all contents of the Resource Guide. Jot down helpful tips, ideas, or suggestions.
- Identify project partners who can help share the workload and generate more ideas (see “Extending Your Reach through Partnerships” in Section 2).
- Develop a timetable outlining the activities and assignments leading up to your event(s).
- Decide what Resource Guide artwork and information to use and what other materials you might need to develop.
- Develop or update a list of local and state media as well as key reporters and producers.
- Identify other uses for the Resource Guide, including victim-related observances planned throughout 2016 (see “Commemorative Calendar” in Section 2).
- Create a social media plan. *

Special Announcement

The Attorney General’s National Crime Victims’ Service Awards Ceremony, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice and coordinated by the Office for Victims of Crime, will be held Tuesday, April 12, 2016, at the National Archives and will be streamed live. For more information about this special event, including the time and location details, please visit http://ovc.gov/awareness/about_ncvrw.html.

Have someone you’d like to nominate for an award? Nominations for next year’s Service Awards will open this spring. For criteria, applications, and more, visit <https://ovcncvrw.ncjrs.gov/awards/default.html>.

Serving Victims Building Trust Restoring Hope

2016 NCVRW RESOURCE GUIDE | FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This Year's Format

Q. How can I access this year's Resource Guide?

A. Aside from the 22" x 28" Theme Poster, which shipped in the fall, this year's Resource Guide is **available exclusively online** at www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2016. As in years past, it includes all of the following resources:

- **Theme Poster**, available in two sizes—22" x 28" and 11" x 17"
- **Theme Video**, which highlights how serving victims and building trust restores hope and strengthens communities
- **Theme Artwork**—various outreach materials available in multiple electronic formats, in color and black and white, and English and Spanish
- **Public Awareness Posters**, also in multiple configurations
- **Resource Guide Section Content**, extensive educational resources to help you build a successful public awareness campaign

All components are available for free download in English and Spanish at www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2016.

Q. How can I be added to the mailing list for next year's Resource Guide?

A. To be added to the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) distribution list for the NCVRW Resource Guide,

please sign up at https://puborder.ncjrs.gov/Listservs/Subscribe_NCVRW.asp. By signing up, you will receive:

- Any printed Resource Guide products, such as the 22" x 28" Theme Poster,
- E-mail notification when the Resource Guide is available to download from the OVC website, and
- Details concerning the National Crime Victims' Service Award Ceremony.

To unsubscribe, please visit https://puborder.ncjrs.gov/Listservs/Unsubscribe_NCVRW.asp.

Q. How can I receive more copies of this year's Theme Poster?

A. If you missed this year's Theme Poster mailing or would like additional copies, you can order the Theme Poster online for a small shipping fee. All materials, including the poster, are also available for free download. Visit www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2016 for all your viewing, printing, sign-up, and ordering options.

Q. Can I order a Spanish-language version of the Theme Poster?

A. A hard-copy of the 2016 NCVRW Theme Poster is available in English only; however, the 11" x 17" color version is available in Spanish and can be customized by your organization before printing. Visit www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2016 to access this and other Spanish-language customizable campaign materials.

Technical Assistance Queries

Q. May I reproduce, modify, or repurpose the materials included on the website?

- A. Yes! To promote community awareness of crime victims' rights, all materials that use the 2016 NCVRW theme design developed by the Office for Victims of Crime are in the public domain, and copyright permission is not required. You may use any Resource Guide text verbatim and may also translate it into any language. The entire contents of the *2016 NCVRW Resource Guide*, including Resource Guide Artwork files, are available for download at www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2016.

Q. My internet access is slow/restricted. How can I view the 2016 NCVRW Resource Guide?

- A. If you are unable to download this year's Resource Guide components, please contact the National Center for Victims of Crime at (202) 467-8700 for assistance in accessing these materials.

Q. I want to use the 2016 NCVRW Theme Video at my event, but I won't have internet access. How can I play it?

- A. The NCVRW Theme Video, available at www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2016, can be streamed over the internet or downloaded onto a computer, flash drive, or other storage device for later playback. (Right-click on the video file and choose "Save Target As" to save to your hard drive or other device.) It can be played on a computer monitor or projected from a computer onto a screen or wall. If you are unable to use a downloaded file and require a disc of the Theme Video for use on a DVD player, please contact the National Center for Victims of Crime at (202) 467-8700.

Q. How can we arrange for a speaker at our event?

- A. The OVC Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) can help you find expert consultants, victim service professionals, and survivors to speak at a conference; conduct a training designed to meet your organization's specific needs; conduct a needs assessment; or design, implement, and evaluate a training program. Contact OVC TTAC at:

9300 Lee Highway

Fairfax, VA 22031-6050

Phone: 866-OVC-TTAC (866-682-8822)

TTY: 866-682-8880

Fax: 703-225-2338

E-mail: ttac@ovcttac.org

Website: www.ovcttac.gov

Training & Technical Assistance Online Requests:

<https://www.ovcttac.gov/views/HowWeCanHelp/dspHowWeHelp.cfm>

Q. How do I search for NCVRW events in my area or publicize an NCVRW event?

- A. Publicize your event with the OVC National Calendar of Crime Victim Assistance-Related Events at <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ovccalendar>. The OVC National Calendar offers a comprehensive list of events to help victims and victim service providers, allied professionals, and other interested individuals plan, promote, and locate events of interest to the victim service community in their area. Your submission will be reviewed and, if approved, posted on the web for public view. There is no charge for posting events.

Q. Where can I find additional information, services, and resources related to crime, victim assistance, and public safety?

- A. The National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) is a federally funded resource offering justice and drug-related information to support research, policy, and program development worldwide with a range of services and resources, balancing the information needs of the field with the technological means to receive and access support. Visit <https://www.ncjrs.gov/index.html> to find the following:
- Extensive reference and referral services to help you find answers to your questions about crime and justice-related research, policy, and practice.
 - An information network—stay informed about new publications, grants, and funding opportunities, and other news and announcements.
 - RSS feeds.
 - Access to publications and other products through one of the largest criminal and juvenile justice libraries and databases in the world.
 - Conference information—learn about upcoming conferences by searching based on focus areas, geographical location, or dates. Increase exposure and participation at your upcoming conferences by adding your event to the calendar.
 - Additionally, NCJRS encourages contributions of publications, training curricula, videotapes, and other information resources from your organization.

Using the Artwork

Q. May we add our contact information and logo to the artwork you provided? May we use the artwork to create a custom outreach piece or invitation?

- A. Yes! Much of the Resource Guide Theme Artwork is designed with space to add your organization’s contact information or logo, as are all the Public Awareness Posters. In fact, PDFs with fillable form fields are provided so you can easily incorporate your local information, giving victims a place to turn in their own community. (Download the free Adobe Reader at www.adobe.com.) The Theme Artwork source files may also be used to develop custom pieces.

Printing companies that use quality presses, inks, and paper will produce the highest-quality products and can often be found through referrals or a quick Internet search. Many local quick-copy vendors and office-supply stores (e.g., FedEx, Staples, Kwik Kopy) can also meet your printing needs and usually will be more cost-effective for smaller quantities. Your local printer or office-supply store staff can also help you format your piece, insert your contact information, or create a custom outreach product.

Please note that the use of all font files as well as the Public Awareness Poster images is restricted to reproduction only. For inquiries about licensing these elements for other uses, please contact the National Center for Victims of Crime at (202) 467-8700.

Q. I need help customizing this year’s campaign materials. Where can I get assistance?

- A. If you would like help customizing this year’s Theme Artwork—including button, bookmark, and ribbon card art—we recommend that you contact a local printing company, which can often be found through referrals or a quick Internet search. Choose a company that uses quality presses, inks, and paper, which will produce the highest-quality products. See above question for recommendations. Unfortunately, alternative versions of the Resource Guide Theme Artwork and the Theme Video are not available. If you encounter situations where you require versions of these products not included with the Resource Guide, we encourage you

Frequently Asked Questions

to submit your comments through the evaluation survey found at www.victimsofcrime.org/ncvrw/survey. Your input is essential as we develop next year's guide.

Q. Where can I find the NCVRW theme design for use in my organization's own campaign materials?

A. The NCVRW theme design can be downloaded at www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2016. All Theme Artwork images (including logos, bookmarks, and letterhead) are available as JPG and PDF files, which may be inserted into your campaign materials. Should you wish to create your own design using specific elements of the 2016 NCVRW theme design, the Adobe Creative Suite source files for these designs are included as well.

Q. Is there a way to reprint the 8.5" x 11" Public Awareness Posters and NCVRW-specific Theme Artwork in a larger size?

A. The artwork and posters are designed to print at specific dimensions and scaling them up or altering the width-to-height ratio may distort them. If you are thinking about producing a larger piece, contact your local printer or office-supply staff for printing assistance. *

Serving Victims Building Trust Restoring Hope

SECTION 1 | RESOURCE GUIDE OVERVIEW

Serving Victims. Building Trust. Restoring Hope.

The National Center for Victims of Crime and the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, are proud to present the *2016 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide*.

Since 1981, National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) has challenged the nation to confront and remove barriers to full justice for all victims of crime. Each year, communities across the country revisit the history of the victims' rights movement and recommit themselves to advancing the progress already achieved. The *2016 NCVRW Resource Guide* includes a wide array of user-friendly outreach tools and sample products, fact sheets on victimization, information on the history of victims' rights in the United States, and concrete, practical ideas for serving victims, building trust, and restoring hope in your community. Explore and adapt these resources as you plan your public awareness campaign for **National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 10–16, 2016**.

2016 NCVRW Theme and Theme Colors

The 2016 NCVRW theme—*Serving Victims. Building Trust. Restoring Hope*.—highlights how supportive, culturally appropriate services provided in the immediate aftermath of a crime help establish trust and restore victims' hope for healing and recovery. The 2016 theme colors—medium blue and dark gold—are used throughout the Resource Guide. (See "[Match the Colors](#)" box for more details.)

NCVRW Kickoff Event

The Attorney General's National Crime Victims' Service Awards Ceremony, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice and coordinated by the Office for Victims of Crime, will be held Tuesday, April 12, 2016, at the National Archives and will be streamed live. For more information about this special event, including the time and location details, please visit http://ovc.gov/awareness/about_ncvrw.html.

MATCH THE COLORS

This year's NCVRW theme design is an uplifting call to ensure all victims of crime receive the support and knowledge they need to move forward. For your convenience, we have also included comparable PMS colors, RGB values, and hex codes:

MEDIUM BLUE: C=80, M=61, Y=18, K=2

Comparable Colors:
PMS 653C
R=72, G=103, B=153
HTML #486799

DARK GOLD: C=18, M=48, Y=100, K=2

Comparable Colors:
PMS 7563C
R=205, G=139, B=42
HTML #cd8b2a

For more information about these color spaces, see "A Printing Primer" in Section 3, "About the Resource Guide Artwork."

En Español!

This year's Resource Guide is once again available online in Spanish. Visit www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2016 to access this material.

NCVRW Planning Tips

The following tips will help enhance your 2016 NCVRW planning and maximize the impact of your efforts:

- Review each section of the Resource Guide before making any plans. Once you have established your outreach goals, select the materials that are most helpful to achieve them.
- Organize an NCVRW planning committee to set goals and priorities, brainstorm activities, and share the workload. Diverse collaborations will help ensure more victims hear your message in a way that resonates with them. Your committee might include leaders of civic organizations, universities, parent-teacher associations, or student organizations; members of criminal and juvenile justice agencies, faith communities, the service industry, or the news media; business or health professionals; and, of course, crime victims, survivors, and victim service providers.
- Create or update mailing lists for event invitations and other materials.
- Draft a timetable that includes committee meetings, tasks, deadlines, and areas of responsibility.
- Develop a list of local media outlets and the appropriate contacts to notify about special events and activities.
- Coordinate planning for 2016 National Crime Victims' Rights Week with other awareness and prevention campaigns held during April, including National Child Abuse Prevention Month, National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, National Youth Violence Prevention Week, and Global Youth Service Days.

- Think creatively about meaningful ways to engage your community to support all victims affected by crime during this year's National Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year.

2016 NCVRW Resource Guide Contents

Introductory Materials

- Letter from Marilyn Roberts, Acting Director of the Office for Victims of Crime
- Letter from Mai Fernandez, Executive Director of the National Center for Victims of Crime
- Resource Guide at a Glance
- Frequently Asked Questions

NCVRW Theme Video

The brief Theme Video, playable from the NCVRW website at www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2016, is a powerful public awareness tool that highlights how communities can serve victims, build trust, and restore hope. Meeting victims where they are and wherever they disclose their victimization helps establish an atmosphere where victims are believed and one in which they are more likely to seek assistance. Consider downloading the Theme Video (right-click to "Save As") and using it to open ceremonies and luncheons, kick off your public awareness and education events, or motivate local media to cover NCVRW events and topics. Check out the "Theme DVD in Action" sidebar in Section 2, "Developing Your Campaign: Partnerships & Strategies," for ideas on how to use the Theme Video.

NCVRW Resource Guide Artwork

The following art files come in a variety of formats—some with room for local information—to help unite your outreach efforts with others across the country. The artwork is provided in three formats:

- Adobe InDesign layout pages, including the Illustrator and Photoshop images required to correctly open and print the artwork. To view these files, users must have the latest Adobe Creative Cloud applications.
- JPEG files available in both black and white and color. These individual images may be placed in graphics programs, in various word processing programs, and on websites.
- PDF files in black and white and color that can be opened with Adobe Reader, available for free download at www.adobe.com.

These three formats help simplify replication of Resource Guide materials and make it easier to incorporate this year's artwork into any digital or hard-copy piece, including event fliers, slideshow presentations, television broadcasts, public service announcements, and print advertisements, among others. For more information on the artwork in this year's Resource Guide, please refer to Section 3, "About the Resource Guide Artwork."

- 2016 NCVRW Theme Color Palette
- 2016 NCVRW 11" x 17" and 22" x 28" Theme Poster*
- Billboard Art
- Bookmarks
- Buttons, Logos, and Magnets
- Certificate of Appreciation
- Facebook Cover and Profile Art
- Letterhead
- Name Tags and Table Card
- Information and Referrals Contact List
- Ribbon Cards
- Web and E-mail Banners
- Public Awareness Posters in English and Spanish

* Hard copies of the large English Theme Poster are available for a small shipping fee at www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2016.

Section 1. Resource Guide Overview

Section 2. Developing Your Campaign: Partnerships & Strategies

- Commemorative Calendar
- Notable Quotables
- Sample Proclamation
- Presentation Tips (*including 2016 NCVRW PowerPoint slide artwork*)
- Extend Your Reach through Partnerships
- Ideas for Special Events
- Sidebar: Theme DVD in Action

Section 3. About the Resource Guide Artwork

- About the Resource Guide Artwork
- Sidebar: A Printing Primer

Section 4. Communicating Your Message: Media Tips and Tools

- Sample News Release
- Sample Public Service Announcement (PSA) Scripts
- Sample Letter to the Editor
- Sample Opinion-Editorial
- How to Create a Social Media Campaign
- Sample Social Media Status Updates
- Advocating for Victims with the Media

Section 5. Landmarks in Victims' Rights and Services

Crime Victims' Rights in America: A Historical Overview

Section 6. Crime and Victimization Fact Sheets

Brief fact sheets covering the latest in crime and victimization—*new format for enhanced outreach!*

- Crime and Victimization in the United States
- Crime Trends
- Assault
- Burglary, Theft, and Robbery
- Child, Youth, and Teen Victimization
- Crimes against Persons with Disabilities
- Driving Under the Influence (DUI)
- Economic and Financial Crime
- Elder Victimization
- Hate and Bias Crime
- Homicide
- Human Trafficking
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Mass Casualty Shootings
- School and Campus Crime
- Sexual Violence
- Stalking
- Urban and Rural Crime
- Workplace Violence

Section 7. Additional Resources

- Online Resources
- NCVRW Resource Guide Partners
- OVC Online Gallery

Acknowledgments

The National Center for Victims of Crime greatly appreciates the opportunity to partner with the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, on the *2016 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide*, and especially wishes to acknowledge the many contributions and efforts of Maria A. Berry, who served as program manager.

This project would not have been possible without the support of Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs, Karol V. Mason; Director of the Office for Victims of Crime, Joye E. Frost; Acting Director Marilyn Roberts and staff from the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice; and the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) support services contractors. *

NATIONAL CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

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Special thanks to **Dr. Lynn Addington**, Associate Professor at American University, for her expert contributions to this year's Crime and Victimization Fact Sheets.

CONTRIBUTORS

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Serving Victims Building Trust Restoring Hope

SECTION 2 | DEVELOPING YOUR CAMPAIGN: PARTNERSHIPS & STRATEGIES

National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) is an annual observance to bring communities together and educate the public about victims' rights, protections, and services. This year's theme—*Serving Victims. Building Trust. Restoring Hope.*—speaks to the idea that, when victims receive culturally sensitive and appropriate support and services in the immediate aftermath of a crime, it establishes trust in their community and the criminal justice response. This trust, in turn, begins to restore their hope for healing and recovery.

This section, "Developing Your Campaign: Partnerships and Strategies," is designed to assist in sharing this message of hope and encouragement with victims. The resources provided will help as you plan your community networking and outreach for National Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year. Ideas for special events, presentation tips, sample quotations, or proclamations—are all materials to help you draw on the skills and passion of your local community to take a stand for crime victims.

Commemorative Calendar

Throughout the year, communities gather together to hold events that honor and support victims. These events are an important step toward raising awareness of victims' rights. For example, National Stalking Awareness Month, the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims, and National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month offer unique opportunities to focus on specific issues that affect crime victims. Begin planning your NCVRW events by researching crime-related observances that take place throughout the nation every year. The Commemorative Calendar lists many of these observances, the dates they

will be held, and the contact information for primary organizers. Use this calendar to plan your events and identify partners for your outreach campaigns.

OVC Events Calendar

The Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, publishes a National Calendar of Victim Assistance-Related Events (<http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ovccalendar>). This continually updated calendar offers extensive listings of national, state, and local victim-related events. Browse the calendar to see what communities across the country are doing, and list your own NCVRW meetings, ceremonies, and forums, as well as other victim-related events throughout the year.

Notable Quotables

A key NCVRW goal 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 2016 NCVRW theme—*Serving Victims. Building Trust. Restoring Hope.*—and highlight how building trust and restoring hope creates strong, resilient survivors and communities.

Sample Proclamation

National Crime Victims' Rights Week 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 often hold public signings of these proclamations and invite sponsoring agencies and the local media to attend. Increase the likelihood that they will issue a proclamation by providing them with the sample that is included in this section; they will appreciate having an example to guide their own proclamations and public statements. Be sure to contact your officials well in advance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week to invite them to speak at your ceremony or to issue a NCVRW proclamation.

Presentation Tips

National Crime Victims' Rights Week is the perfect opportunity to educate your community about victims' issues. You may be invited to speak at assemblies, conferences, or other events to explore the year's theme and promote victims' rights. Getting started on a presentation can be daunting; however, if you break it down into smaller steps, it's easier to tackle the task and prepare a presentation that will inspire and motivate your NCVRW audiences. The presentation tips included in this section will help you clarify your goals, cater to your audience, and choose the best approach for your comments. The section also includes a sample PowerPoint template featuring the 2016 NCVRW theme and design to customize and tailor to your needs. Appeal to your audience by choosing issues that directly affect their local community or by focusing on special services that are available to crime victims in your area. Talk with your colleagues and research local media outlets for local crime trends. You may check the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports Data Tool at www.ucrdatatool.gov to see whether your local area is included: by using localized information and statistics, you will show your audience why crime victims' rights should matter to them.

Extend Your Reach through Partnerships

Partnerships with other organizations and allied professionals can dramatically boost the impact of your campaign. Ask businesses, civic organizations, faith communities, professional associations, and other partners to lend their skills, resources, and staff time to your NCVRW campaign. Once your organization decides to participate in the week's events, identify potential partners, contact them right away, and explore ways to partner for National Crime Victims' Rights Week. By joining forces, you will create a memorable campaign in your community and lay the foundation for future partnerships.

Ideas for Special Events

Communities across the nation adopt unique strategies to observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week. In anticipation of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, your organization has the opportunity to reach out to other local groups and coordinate events that honor crime victims and raise awareness of victim issues within the community. Opening ceremonies, candlelight vigils, school poster competitions, art exhibits, and walk/run events are only a few examples of the many commemorative or educational activities you could organize. Every year, the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators, through a grant from the Office for Victims of Crime, competitively selects agencies, nonprofit programs, community-based victim service organizations, faith-based organizations, and community coalitions to receive Community Awareness Project grants to conduct NCVRW events. (See <http://cap.navaa.org> for more information.) This section includes some of the event ideas from the 2015 Community Awareness Project grantees. *

Build on your NCVRW outreach throughout the year by highlighting relevant awareness days in your community. Posters on a variety of crime issues are available for free download from the gallery of the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, at <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/gallery>. These events and materials help crime victims feel supported and respected by their community year round. Whether for one day or an entire month, these public recognitions are powerful tools to build trust with victims and help restore their hope.

The NCVRW Commemorative Calendar below lists occasions and organizations you may want to promote throughout the year. For additional events, periodically visit OVC's National Calendar of Victim Assistance-Related Events at <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ovccalendar>. You may also add your own events to OVC's national calendar.

January

National Mentoring Month

MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership
617-303-4600
www.nationalmentoringmonth.org

National Stalking Awareness Month

Stalking Resource Center
National Center for Victims of Crime
202-467-8700
www.stalkingawarenessmonth.org/about

Tax Identity Theft Awareness Week

Federal Trade Commission
January 25 – 29, 2016
202-326-2222
www.consumer.ftc.gov/tax-identity-theft-awareness-week

February

National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

Break the Cycle
310-286-3383 (Los Angeles)
202-824-0707 (Washington, DC)
www.loveisrespect.org/resources/teendvmonth

March

National Consumer Protection Week

March 6 – 12, 2016
www.ncpw.gov

April

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
800-394-3366
www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/preventionmonth

National Sexual Assault Awareness Month

National Sexual Violence Resource Center
877-739-3895
www.nsvrc.org/saam

National Youth Violence Prevention Week

National Association of Students Against
Violence Everywhere
April 4 – April 8, 2016
866-343-SAVE (866-343-7283)
www.nationalsave.org/what-we-do/save-events/national-youth-violence-prevention-week

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

Office for Victims of Crime
U.S. Department of Justice
April 10 – April 16, 2016
800-851-3420
www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2016

Global Youth Service Days

Youth Service America
April 15 – April 17, 2016
202-296-2992
www.gysd.org

May

Older Americans Month

Administration for Community Living
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
202-619-0724
www.acl.gov

National Law Day

American Bar Association
May 1, 2016
312-988-5720
www.lawday.org

National Correctional Officers' and Employees' Week

American Correctional Association
May 1 – May 7, 2016
800-222-5646
www.aca.org

National Police Week

Concerns of Police Survivors
May 10 – May 17, 2016
573-346-4911
www.policeweek.org
www.nationalcops.org

National Peace Officers' Memorial Day

Concerns of Police Survivors
May 15, 2016
573-346-4911
www.policeweek.org
www.nationalcops.org

National Missing Children's Day

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
May 25, 2016
800-THE-LOST (800-843-5678)
www.missingkids.com/May25

June

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

National Center on Elder Abuse
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
June 15, 2016
855-500-3537
www.ncea.aoa.gov/Get_Involved/Awareness/WEAAD/index.aspx

July

Pretrial, Probation, and Parole Supervision Week

American Probation and Parole Association
July 17 – July 23, 2016
859-244-8203
www.appa-net.org

September

National Campus Safety Awareness Month

Clery Center for Security on Campus
484-580-8754

www.clerycenter.org/national-campus-safety-awareness-month

National Suicide Prevention Week

American Association of Suicidology
September 5 – September 11, 2016
202-237-2280

www.suicidology.org

World Suicide Prevention Day

International Association of Suicide Prevention
September 10, 2016

www.iasp.info

September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance

Corporation for National and Community Service
September 11, 2016
800-942-2677

www.serve.gov/?q=site-page/september-11th-national-day-service-and-remembrance

National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims

National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children
September 25, 2016
513-721-5683

www.pomc.org

October

National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month

PACER Center
888-248-0822
952-838-9000

www.pacer.org/bullying/nbpm

National Crime Prevention Month

National Crime Prevention Council
202-466-6272

www.ncpc.org/programs/crime-prevention-month

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
800-537-2238

www.nrcdv.org/dvam/DVAM-Events

America's Safe Schools Week

National School Safety Center
October 16 – October 22, 2016
805-373-9977

www.schoolsafety.us

November

Tie One on for Safety

Mothers Against Drunk Driving
November 10, 2016 – January 1, 2017
877-ASK-MADD (800-275-6233)

www.madd.org

December

National Impaired Driving Prevention Month

Mothers Against Drunk Driving
877-ASK-MADD (800-275-6233)

www.madd.org *

Notable Quotables

The 2016 theme—*Serving Victims. Building Trust. Restoring Hope.*—reminds communities that, by coming together to support and assist victims, we help build trust, restore hope, and break the cycle of violence. Through community action and service, we all become stronger, together. The following quotations about the importance of service, trust, and hope will help inspire your NCVRW audiences to support crime victims in their own community.

Service

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

—MAHATMA GANDHI (1869 - 1948)

“We only have what we give.”

—ISABEL ALLENDE (1942 -)

“The purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others.”

—ALBERT SCHWEITZER (1875 - 1965)

“Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.”

—WILLIAM JAMES (1842 - 1910)

“Be not simply good—be good for something.”

—HENRY DAVID THOREAU (1817 - 1862)

“To do more for the world than the world does for you, that is success.”

—HENRY FORD (1863 - 1947)

“Those who are the happiest are those who do the most for others.”

—BOOKER T. WASHINGTON (1856 - 1915)

“Our prime purpose in this life is to help others, and if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them.”

—DALAI LAMA (1935 -)

“I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy.”

—RABINDRANATH TAGORE (1861 - 1941)

“If you get, give. If you learn, teach.”

—MAYA ANGELOU (1928 - 2014)

Trust

“Learning to trust is one of life's most difficult tasks.”

—ISAAC WATTS (1674 - 1748)

“None of us knows what might happen even the next minute, yet still we go forward. Because we trust. Because we have Faith.”

—PAULO COELHO (1947 -)

“To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others, use your heart.”

—ELEANOR ROOSEVELT (1884 - 1962)

“We're never so vulnerable than when we trust someone—but paradoxically, if we cannot trust, neither can we find love or joy.”

—WALTER ANDERSON (1885 - 1962)

“Whoever is careless with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted with important matters.”

—ALBERT EINSTEIN (1879 - 1955)

"It is impossible to go through life without trust: that is to be imprisoned in the worst cell of all, oneself."

—GRAHAM GREENE (1904 - 1991)

"Trust men and they will be true to you; treat them greatly and they will show themselves great."

—RALPH WALDO EMERSON (1803 - 1882)

"Trust is not simply a matter of truthfulness, or even constancy. It is also a matter of amity and goodwill. We trust those who have our best interests at heart, and mistrust those who seem deaf to our concerns."

—GARY HAMEL (1954 -)

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

—HELEN KELLER (1880 - 1968)

"You must trust and believe in people or life becomes impossible."

—ANTON CHEKHOV (1860 - 1904)

Hope

"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."

—DESMOND TUTU (1931 -)

"Hope is the thing with feathers

That perches in the soul -

And sings the tune without the words -

And never stops at all."

—EMILY DICKINSON (1830 - 1886)

"To persevere, trusting in what hopes he has, is courage in a man."

—EURIPIDES (480 - 406 BC)

"Don't ever underestimate the importance you can have because history has shown us that courage can be contagious and hope can take on a life of its own."

—MICHELLE OBAMA (1964 -)

"Hope is important because it can make the present moment less difficult to bear. If we believe that tomorrow will be better, we can bear a hardship today."

—THICH NHAT HANH (1926 -)

"Everything that is done in the world is done by hope."

—MARTIN LUTHER (1483 - 1546)

"Hope is like peace. It is not a gift from God. It is a gift only we can give one another."

—ELIE WIESEL (1928 -)

"When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful."

—MALALA YOUSAFZAI (1997 -)

"There is no medicine like hope, no incentive so great, and no tonic so powerful as expectation of something tomorrow."

—ORISON SWETT MARDEN (1850 - 1924)

"You are the stars and the world is watching you. By your presence, you send a message to every village, every city, every nation. A message of hope. A message of victory."

—EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER (1921 - 2009)

"There was never a night or a problem that could defeat sunrise or hope."

—BERNARD WILLIAMS (1929 - 2003) *

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>.

Presentations are unique opportunities to educate your community about victims' rights and services during National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Civic groups, schools, or businesses may ask you to speak to their members or other audiences about challenges faced by victims and what individuals in the community can do to help. Check newspaper headlines and talk to your colleagues and community members about pressing issues in your area. What are the most common crimes? What do victims need? What does your community provide for victims, and do any of these services rely on the Crime Victims Fund? How do local services fall short? What can your community do to improve its response to victims? Focus on crimes that affect your audience, and make your presentation interactive to involve them in ways the community can help support victims.

Planning Your Presentation

Audience

The success of your presentation depends on your ability to engage your audience. When you are invited to speak, find out:

- Who is your audience?
- Why have you been invited to speak?
- What do they want to know about crime and victimization? Which issues concern them most?
- How can you help them be more responsive and better serve victims in their community?

For a student audience, become familiar with what's happening in the school community—dating violence, bullying, or gun violence? Ask the students what community means to them. For civic groups, think about the crimes that take place out of the public eye. Is domestic violence a major problem? How does this violence affect families and the community? How can community groups join forces to address these issues? If you start by asking such questions, your presentation will engage the audience in areas of concern and may even facilitate dialogue about possible solutions.

Message

Determine the overall message of your presentation based on your audience and the topics you've been asked to address. What do you want your audience to take away from the presentation? Perhaps your message targets everyone's responsibility to report child sexual abuse—or the need to spot and help prevent financial crime. The message could suggest that the audience can help prevent violence against children and also help child victims grow into non-violent adults. Decide on your theme before you begin outlining, writing, or preparing your PowerPoint slides. Think about how your theme relates to National Crime Victims' Rights Week and the invitation to speak. Choose a presentation title that captures your main idea, and refer to your theme in the beginning, body, and conclusion of your talk. As in a speech, begin by telling your audience what you are going to say, remind them of your theme as you develop your sub-themes, and then recap your main idea as you conclude.

Presentation Roadmap

Next, plan how you will organize the overall structure of the presentation. How will you start and end your remarks? Limit yourself to three ideas that support your key message, and weave these ideas into a narrative that matters to your audience.

1. Opening:

Grab your audience's attention right away. Tell a quick, compelling story about a crime in your community, cite a surprising statistic, or ask your audience to guess the facts about a specific crime (e.g., Fact or Fiction? The single best predictor of victimization is having been previously victimized. Previous victimization is a better predictor of future victimization than any other characteristic of crime). Then relate your story or statistics back to your main message (e.g., early intervention helps to prevent future victimization or even involvement in the criminal justice system).

2. Structure:

Build your presentation around three supporting ideas, placed in a logical pattern that leads to a clear conclusion. Typical idea development structures include:*

- **Chronological:** Past, present, future
- **Sequential:** Step-by-step process (e.g., for project rollout)
- **Climactic:** Least to most important
- **Problem–Solution:** Problem, solution, benefits
- **Compare–Contrast:** Similarities and differences of specific factors
- **Cause and Effect:** Causes and results of specific situations
- **Advantage–Disadvantage:** Information arranged into “good” or “bad” categories to help audience see both sides of an issue.

Once you have selected your organizational structure, jot down supporting ideas and evidence, illustrations, or stories to support your main message. If your goal is to persuade

your audience that they can help solve a problem (e.g., repeat victimization), you might organize your presentation as follows:

a. Problem: Many victims never disclose their victimization or seek appropriate assistance. Some victims encounter cultural, organizational, behavioral, financial, or geographical barriers to accessing victim services. Some distrust the system, fear retaliation, feel a stigma, or have other complex reasons that preventing them from seeking help.

b. Solution: We must reach victims where they are—physically, culturally, and emotionally—as early as possible. We must listen and facilitate access to comprehensive, individualized services to empower victims in their recovery and healing. We must enlist the help of sources they already trust by developing relationships with community based programs that incorporate grassroots leadership and outreach.

c. Benefits: Intervening with critical services at the earliest stages benefits all victims, no matter their age or circumstance, by addressing trauma, providing a safe environment, and preventing further victimization, retaliation, or even death—and leads to stronger, more resilient communities.

3. Conclusion:

End your presentation by restating your theme and solution. For example, you might say: To serve all victims it is critical that we work together to mobilize partners, engage policy makers, and continually raise awareness by highlighting victims' issues. We all play a role in serving victims, building trust, and restoring hope.

Using PowerPoint

For many speakers, PowerPoint or other slide-based presentations have become the norm. Presenters use this

* Nancy Duarte, *Resonate: Present Visual Stories That Transform Audiences*, (Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2010), 129.

tool as a “roadmap” for their audience and as a way to remind themselves of their main points. Well-planned slides add color and variety to your presentation and appeal to visual learners. PowerPoint is also a great planning tool because you can experiment with different images and arrangements for your talk. As you plan, focus on keywords and avoid crowding your slides with long phrases or paragraphs that will overwhelm your audience.

Public-speaking experts suggest the following guidelines for preparing effective slides:**

- **Design:** Choose a simple, uncluttered design and solid colors.
- **Bullets:** Limit yourself to 6 bullets per slide, 6 to 8 words per bullet (3 or 4 is better).
- **Font:** Use sans serif fonts (e.g., Arial, Verdana) for readability.
- **Uppercase:** Avoid all-uppercase letters (except for titles).
- **Italics:** Use italics sparingly (harder to read).
- **Point Size:** Use at least 24-point type.
- **Contrast:** Use dark text on light backgrounds.
- **Consistency:** Use the same background design on every slide; use similar text styling (headings, body text, bullets) across all slides; use one color grouping on charts.
- **Graphics, Charts, and Photos:** Use simple graphics and photos that are visible to the audience. (The 2016 NCVRW Theme Artwork is available to use, as well as the 2016 PowerPoint title and master slides. See box.)
- **Animation:** Limit use of animation and sound effects.

- **Video:** Use video sparingly, to support the theme; embed your videos into PowerPoint rather than stream them from the Internet.
- **Notes:** Use the “notes” section of the slides to expand your list of ideas (avoid putting too much on one slide).
- **Parallel Structure:** Begin each bullet point with the same structural pattern (e.g., list of nouns, phrase beginning with active verb).
- **Spelling and Grammar:** Use spell check and proofread your slides several times.
- **Preview:** Preview every slide before the presentation.

Practice your presentation until you feel comfortable. Never read your slides but use them as a guide. As you rehearse, track how long it takes you to go through all the slides, and adjust your presentation to meet the time requirements for the talk.

Communicating Effectively

Public speaking makes everyone somewhat nervous. You can overcome your anxieties by preparing carefully and concentrating on the audience when you speak. Your presentation is about them—not you. Your goal is to tell a story about a problem and let your audience know how they can help solve it. Share your enthusiasm about your theme, perhaps by interweaving an uplifting story about how an individual helped a child exposed to violence and abuse receive the necessary support to heal.

Speak in a positive, enthusiastic, warm tone. Smile, make eye contact, and focus on the audience. Try to vary your tone and facial expressions. Avoid mannerisms and physical gestures, and concentrate on the message. The more you practice, the less likely you will be to fall back on “fillers” such as “um” and “like” between your sentences. Be prepared for interruptions because if you are doing well,

**Nancy Duarte, *Resonate*, 129.

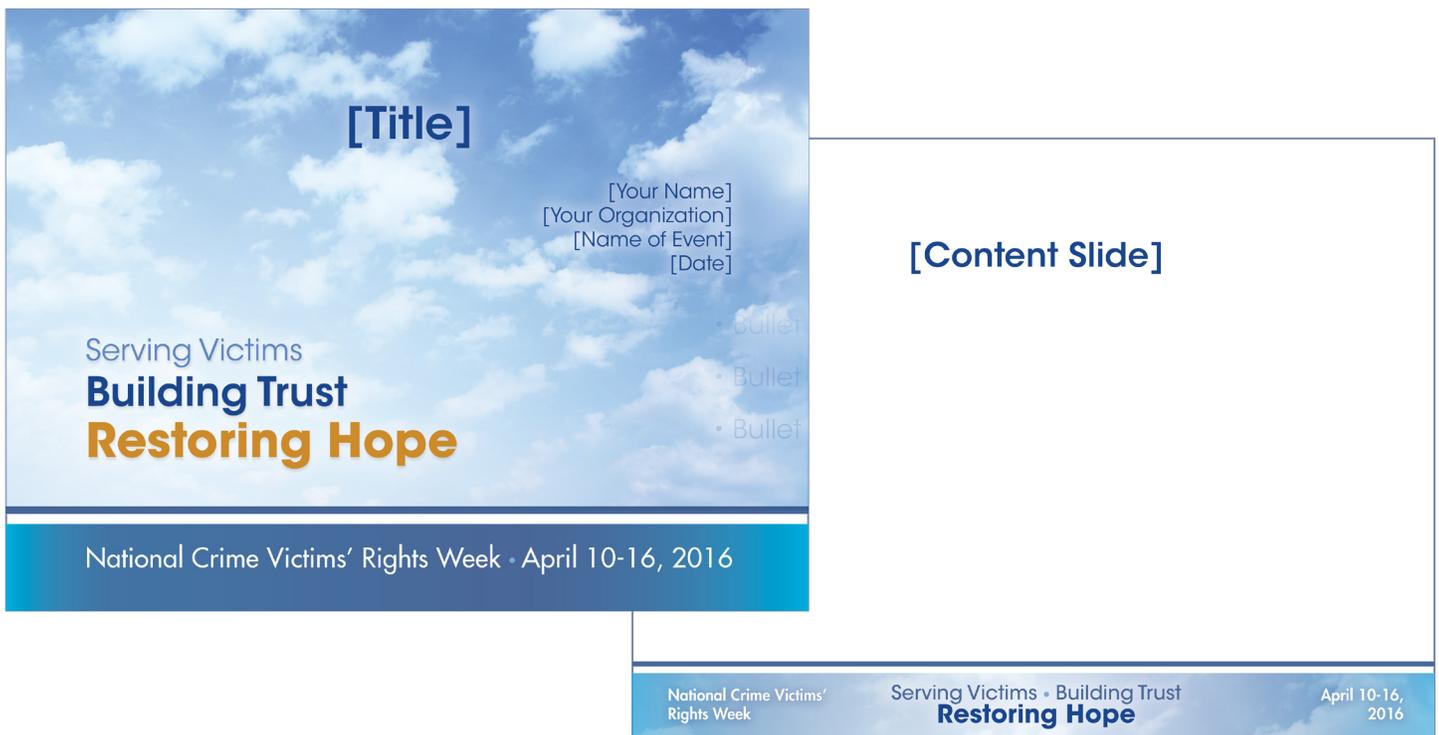
your audience will ask many questions. If you prefer to take questions at the end, tell your audience at the beginning. Also, let your audience know whether they may use social media during your presentation. Some presenters may encourage live tweeting during their presentation while others may find it distracting.

SAMPLE POWERPOINT TEMPLATE

Accompanying this section is a sample PowerPoint template featuring the 2016 NCVRW theme and graphic design. You may use the template to prepare and customize your own NCVRW PowerPoint presentations. Images of the master title and content slides appear on this page, and the actual PowerPoint file is also available for download from the NCVRW website, www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2016.

Prepare the Room

Check the room for any features that may disrupt your presentation, such as loud air conditioning or window glare. Make a list of these items and visit the room in advance to prepare for (and if possible, eliminate) potential distractions. Check the size, the layout, any physical obstacles, the location of the doors, and the amount of seating. Make sure your technology works. Test your computer, projector, screen, and microphones, and ask someone to tell you if your voice is audible. Load your presentation onto the computer, and run through the entire presentation to make sure the computer and projector are working properly. It's always a good idea to have a backup copy of your presentation on another computer, in an accessible email account, or on a removable drive. Also make a hard copy in case of unexpected technical problems. Arrive at least one hour before the presentation to check the equipment again and make sure you are comfortable before you speak. *



The power of partnerships launched the crime victims' rights movement and the achievements we celebrate every year. Families of murdered children and victims of sexual assault, drunk driving, domestic violence, and other crimes mobilized at the grassroots level, joining forces to demand justice for victims of crime. The National Campaign for Victims' Rights founded by these partners led to President Ronald Reagan's reforms on behalf of crime victims, his declaration of the first National Crime Victims' Rights Week, and the creation of the Victims of Crime Act and Crime Victims Fund, whose anniversary we celebrate this week. Through our partnerships and community building, we have made history.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week offers an opportunity to renew and strengthen our partnerships, and to highlight the collaborative approaches that are integral to reaching victims early and establishing trust. The *2016 NCVRW Resource*

Guide itself is the product of a partnership between OVC and the National Center for Victims of Crime, and is supported by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the partner organizations listed in Section 7, "Additional Resources," of this Resource Guide. Through partnerships, organizations more effectively mobilize their experience, skills, messages, resources, and stakeholders to help plan a powerful NCVRW strategy.

This section includes ideas for partnerships to form as you plan your community's 2016 NCVRW activities. Use these ideas to expand your reach, distribute the workload, and build partnerships that will restore hope to victims.

COMMUNITY PARTNER IDEAS

Allied Professionals

- Victim Service Agencies
- Law Enforcement Professionals, Prosecutors, and Institutional and Community Corrections Professionals
- Healthcare Professionals
- Mental Health Professionals

Art and Cultural Organizations

Businesses and Corporations

- Business and Professional Associations
- Fitness Clubs
- Grocery Stores and Restaurants
- Salons and Spas
- Visitors' and Convention Bureaus

Civic Organizations

Colleges and Universities

Faith Communities

Government Agencies and Officials

- Agencies Serving Seniors and Persons with Disabilities
- Community Liaison Offices
- Consumer Protection Agencies
- Libraries
- Public Officials
- Schools

Military Installations

Tribal Authorities

Workforce Training/Job-Search Centers

Youth-Serving Organizations

Allied Professionals

Allied professionals, such as law enforcement and social services professionals, healthcare providers, consumer agencies, and community groups whose mission involves working with crime victims, all understand the impact of crime and the need to invest in serving victims effectively. Partnerships with allied professionals can strengthen your impact and may also lead to collaboration in other areas—such as fundraisers, public awareness campaigns, and coordinated community responses to victims in your area.

Victim Service Agencies

Rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, district attorney's victim advocates, and homicide support organizations often work side by side in the same

jurisdiction. Collaborating with other victim service agencies that share your mission and challenges will produce wider audiences and a more powerful impact for your events. A jointly planned NCVRW information fair for local officials, for example, would showcase each agency's role in helping victims, and also pinpoint the current gaps in the community's response capacity.

Law Enforcement Professionals, Prosecutors, and Institutional and Community Corrections Professionals

Criminal justice professionals offer powerful resources for outreach campaigns. Some law enforcement agencies have crime victim specialists to assess victims' needs, provide crisis intervention, help with safety planning, accompany victims through the criminal justice process, provide information about their cases, and refer them to victim services. Police departments may publish or distribute booklets or resource cards to help crime victims in the aftermath of crimes. Criminal justice agencies can help publicize your NCVRW events through their own communications networks and their ties to community institutions, such as businesses and schools. Invite police officers, school resource officers, corrections officials, or prosecutors to speak at your events. Honor public officials and criminal justice professionals who have shown particular concern for crime victims.

Healthcare Professionals

Because victims often sustain injuries, medical professionals have firsthand knowledge about victimization and can help educate the community about the impact of crime. Primary care and emergency room physicians and nurses treat injured crime victims and regularly screen patients for signs of abuse. Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) care for sexual assault victims, and school nurses serve children who have been hurt or exposed to violence. These professionals play a key role in victims' ability to recover from crime and

have a strong interest in preventing crime. Invite your local hospital, medical and dental society, nurses' association, and physical and occupational therapists to help plan your NCVRW activities. These organizations can provide speakers for your educational programs and publicize your activities in their offices and through their communications networks.

Mental Health Professionals

The mental health impact of crime can be severe and long-lasting. Victims may hesitate to resume their normal routines for fear of being victimized again. They may suffer from depression, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), alcoholism, and a range of other problems. Child and teenage victims may have a variety of problems negotiating the journey to adulthood. Most victims never receive the psychological help they need. In planning your NCVRW events, contact your community mental health associations and other mental health professionals' societies. You might also work with drug treatment facilities, which seek to protect their clients from being victimized by crime. Give these organizations information about crime victim compensation, safety planning, and other services to share through their communications networks.

Art and Cultural Organizations

Art and cultural organizations are often gathering places and social hubs of the community and can attract wide audiences. Art organizations such as galleries, art and music education programs, arts councils, and dance schools can contribute unique skills and resources to your NCVRW campaigns. They can host art exhibits, design flyers and media outreach, perform at events, and promote your observances to their members, patrons, and students. As you begin planning your campaign, contact the communications offices of your local organizations, propose an NCVRW partnership, and describe how such partnerships have worked successfully in other communities (see "Ideas for Special Events").

Businesses and Corporations

Every year, businesses lose billions of dollars to crime, facing huge losses from shoplifting, vandalism, robbery, check fraud, and cybercrime. Business owners spend millions each year to protect themselves and their customers. Throughout the nation, businesses are forming their own coalitions, such as Business Improvement Districts, to beautify their business districts, attract customers, and prevent crime. Identify potential partners by researching which businesses have launched such initiatives, formed partnerships with law enforcement, or encouraged their employees to get involved in community service with at-risk youth or crime victims. Invite these businesses to become your NCVRW planning partners—to share resources, volunteers, marketing skills, and communications networks that can help develop your NCVRW events. Be sure to feature their leaders as speakers and honor their contributions to your community's NCVRW events.

Business and Professional Associations

Business associations, which promote their members' interests and help revitalize communities, make great NCVRW partners. Work with your local Chamber of Commerce, Better Business Bureau, civic improvement societies (business–resident partnerships), insurance roundtables, and professional associations (e.g., bar association, information technology professionals association), or unions representing workers from various trades and professions. Contact officials from these organizations, explain how National Crime Victims' Rights Week advances their mission and enhances the community's well-being, and invite them to help plan your events. Build on these partnerships throughout the year to mobilize your community on behalf of crime victims.

Fitness Clubs

Fitness clubs, which often operate from early morning until late evening or even around the clock, may have trouble

protecting the safety and property of their customers. Theft from customers' cars and lockers are common, and patrons leaving the gym after dark are vulnerable to assault. Contact local fitness centers and their parent companies and invite them to join in planning and publicizing National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Fitness clubs offer a great opportunity for sharing information to help protect their customers from crime. Encourage them to build awareness about their business by sponsoring your walk/run or other athletic events for victims' rights.

Grocery Stores and Restaurants

Because almost everyone patronizes grocery stores and restaurants, these businesses will connect your NCVRW campaign to the entire community. Grocery stores can distribute NCVRW messages on their community bulletin boards and advertising flyers. Restaurants can use NCVRW placemats to build awareness about the week's events and donate food for your events. When you print your outreach products in a variety of languages, you can reach groups that might not otherwise receive NCVRW messages. Contact individual stores and restaurants and their associations, propose an NCVRW partnership, and plan how to involve your entire community in your NCVRW observance.

Salons and Spas

Salons and spas are places of trust for many individuals, and salon professionals are in a unique position to provide information and resources to those who disclose their victimization. They are one of the few places victims may frequent without their abuser and play an important role in building awareness and safely referring clients to local resources. Many state licensing boards are requiring trainings for salon professionals on how to spot signs of domestic abuse and human trafficking. Make sure local salons and spas have materials about local NCVRW activities and are familiar with local resources for victims of

crime. Salon professionals can be powerful and influential partners in combating abuse.

Visitors' and Convention Bureaus

To attract tourists, communities must be safe, secure places to visit. Visitors' and convention bureaus and hotel associations, which have a strong interest in public safety, can be resourceful NCVRW partners. Reach out to your local tourism-related agencies and alert them about protecting their customers and preventing crime. Hotels, for example, may appreciate receiving the latest updates on hackers using hotel Wi-Fi connections to steal personal information from their guests. Encourage them to join you in observing National Crime Victims' Rights Week. They can provide marketing and publicity for your campaign and help provide information on resources for crime victims in your area.

Civic Organizations

Civic organizations play a crucial role in shaping communities' priorities and can lend support, prestige, and enthusiasm to NCVRW events. Reach out to organizations such as Kiwanis, Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, Soroptimist International, and other community organizations—as well as parent-teacher organizations, schools and university alumni groups, neighborhood and crime watch associations, retirees' groups, ethnic and cultural organizations, and even hobby groups such as photography and garden clubs. Members can help you plan and host events, design outreach materials, and volunteer. Organizations representing underserved victims (e.g., ethnic communities, victims with disabilities, seniors) can provide volunteers to help disseminate information about crime victims' rights and services. Some groups may provide translators to reach specific audiences, share volunteers, and offer guidance on the best ways to include their communities in NCVRW events.

Colleges and Universities

Colleges and universities play integral roles in the local community and can host a wide range of NCVRW activities, such as art exhibits, rallies, and walk/run events. These institutions can provide space for events; they may also contribute design and media experts, subject matter scholars, donors and patrons, and enthusiastic student volunteers and participants to help with your NCVRW campaigns and events. Contact the communications offices of your local colleges and universities when you begin event planning. Ask them to partner with you and to suggest ways to enhance your campaign. Make sure you recognize their contributions in your ceremonies and outreach materials.

Faith Communities

Local churches, synagogues, mosques, and their affiliate organizations have strong commitments to protecting their community members and supporting victims. Invite members of the clergy, lay leaders, and religious service organizations (e.g., the Knights of Columbus, American Friends Service Committee, B'Nai B'rith) and charities to join your NCVRW preparations. Assess the crime-related issues affecting the local neighborhoods around these religious institutions or ask religious leaders what kinds of information and help these communities might need. Ask their help in hosting events, mobilizing volunteers, and speaking at your NCVRW events.

Government Agencies and Officials

Government agencies can powerfully boost the scope and impact of your NCVRW outreach with their broad distribution networks. Public safety departments (e.g., police departments, prosecutors' offices, family justice centers) often employ victim advocates, who can be valuable resources for reaching out to victims in the community. Additionally, partner with government consumer protection agencies, libraries, agencies for seniors, commissions for women and youth, and ethnic community liaison

offices to publicize events and contribute resources and volunteers. Partnerships with such agencies will also lay the groundwork for coordinated community responses to crime and other forms of collaboration throughout the year.

Agencies Serving Seniors and Persons with Disabilities

Seniors and persons with disabilities are vulnerable populations and are frequently targeted for certain types of crime, such as scams, fraud, and abuse. These groups benefit from knowing their rights and the services available to them. Area Agencies on Aging, senior centers, adult protective services, commissions on aging, and community college senior education programs, as well as agencies serving persons with disabilities, offer outreach opportunities, community education, volunteers, and alliances to improve the safety of seniors and persons with disabilities in your community.

Community Liaison Offices

Victims of crime in various ethnic groups may urgently need support from larger community agencies that serve as liaisons to ethnic groups. These offices can bring your NCVRW messages to communities that often do not know their rights or the services available to them as crime victims, regardless of their citizenship status. These offices share information about criminal justice procedures and reduce their community members' fear of reporting crime—a common problem among recent immigrants. National Crime Victims' Rights Week offers a great opportunity to involve the leaders of these communities who can help identify the greatest educational needs and devise useful strategies to better engage these vulnerable populations.

Consumer Protection Agencies

Some county, state, and even local governments have agencies to protect their citizens from fraud, theft, and irresponsible business practices. Consumer protection staffs provide the latest information about scams and other forms of financial abuse in their communities. These agencies may offer speakers for your events, facts about recent patterns of financial crimes in your area, and information about how victims of scams or abusive practices can seek their assistance.

Libraries

Public libraries offer unique access to a wide range of community members. Students, seniors, neighborhood leaders, and patrons from every demographic use libraries and their websites to find information and connect with the community. Libraries can host meetings and educational forums, display NCVRW posters, post announcements, or present multimedia displays on crime victims' rights or victim assistance.

Public Officials

Your federal, state, and local officials provide visibility, authority, and prestige to National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Through proclamations, official news releases, and their presence at NCVRW ceremonies, mayors, governors, state's attorneys, and other officials underscore the importance of crime victims' rights and lend the power of their offices to your observances. Contact their staff to invite your elected officials to participate in outreach and events. Your collaboration with elected officials on NCVRW activities may also promote your organization as a resource for legislation and public policy on crime victim issues in your community.

Extend Your Reach through Partnerships

Schools

Schools serve as a trusted resource in the community for supporting and protecting children. Children are more vulnerable to being victimized—domestic violence, bullying, child sexual abuse, and other crimes affect millions of children every year. Partnerships with schools allow you to bring NCVRW messages to children, parents, teachers, administrators, and neighborhoods throughout the school system. Raise awareness through student art, essays, and public-speaking contests, and honor the winners at NCVRW ceremonies. Engage students by inviting them to plan their own outreach campaigns (using school media and art department resources). Schools can host educational forums and assemblies, sociodramas, debates, and plays on issues that affect children in your community.

Military Installations

Domestic violence, sexual assault, shootings, and other crimes in military installations have brought military crime victims further into the public consciousness. Although the Uniform Military Code of Justice differs in some respects from other jurisdictions' criminal codes, these military crime victims have rights. These include the right to be treated with fairness and respect, to be notified of court proceedings, to be present at proceedings related to the offense, to be informed about the case, and to receive available restitution. Work with military victim services officers and communications professionals to promote National Crime Victims' Rights Week in military media and print communications. Encourage military installations to hold NCVRW ceremonies and to honor military leaders who have protected the rights of victims under their command.

Tribal Authorities

Native Americans and Alaska Natives experience significantly higher-than-average crime rates. Often remote and isolated from the larger community, these tribal

communities should be included when possible in NCVRW events. Ask your local colleagues or leaders from these communities to identify key problems for their populations and how NCVRW outreach could help them. Reach out to tribal authorities, seek their suggestions, and work together to promote the priorities they identify.

Workforce Training/Job-Search Centers

Because crime may cause unexpected expenses for victims, its impact on unemployed and underemployed victims can be especially severe. Such victims need to be familiar with their rights and the local services available to them as crime victims. Workforce training centers can post NCVRW information and host events to build awareness about crime and crime victim services in their neighborhoods.

Youth-Serving Organizations

Because young people are more likely than any other age group to be victimized by crime, youth-serving organizations have a strong interest in victims' rights and services. NCVRW partnerships with such agencies will help build awareness about crimes against young people, best practices for prevention and intervention, and local resources to protect children and prevent crime. Potential NCVRW partners include the YMCA and YWCA, Campfire USA, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, 4-H Clubs, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, City Year, Junior Achievement, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of America, the National Youth Leadership Council, youth athletic leagues, and faith-based youth organizations throughout the nation. Consider partnering with parent-teacher organizations and local mentoring programs to publicize and hold NCVRW events. *

Each year, communities throughout the country develop a variety of creative ways to commemorate National Crime Victims' Rights Week. From festivals to educational forums, art displays to tree plantings, marches to memorials to media outreach, diverse groups with a variety of experiences, knowledge, and skills create their own traditions to honor, engage, and advocate for victims. To support these efforts, the Office for Victims of Crime, in conjunction with the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators, offers funding assistance through its Community Awareness Projects (CAP) initiative. Each year, the awards are selected based on criteria including collaboration, innovation, community impact, media involvement, and experience with victims' issues. As you plan your 2016 activities, use this list of last year's events from communities around the country to help inspire your ideas and creativity. For additional CAP descriptions from prior years, visit <http://cap.navaa.org/previous.html>.

NVCRW SPECIAL EVENTS

Art Exhibits and Dramatic Performances

Awards Ceremonies

Billboard Campaigns

Candlelight Vigils

Commemorative Displays

Balloons and Pinwheels

Garden Ceremonies and Tree Displays

Interactive Displays

Educational Forums

Information and Resource Fairs

Marches and Walk/Run Events

Media Outreach

Public Service Announcements

Youth-Focused Events

Art Activities and Contests

Art Exhibits and Dramatic Performances

Art is a powerful medium for victims of crime to convey their experiences and build empathy and support.

- **Victim Witness Services for Coconino County**, Arizona, held a "Show Your heART" art slam event featuring art by local victims of crime. All kinds of art were represented as well as victims of all types of crime.
- **The Marjaree Mason Center** in Fresno, California, hosted an art exhibit at a popular downtown art venue. The location brought together the art community, residents from low-income neighborhoods, service providers, and victims of crime.
- **Mending of the Sacred Hoop**, Inc., in Duluth, Minnesota, sponsored "Faces of Violence," a theatrical piece written and performed by Native women. The stories highlighted all types of crimes and violence committed against American Indian and Alaska Native women.
- **Teton County Victim Services**, in Jackson, Wyoming, hosted the "Victims' Rights Art Gala," displaying artwork created by local community members based on crime, trauma, and healing.

Ideas for Special Events

- **FOCUS**, Inc. in Newcastle, Wyoming, created a PhotoVoice, relaying the experiences of local crime victims and witnesses visually through 10 storyboards.
- **The Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County** in New Castle, Pennsylvania, created a “Crime Victims Play” as a direct look at victims’ rights, from victimization to court proceedings through the offender’s release from jail.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The **Attorney General’s National Crime Victims’ Service Awards Ceremony**, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice and coordinated by the Office for Victims of Crime, will be held Tuesday, April 12, 2016, at the National Archives in Washington, DC, and will be streamed live. For more information about this special event, including the time and location details, please visit http://ovc.gov/awareness/about_ncvrw.html.

Have someone you’d like to nominate for an award? Nominations for next year’s National Crime Victims’ Service Awards will open this spring. For criteria, applications, and more, visit <https://ovcncvrw.ncjrs.gov/awards/default.html>.

Awards Ceremonies

Awards ceremonies are a great way to show the community what work has been done toward helping victims of crime as well as support the individuals who dedicate their lives to the cause.

- **Dial Help**, Inc., in Houghton, Michigan, held its awards ceremony in a downtown area that was both bus and wheelchair accessible. A resource fair was combined with the event.
- **The Oregon Department of Justice**, Crime Victims’ Services Division in Salem, Oregon, included an award for service to victims of crime in their community action project.

- **The Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services** in Waterbury, Vermont, hosted an awards ceremony that included a guest speaker and an informational workshop for advocates.

Billboard Campaigns

Billboard campaigns are among the most effective strategies for showcasing your NCVRW activities because of their wide reach. From signs overlooking high-traffic areas to ads on mass transit, these outlets help spread important messages throughout your community.

- **Safe Avenues** in Willmar, Minnesota, created outdoor billboards across the counties that they service announcing statistics on victimization and contact information for related services in the region.
- **Family Services Incorporated** in Altoona, Pennsylvania, sponsored an Altoona Curve baseball game where they displayed information for victims of crime on banners and signage throughout the ballpark.
- **The North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation** in Bismarck created four billboards in the Bakken region—chosen due to a rise in crime—to spread information about available crime victim resources.
- **The Crime Victim Assistance Division of the Iowa Attorney General’s Office** in Des Moines sponsored electronic billboards before and during a semi-professional baseball game where the Attorney General threw the first pitch.

Candlelight Vigils

Few activities are as moving and symbolic as candlelight vigils. Communities gather at vigils to honor crime victims and recommit to securing victims’ rights. The sight of hundreds of people holding candles in the dark is a

powerful symbol of transforming the darkness caused by crime and shedding light on victims' rights. Among the hundreds of organizations that held candlelight vigils were the **Mobile County District Attorney's Office** in Mobile, Alabama; the **SafeHouse of Shelby County, Inc.**, in Pelham, Alabama; the **Crime Victims Assistance Association of Arkansas** in Little Rock; the **Kern County District Attorney's Office** in Bakersfield, California; **Friends of Yates** in Kansas City, Kansas; the **New Orleans Police Department** in Louisiana; **Destined to Win Ministries** in Winterville, North Carolina; the **Center for Safety & Change** in New City, New York; the **Richmond County District Attorney** in Staten Island, New York; the **Victim Assistance Program, Inc.**, in Akron, Ohio; the **Florence Crittenton Agency** in Knoxville, Tennessee; and the **H.O.P.E. Center, Inc.**, in Athens, Tennessee.

Some communities added unique elements to their vigils:

- **The Two Rivers Coalition for Victim Advocacy** in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, hosted their candlelight vigil at the courthouse. Before the candlelighting, a local band played, and attendees were encouraged to bring posters in honor of their loved ones affected by crime.
- **CLUES (Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio)** in Minneapolis, Minnesota, held a community vigil led by a therapist to honor those whose lives were lost as a result of crime. Participants were able to write a message or prayer about their loved one as well as participate in the Clothesline Project, where women presented their stories by decorating shirts to be hung up during the vigil.
- **The Lorain County Domestic Violence Task Force** in Lorain, Ohio, held a candlelight vigil and balloon release where participants were given Forget-Me-Not seeds to plant as a reminder of how communities are affected by crime.

Commemorative Displays

Commemorative displays allow communities to remember and honor crime victims in personalized ways. From pinwheels to balloons, and tree decorating to interactive displays, these rich, visual tributes raise public awareness and support victims and loved ones through their recovery.

Balloons and Pinwheels

Balloon releases are a colorful gesture to memorialize crime victims, acting as a visual reminder of the wide-scale impact of crime.

- **Connecticut Children's Alliance** in Woodstock, Connecticut, hosted a pinwheel ceremony on the lawn of the state Capitol Building.
- **Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson, Inc.**, in Schenectady, New York, held a balloon release and group photo following a recognition ceremony.
- **The HOPE Center** in Faribault, Minnesota, displayed pinwheels in multiple locations representing the number of victims served each month.
- **The KAW Nation** in Kaw City, Oklahoma, hosted a 5K Color Walk/Run, where a balloon release to honor victims of crime marked the start of the event.

Garden Ceremonies and Tree Displays

For many victims and families, plants symbolize growth. Nature provides a sense of peace in the face of loss.

- **The Maine Chapter of Parents Of Murdered Children** in Cambridge, Maine, displayed "Trees of Hope" in the waiting rooms at 10 health centers across the state to show their support for victims of crime. Each tree had a placard describing National Crime Victims' Rights Week and included the Sexual Assault Support Services hotline number.

- **The Chesapeake Sheriff's Office Victim/Witness Assistance Program** in Chesapeake, Virginia, held an awards ceremony where each guest was invited to tie a ribbon on a tree either to represent their own victimization or in honor of a loved one who had been a victim of crime.

Interactive Displays

Interactive displays are a powerful tool for bringing victims' rights issues to the forefront of your community.

- **The Family Advocates Program**, Inc. in Boise, Idaho, had a week-long film festival during National Crime Victims' Rights Week that focused on issues surrounding family violence. A moderated forum followed each film screening.
- **Citizens Against Domestic Violence** in Camdenton, Missouri, held an event where each participant received a biodegradable lantern in a color representing a crime (e.g., purple for domestic violence). Survivors told their stories and then released 250 lanterns into the air.
- **The Kings County District Attorney's Office-Victim Services Unit** in Brooklyn, New York, set up an outdoor chalkboard art project where community members were encouraged to write in their response to the phrases "Community in Brooklyn Means..." and "I Feel Empowered When...."
- **The Crisis Center** in Bristol, Virginia, held its fifth Annual Clothesline Project in conjunction with a carnival and Silent Witness art installation.
- **The New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence** in Concord, New Hampshire, displayed a victims' memorial quilt followed by a press conference by the **State Attorney General**.

Educational Forums

National Crime Victims' Rights Week forums and panels offer an opportunity for experts to analyze and educate the public about the impact of victimization on individuals and the community.

- **The Bronx Independent Living Services** in the Bronx, New York, presented information on rights and services for victims of crime with disabilities through creative and informational workshops that were open to the public. One of the workshops included designing NCVRW t-shirts that highlighted the participants' ideas and feelings about crime and abuse.
- **The Victims Resource Center** in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, held a mock rape trial focusing on the colleges and universities in the surrounding area.
- **The Network for Victim Recovery of the District of Columbia** in Washington, DC, conducted a Twitter town hall to provide information and resources on different types of crime. They also held an Art and Video Expo that presented the Twitter town hall along with the art and video submissions.
- **The Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas, Inc.**, in St. Petersburg, Florida, hosted two self-defense classes led by law enforcement at local community centers.
- **The DeKalb County Solicitor-General's Office** in Decatur, Georgia, held a community-wide event at the county courthouse that focused on survivor resiliency.
- **Johnson County District Attorney's Office** in Olathe, Kansas, had a free two-hour self-defense class that focused on delay and escape tactics.
- **Legacy House** in Indianapolis, Indiana, held a panel discussion on media influences on victims of crime.

- **The Waterloo Police Department** in Waterloo, Iowa, hosted a two-hour public event that included informational videos and a live demonstration of the VINE information service (Victim Information and Notification Everyday).
- **People Against Domestic and Sexual Abuse** in Jefferson, Wisconsin, created a series of three videos that raised awareness about domestic abuse, dating violence, stalking, and sexual abuse in the county. The videos were premiered at a public event, in which video participants also engaged in a discussion panel.

Information and Resource Fairs

Information expos and fairs attract wide audiences, and can offer useful information about victims' rights to communities. Among the many organizations that held information and resource fairs were the **Person Center** in Washington, Arkansas; the **Miami-Dade County Community Action and Human Services Department** in Miami, Florida; the **Iowa City Police Department** in Iowa City, Iowa; **Destined to Win Ministries** in Winterville, North Carolina; and **Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse** in Houston, Texas.

Some communities added unique elements to their fairs:

- **The Crisis Intervention Service** in Mason City, Iowa, hosted two different resource fairs, one at a central location and the other in a densely populated area. The first 200 attendees at each fair received a free t-shirt with the NCVRW logo and colors on it. Each fair was followed by a panel discussion with local service providers.
- **The City of Detroit Police Department** in Detroit, Michigan, held an awareness fair where officers from all 12 police precincts were represented. The fair included information, prizes, giveaways, and guest speakers.
- **The Henry County Attorney's Office** in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, combined their resource fair with an awareness walk including t-shirts, bracelets, and other materials that included the NCVRW logo and colors.
- **Friendship of Women, Inc.**, in Brownsville, Texas, held a four-hour resource fair in a public park where local service providers and partners provided information focused on the Victims' Bill of Rights.
- **The Women's Center of East Texas, Inc.**, in Longview, Texas, hosted five information and resource fairs, where they collaborated with other victim service agencies and nominated individuals from each to receive a Crime Victims Service Award.
- **The Mid Florida Community Services, Inc.**, in Brooksville, Florida, held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the resource fair.

Marches and Walk/Run Events

Marches and walk/run events are popular ways to bring communities together for fun and to inspire victims' rights celebration.

- **The Family Justice Center Sonoma County Foundation Board of Directors** in Santa Rosa, California, hosted a "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" march.
- **The Community Advocates for Family & Youth** in Capitol Heights, Maryland, hosted a "Victim Rights Awareness Walk" where participants honored someone they knew.
- **The Boone County Prosecuting Attorney** in Columbia, Missouri, held a 5K walk and run where the first 300 participants received a free t-shirt and bracelet.
- **The Lassen Family Services, Inc.**, in Susanville, California, along with **Victim Witness** co-chaired their second "Annual Walk a Mile in Their Shoes"

Ideas for Special Events

event with collaboration from 18 other agencies and crime survivors. Informational booths and guest speakers were included in the event.

- **The Shelter Agencies for Families in East Texas**, Inc., in Mt. Pleasant, Texas, hosted their Second Annual Super Hero 5K and Fun Run, where attendees dressed up as their favorite super hero or wore an NCVRW t-shirt provided to them.
- **The Cumberland County Commissioners** in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, hosted a rally and one-mile evening walk, featuring remarks from both the district attorney and mayor.

Media Outreach

Throughout National Crime Victims' Rights Week, powerful media campaigns take many different forms as organizations reach out to the widest possible audiences. Among some of the many organizations that produced outreach materials were **Against Abuse**, Inc., in Casa Grande, Arizona; **Mesa City Prosecutor's Office** in Mesa, Arizona; the **Office of the District Attorney, 7th Judicial District** in Montrose, Colorado; **St. Bernard Battered Women's Program**, Inc., in Chalmette, Louisiana; **Lutheran Community Services Northwest** in SeaTac, Washington; **TimeOut Family Abuse Shelter**, Inc., in Ladysmith, Wisconsin; and **Wood County Victim Witness Services** in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin.

Some communities added unique elements to their media outreach:

- **The Mobile County District Attorney's Office** in Mobile, Alabama, advertised National Crime Victims' Rights Week through movie theater screenings, direct mail, restaurant napkins, and stickers on pizza boxes.
- **Holly's House** in Evansville, Indiana, used the NCVRW logo and human trafficking hotline number

on bars of soap that it distributed to area businesses and hotels.

- **Mavani**, Inc., in New Brunswick, New Jersey, created a poster about the rights of domestic violence victims aimed at educating the South Asian community on victims' rights. The culturally sensitive posters were distributed in English, Hindi, and Bengali.
- **Haven House** in Rio Rancho, New Mexico, not only distributed printed materials, but also conducted a four-week radio awareness campaign announcing National Crime Victims' Rights Week and its theme.
- **The Korean American Family Service Center** in Flushing, New York, distributed information and resources through subway and bus ads in Korean, Chinese, Spanish, and English.

Public Service Announcements

Public services announcements (PSAs) are a powerful outreach tool to raise awareness of the needs and rights of crime victims. Each year, victim assistance advocates funnel their passion and creativity into these videos that are often broadcast on local television stations.

- **Deaf Iowans Against Abuse** in Cedar Rapids used a public service announcement to have Deaf survivors share their stories through sign language. Captions were provided.
- **Western Kentucky University Research Foundation**, Inc., in Bowling Green, Kentucky, developed both video and poster public service announcements that highlighted interpersonal violence and bystander intervention.
- **Winnemucca Domestic Violence Services**, Inc., in Winnemucca, Nevada, sponsored public service announcements on a local radio station.

THEME VIDEO IN ACTION

Last year, Community Awareness Projects found a variety of uses for the Theme Video in their outreach efforts. As you plan your 2016 NCVRW campaigns, you might find some of the following suggestions helpful:

PLANNING

- Brainstorm with your planning team and partners on how to build your NCVRW campaign message and how to best use the Theme Video in your outreach appeals. Talk about how your efforts, like the organizations in the video, *serve victims, build trust, and restore hope*.
- Show the Theme Video to your staff to prepare them for NCVRW activities.
- Use the Theme Video to train and build awareness among your volunteers and interns as well as to educate local students about your organization's role in building a healthy, hopeful community.

WEB OUTREACH

- Embed the Theme Video in your organization's website.
- Post a link on your site to the Theme Video on the [OVC website](#) or [OVC YouTube channel](#).
- Link to the Theme Video in your social media outreach.

- Produce a localized NCVRW public service announcement to post on your website or use at presentations.

CEREMONIES AND EVENTS

- Show the Theme Video at the beginning of your community's candlelight ceremony.
- Open your NCVRW kickoff ceremony with the Theme Video, and ask your speakers to focus their comments on the key video messages—*Serving Victims. Building Trust. Restoring Hope*.
- Project the Theme Video on a large screen, to run repeatedly before and after your NCVRW events.

PRESENTATIONS

- Edit the Theme Video to include personal accounts by local victims and survivors and offer the customized video to local advocates or educators for presentations in schools and neighborhoods to demonstrate the impact of crime.
- Present the Theme Video at an educational open house or informational meeting.

The Theme Video is available for viewing or download at www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2016.

- **Kentucky River Community Care** in Hazard, Kentucky, ran a commercial in local theaters and on television that used 100 high school students to represent crime victim statistics.
- **The Women's Center of Montgomery County** in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, created a 15-second on-screen advertisement in movie theaters to promote their services.

Youth-Focused Events

National Crime Victims' Rights Week events focus heavily on youth, who are disproportionately affected by crime. By involving schools, parents, and students, many organizations make a special effort to engage community youth in advocacy activities, such as art exhibits, drama and chorale performances, and other special events.

Art Activities and Contests

National Crime Victims' Rights Week art activities help students and communities empathize with the trauma of victimization.

Ideas for Special Events

- **Crime Victims Assistance Association of Arkansas** in Little Rock hosted an art contest across area high schools. The winners' artwork was printed on t-shirts that were given away at other NCVRW events.
- **The Family Justice Center of St. Joseph County, Inc.**, in South Bend, Indiana, held a youth art and essay contest focused on the NCVRW theme. The posters were later displayed in their offices.
- **Working Against Violence, Inc.**, in Rapid City, South Dakota, held a public service announcement contest for middle school students enrolled in video production classes. The winner's video was aired on local television stations.
- **The Washington County District Attorney's Office of Victim Services** in Washington, Pennsylvania, held a ceremony to recognize students who had created posters and written essays for National Crime Victims' Rights Week and displayed their pieces.
- **Albemarle County Commonwealth Attorneys' Office** in Charlottesville, Virginia, held a contest for middle school students to create public service announcement posters.
- **The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney-Victim Witness Kokua Services** in Honolulu, Hawaii, sponsored the Keiki (Children's) Poster Contest and a recognition ceremony.
- **North Idaho Violence Prevention Center** in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, sponsored a high school poster contest across five counties and held workshops at different school districts about adolescent dating violence and establishing healthy relationships. *

Serving Victims Building Trust Restoring Hope

SECTION 3 | ABOUT THE RESOURCE GUIDE ARTWORK

The *2016 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide* offers a selection of professionally developed, original illustration and other artwork to promote this year's theme—*Serving Victims. Building Trust. Restoring Hope.*—and draw attention to your community's NCVRW observance. By using the 2016 Resource Guide artwork, which provides space for you to add your local contact information, you become part of the nationwide effort to raise awareness about crime victims' rights and services during National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

2016 NCVRW Artwork Elements

This year's artwork evokes the hopeful, restorative aspect of the 2016 NCVRW theme—*Serving Victims. Building Trust. Restoring Hope.* The **medium blue** and **dark gold** theme colors offer a resonant call to deliver appropriate, timely services to victims to help them rebuild their lives. (See "[2016 Theme Colors](#)" on page 3.) The fonts used throughout the Resource Guide (in varying weights) are **Futura** and **Avant Garde Gothic**. Reprint permission is granted for all artwork. Press files and other high-resolution artwork are available for download at www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2016. Much of the artwork also includes space for adding your organization's contact information. (See "[TIP: Text Fields on Fillable PDFs.](#)")

Artwork Formats

Almost all print shops today print from digital art files. For flexibility and convenience, the 2016 NCVRW Resource Guide contains electronic artwork in a variety of formats (downloadable at www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2016):

- **PDF.** PDFs are widely accessible files that can be opened with Adobe Reader, available for free download at www.adobe.com. The Resource Guide includes PDFs in both process colors and black and white.

TIP: TEXT FIELDS ON FILLABLE PDFs

Many of the PDFs in this year's Resource Guide include text fields that allow users to customize the artwork in Adobe Reader. On these pieces (e.g., posters, name tags, table cards, certificates of appreciation), you can easily add your contact information or other text.

To access the text fields, place your cursor over the appropriate region of the artwork. When you are over a "fillable" text field, the cursor will change to an I-beam. Click on the field to change the I-beam to a text cursor, and begin typing. Alternatively, if you want to insert text in different fonts, sizes, or colors, format your text in Microsoft Word and copy and paste it into the PDF text fields.

- **JPEG.** JPEG files are individual images that can be placed in graphics programs, in various word processing programs, and on websites. Each piece that incorporates this year's theme and poster artwork is available as a JPEG, in both RGB color and black and white. (See "[A Printing Primer](#)" on page 4 for more information about color spaces.)

TIP: USING JPEGs IN WORD

To place JPEG files in Microsoft Word, first ensure that the desired images are saved to your device. Then, from Word, choose “insert > picture” from the toolbar, and select the appropriate file. To type on top of the image, select the image, go to “format > text wrapping > behind text.” Then create a text box and place it over the image. *Make sure the text box does not have a fill or border color selected.*

- **Adobe Creative Cloud (CC).** Adobe Creative Cloud programs are professional design applications used by graphic designers, publishers, and print shops. InDesign CC files, as well as the Illustrator and Photoshop CC files needed to reproduce this year’s artwork, are available for download at www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2016. Creative Cloud files are available in process colors as well as black and white.

These three formats (PDF, JPEG, and Adobe CC) balance versatility with ease of use, enabling you to incorporate this year’s artwork into all your NCVRW materials, including news releases, event displays, and giveaways.

All of the 2016 NCVRW Resource Guide Artwork is available for free download at www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2016.

Resource Guide Artwork Contents

Theme Posters

- **2016 NCVRW Theme Poster.** Press artwork for the official 22” x 28” full-size NCVRW Theme Poster in both black and white and color.
- **11” x 17” Theme Posters.** A smaller variation of the official 2016 Theme Poster, this 11” x 17” poster comes in both black and white and color and can be printed on standard tabloid-size paper. This poster contains space to add local contact information.

Theme Artwork

- **2016 Theme Color Palette.** Theme colors and their values in different color systems help you create your own outreach materials.
- **Billboard Artwork.** Designed for 30’ x 10’ and 48’ x 14’ displays, this digital billboard artwork is a highly visible way to publicize National Crime Victims’ Rights Week in your community. Formats vary widely. Contact your local advertising vendor for exact specifications.
- **Bookmarks.** Mix and match these bookmark designs to meet your outreach needs. On some designs, space is available to add local contact information. A heavy paper stock, such as 80-pound cover stock, is recommended.
- **Buttons, Logos, and Magnets.** Use the provided artwork to create giveaways for your events. Always popular, such items help participants demonstrate their support for crime victims’ rights.
- **Certificate of Appreciation.** Use the certificate of appreciation to honor crime victims and those who serve them. Certificates may be printed on parchment, fine paper, or attractive card stock; they can include the recipient’s name in calligraphy (either handwritten or typed on the fillable PDF), the name of the public figure or organization presenting the certificate, and the date on which it is presented.
- **Facebook and Twitter Cover and Profile Images.** These JPEGs are perfectly sized for use as cover and profile images on Facebook and Twitter. The profile image also can be used on other social sites such as Google+.
- **Letterhead.** This versatile template is perfect for event fliers, news releases, letters of introduction, and other NCVRW documents. You might also feature the names of NCVRW partners, planning committee

members, or sponsoring organizations on the letterhead.

- **Name Tags and Table Card.** Enhance the formality of your event by using these templates for name tags and table cards at exhibits, ceremonies, conferences, or any other gathering.
- **Information and Referrals Contact List.** This flier listing toll-free numbers and websites for the nation’s leading victim-serving organizations is a must-have for every social service agency in your community. Post the list in permissible public spaces (e.g., libraries, community centers, grocery stores), distribute hard copies to local businesses (ask to speak to a human resources representative), or e-mail the electronic version to local victim-serving and public-safety agencies (e.g., shelters, police departments, doctors’ offices).
- **Ribbon Cards.** These cards work best printed on a heavy paper stock (at least 80-pound cover). To make ribbons for the cards, cut two eight-inch strands of dark blue and gold ribbon and form a loop; secure the strands to the ribbon card with a two-inch stick pin. Partner with local volunteers (e.g., from schools, civic organizations, or faith-based communities) for help assembling the ribbon cards.
- **Web and E-mail Banners.** Use these NCVRW-themed banners on your website and in your e-mails, including cinemagraphs (moving images)—*new this year!*

Public Awareness Posters

The *2016 NCVRW Resource Guide* features three new public awareness posters (in English and Spanish), each highlighting a critical message for your community. With room for local contact information, the posters are on the following topics and can be used throughout the year:

- **Intimate Partner Violence**
- **Hate and Bias Victimization**
- **Repeat Exposure to Violence** (Polyvictimization)

Join Forces

Look for local partners to help you produce memorable 2016 NCVRW outreach materials. Businesses or colleges may donate paper, copying services, or ad space. Schools and service organizations may provide volunteers for stuffing envelopes and other outreach activities. Correctional agencies often provide printing and assembly services at reduced fees, and government agencies—including law enforcement—may be willing to offer public affairs staff to design pamphlets and fliers. Help tap your community’s spirit of unity and build awareness about the importance of crime victims’ rights.

2016 Theme Colors

This year’s theme art was designed in process colors; their CMYK builds, below, are accompanied by comparable values in other color spaces. (See “[A Printing Primer](#)” on page 4 for more.)

Medium Blue: C=80, M=61, Y=18, K=2

Comparable Colors:

- PMS 653C
- R=72, G=103, B=1538
- HTML #486799

Dark Gold: C=18, M=48, Y=100, K=2

Comparable Colors:

- PMS 7563C
- R=205, G=139, B=42
- HTML #cd8b2a *

A PRINTING PRIMER

You may have wondered why materials printed on your home or office color printer often look different from materials printed by a professional press or posted on the web. The answer lies in how different color systems—CMYK, spot colors, and RGB—are generated.

CMYK: Office printers and those used by quick-copy print shops use only four inks—cyan (blue), magenta (red), yellow, and black. These inks are known as CMYK, process inks, or four-color process. These four inks intermix to create a virtually endless range of colors that you see on your printout. There are differences, though, between how these colors appear on a computer monitor and on the printed page (see “RGB” below).

Spot Colors: Professional “offset” print shops can print products designed for CMYK inks. However, they also print designs that use spot-color inks, specific colors that are mixed according to precise formulas—usually set by the Pantone Matching System (PMS), a color system widely used by professional printers and designers. By selecting colors from PMS “swatchbooks” (sample books), designers know exactly what the final printed color will be, regardless of how the

design appears onscreen, and can be sure that the colors will be consistent in all products. Organizations often design their logos in spot colors, for example, to eliminate color variations among their printed materials and other branded products. The more spot colors a design requires, the more it costs to print.

RGB: Monitors, which are fundamentally different from printers, display color through varied mixtures of red, green, and blue (RGB) light rather than through pigmented inks. Red, green, and blue light values are added and subtracted to create different perceptions of color, and each monitor is calibrated to display color a little differently. In addition, web browsers often use a very limited RGB spectrum. As a result of these limitations in web browsers and variations in monitor calibrations, online images and websites may appear different to various users.

Each of these three color systems has its own spectrum and distinct color values. It is possible to approximate (but not exactly reproduce) colors from one system (e.g., spot colors) in another color system (e.g., CMYK). For the greatest color consistency when printing or reproducing artwork, use the color system in which the artwork was created.

Serving Victims Building Trust Restoring Hope

SECTION 4 | COMMUNICATING YOUR MESSAGE MEDIA TIPS & TOOLS

National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRRW) is an opportunity to highlight challenges faced by crime victims and emphasize the ongoing struggle to establish victims' rights. This year's theme—*Serving Victims. Building Trust. Restoring Hope.*—underscores the importance of early intervention and victim services in establishing trust with victims, which in turn begins to restore their hopes for healing and recovery. Meeting victims where they are takes resources, dedication, and persistence to establish a welcoming, compassionate, and supportive environment for all victims to share their stories. Creating a comprehensive public awareness campaign for your NCVRRW outreach allows you to engage your members, local organizations, and the public in the important work of providing crime victims in our community with the support they need to recover on their terms.

The Social Media Landscape

Traditionally, outreach to the public and policy makers meant getting mainstream coverage from newspapers, television news, and local radio. Building relationships with the individual journalists and producers who cover crime stories for these outlets in your media market remains a critical method of educating the public, communicating with policy makers, and influencing coverage of the issues. Increasingly, however, to capture public attention, it is necessary to develop a social media strategy. Social media is often the cheapest, fastest, and most effective way to reach a wide audience. It is a powerful tool. In addition to alerting traditional journalists to important stories, it is a way to engage with the public and build relationships with succinct messaging that is unfiltered by mainstream media.

Engaging with the Media

Most reporters and producers are searching for current events or “news hooks” for their stories—even if they are planning coverage ahead of time. National Crime Victims' Rights Week is a perfect opportunity to focus the media's attention on crime issues relevant to your local community.

A little basic research goes a long way. Use search engines to look up local crime victim stories, and note which reporters cover these stories in your area and their contact information. Reporters change their subject focus and outlets often, so make sure you check with the relevant news desk or outlet website for the appropriate contact.

Most reporters include their e-mail address or Twitter handle at the end of their stories. If a particular reporter or news outlet does a good piece on crime victims, send the link around via e-mail or share it on Facebook and Twitter. This way you are both informing people and promoting the work of a reporter or outlet that may be interested in future stories.

If your agency is holding a newsworthy event, either for National Crime Victims' Rights Week or any time during the year, send out invitations and alerts via social media, and contact your local reporters by phone and e-mail. Briefly describe the event and offer yourself as a resource. Reporters are on tight deadlines, so anything you can give them ahead of time is useful. For news stories you may only have a few hours to turn around a comment or other information; investigative or feature pieces may afford more time. Reporters will often ask for a local or human-interest angle. Be prepared for the following types of questions

when pitching: Has a local victim triumphed over tragedy or found a way to help other victims restore their lives? Is there a victim who would be willing to share his or her story? Do you have a reliable source for up-to-date statistics on a particular kind of crime? Position your organization as a resource and refer to the newly designed “Crime and Victimization Fact Sheets” in Section 6 for data points. Have there been any other recent examples of the crime you are discussing in your area or in other communities around the country? Who could brief the reporter on the current status of the law in this area? Can your organization’s director provide an on-the-record comment?

Sample News Release

Use the sample news release in this section as a guide to help write your own NCVRW release or to provide a model for colleagues to publicize your local events. The news release announces National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, explores the theme, quotes the director of the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office for Victims of Crime, and encourages your local audience to contact your organization. Be sure to share your releases and media advisories with colleagues, partners, and other professionals who share your mission or have partnered with you to plan NCVRW events.

Send out your NCVRW release well in advance of your events to reporters and partner organizations. Be sure to post the release on your Facebook page and tweet about it. Use a 10-day lead time to follow up with reporters and partner organizations, find spokespeople, answer questions, and create media kits for important events. Media kits should include the organization’s contact information, names, and e-mails for leadership or spokespeople, the mission statement or description of the organization’s work, and information about your NCVRW activities.

Sample Letter to the Editor

Readers’ letters and comments are often the most read sections of newspapers and news websites. They are great tools for building awareness about National Crime Victims’ Rights Week. Use the sample letter in this section for inspiration. Newspapers generally publish letters that respond to either previous or current articles or discuss news events in the community. Ideally you would cite a reliable recent study, quote statistics about the crime or issue, or stress the need for more research about crimes that are often hidden or underreported. Letters that are endorsed by multiple community groups will receive more attention. Consider asking local law enforcement officers or other organizations to partner with you or write their own letters for National Crime Victims’ Rights Week to highlight the needs of crime victims and how the public can help.

Sample Op-Ed Column

Newspaper editorial pages—both on paper and online—are highly popular among readers. Opinion-editorials are typically longer than letters to the editor and afford the opportunity to delve deeper into the issues. They are persuasive pieces. Research local crime coverage. Which crimes are of particular concern to your community, and how have they affected victims’ lives? Do statute-of-limitation laws need to be reformed? How is trust built between communities and law enforcement? Is there a rape kit backlog that needs to be addressed? Choose your topic, and scan for coverage in your newspaper or local news websites. Note the length and other guidelines for submitting an opinion-editorial. You might also contact someone you know at the newspaper, explain the importance of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, and ask how to maximize the chances of having your op-ed published. The sample included in this section can be used as a model.

Sample Public Service Announcements

Many media outlets offer free airtime for public service announcements (PSAs) to publicize events of interest to the community. Radio stations, in particular, may have significant amounts of time to fill and may be receptive to airing your NCVRW PSA. This section includes three sample scripts—for a 15-second, 30-second, and 60-second PSA. Create your own PSA or work with your local stations to produce an announcement about National Crime Victims' Rights Week and your organization's contributions to the community. Be sure to include relevant contact information as well as the organization's name, phone number, and website in your public service announcement. To increase the likelihood that local media will air your PSA, contact them well in advance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Talk to the producer, explain why the week is so important, and mention that you have already prepared PSAs about the week. When you send your script or PSA to your local reporters or television stations, include a cover letter with your contact information and the reasons why National Crime Victims' Rights Week is important to your community. Follow-up is critical for successful placement of PSAs.

How to Create a Social Media Campaign

Social media is increasingly important in all industries. Some audiences are difficult to reach through traditional channels and are turning to social media and online tools as their primary means of communication and acquiring information. The Pew Research Center reports that a substantial percentage of teens are online "almost constantly" and 82 percent of adults ages 18-29 use Facebook. Social media will help you expand and reinforce your message by expanding your reach to larger, more diverse audiences including populations such as young people that are underserved by traditional media. In addition to tools such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube, new tools like Vine and Snapchat can help you expand your message even further. It is also

a fantastic way to engage with supporters and constituents. Reporters and the general public often head online to look for information and resources, and it's worth investing some time in learning how to effectively communicate this way. Whatever your organization's goals—building public awareness, reaching victims, attracting donors, or gaining members—social media can supplement your traditional media outreach and help you achieve your objectives. This section includes some of the basics to help you get started and guide your use of these highly effective tools.

Sample Social Media Status Updates

This section includes sample status updates that you can post on Facebook and Twitter during National Crime Victims' Rights Week and during the entire month of April. Each update is a brief piece of information related to victimization, crime, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, or this year's theme: *Serving Victims. Building Trust. Restoring Hope*. Only Facebook and Twitter samples are included; however, these can be adapted for numerous other social networks. All Twitter updates are limited to 140 characters, so you won't need to edit them before posting. These will get you started, but social media is best done dynamically by joining ongoing conversations, so you'll want to supplement these with status updates about what you are doing for National Crime Victims' Rights Week, or with information about local NCVRW events. Make sure to respond to and retweet information from your followers and follow the [#NCVRW2016](#) hashtag to see what others are talking about. Combining these updates with news about your own events and observations will expand the conversation and keep the community engaged in our discussion about victims' rights!

Other Outreach Tips

- Plan a comprehensive strategy that includes traditional media, social media, statements and letters by public

officials, and a series of key messages you want your audiences to receive.

- Contact editors, producers, or station managers by phone, e-mail, or mail *at least a month in advance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week* (two months for PSAs). Follow up *two weeks prior* as well.
- Ask local officials to issue NCVRW proclamations, write letters to the editor and opinion editorials (op-eds), speak at your events, and mention National Crime Victims' Rights Week as they conduct their official duties. Thank them for their contributions, tweet and post Facebook updates, and include their participation in your news releases and outreach materials. Retweet, share, and promote any good articles or segments about crime or victims' rights on social media.
- After your NCVRW events, send high-quality video, high-resolution photos, or digital images to your local television stations or newspapers with your contact information. Alert them in advance that photos or video are being sent.

Advocating for Victims with the Media

Communicating your message requires working effectively with reporters, while also advocating for and being sensitive to victims' needs. Reporters prioritize collecting information quickly to meet deadlines, and even those who are well meaning may not be aware of the best ways to approach crime victims. Victims who agree to speak with reporters may need information and support to handle interviewers, photographers, and camera-people. Victim advocates play a key role in helping reporters get crucial information while ensuring victims are treated with sensitivity, and that their name, location, or other private information is not revealed without their consent. This section includes tips to help you navigate this process. *

The purpose of this news release is to generate media coverage for your local National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRRW) activities. The release below is designed to be customized. Edit the release to reflect issues in your community and to highlight local events and commemorations.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Date]

CONTACT:

[Name/Title/Agency]

[Phone number]

[E-mail]

[Your City/Organization] Celebrates National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 10-16

[Customize sub-heading to highlight local events, activities, partnerships]

[City/State] —The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) helps lead communities throughout the country in their annual observances of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRRW) every April by promoting victims' rights, and honoring crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf. This year's National Crime Victims' Rights Week will be held April 10-16, and the theme—*Serving Victims. Building Trust. Restoring Hope.*—presents the opportunity to highlight the importance of providing needed services at the earliest stage of victimization. Early intervention helps prevent both further victimization and involvement in the criminal justice system, thus addressing the cycle of violence and restoring hope for the future.

[Your City/County/State/Organization] will observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week with special events and programs, including *[include brief descriptions of activities]*. *[Your City/Organization]* will also commemorate the advancement of victims' rights by honoring *[name, title]* and *[name, title]*, champions in advocating for expanded support and services to communities affected by crime. *[Consider including a quote from a recognized leader or official about the importance of NCVRRW.]*

National Crime Victims' Rights Week honors and celebrates the achievements of the past thirty years in securing rights, protections, and services for victims. The bipartisan Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), passed by Congress in 1984, created a national fund to ease victims' suffering. Financed by fines and penalties paid by offenders, the Crime Victims Fund supports services for victims of all types of crime, including assistance for homicide survivors, survivors of child sexual abuse and victims of human trafficking as well as rape crisis centers and domestic violence programs among others *[customize to highlight local services]*. VOCA also funds victim compensation programs that pay victims' out-of-pocket expenses such as counseling, funeral expenses, and lost wages.

"If victims are to trust that the criminal justice system will work for them, we must meet them where they are—physically, culturally, and emotionally," said Joye E. Frost, Director, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), U.S. Department of Justice. "When we take the time to focus on the victim in the aftermath of crime—to address their needs for safety and justice—we can begin to build trust and restore the hope of those victims and their communities. We all play a role in helping victims as they rebuild their lives."

OVC encourages widespread participation in the week's events and in other victim-related observances throughout the year. The U.S. Department of Justice will host OVC's annual Service Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, April 12, in Washington, DC, to honor outstanding individuals and programs that serve victims of crime. For additional information about this year's National Crime Victims' Rights Week and how to assist victims in your community, please contact *[agency/organization]* at *[area code/telephone number]* or visit *[agency's website]* at *[web address]*. For additional ideas on how to support victims of crime, visit the Office for Victims of Crime website, www.ovc.gov.

###

*[Your organization's mission statement/boilerplate] **

Sample Letter to the Editor

Newspapers often print letters in response to previous news items or opinion pieces. By writing a letter to the editor, you can link National Crime Victims' Rights Week to a current local, state, or national issue to show why readers should care about the rights and concerns of crime victims. The following sample cites recent bias-motivated crimes in a community and encourages readers to use National Crime Victims' Rights Week to raise awareness, embrace differences, and emphasize the impact of hate crimes on victims as well as the greater public.

Focus your letter on a specific crime or trend covered by the newspaper. You might ask a local criminal justice official, such as your district attorney or state attorney general, to write a letter explaining the importance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week from his or her perspective.

Before writing your letter, check your newspaper's submission guidelines. Letters to the editor should be brief, no more than 250 to 300 words. Begin by citing the article to which you are responding, and then state your main point. Write two or three short paragraphs to support your argument, and end your letter with a concluding statement. When you submit the letter, include your contact information so that the newspaper can contact you if it decides to print your letter. If the newspaper does not publish your letter, consider submitting it to a local organization that publishes a newsletter, or you may choose to post it on your website. Also post links to the letter on your Facebook, Twitter, and other social media pages.

Hate Has No Place in Our Community

I feel compelled to write after the recent violence in our community fueled by hate. I am saddened by those individuals who fail to recognize the humanity in all of us. We all have different beliefs, experiences, and appearances, but similar dreams and desires such as the desire to be safe, to be valued, and to see our children thrive. The strength of this community is the diversity we all contribute.

These types of bias-motivated crimes divide communities and cause irreparable damage to victims. They send the message that you are not valued; you are not a part of this community. Too many victims suffer in silence and don't seek the support they need to recover because they are afraid of being judged, intimidated, bullied, threatened, or even physically harmed if they share their victimization. All of us have the right to exist without fear that we will be harmed regardless of identity, social status, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or the color of our skin.

April 10-16 is National Crime Victims' Rights Week. This year, let's commemorate this important week by getting to know our neighbors. Take the time to listen, to explore, and to value differences. Communicate through your actions that hate does not have a place in our community, that hate does not live here.

We must work together to end hate violence by confronting and refusing to tolerate or engage in activities that single out certain populations as "less than." We should instead be empowering our community by reaching out and creating connections. Recognize that we all have a role to play. Our community won't heal until we begin building trust and restoring hope to those devastated by these bias-motivated crimes. Together we can stop the violence.

Name
Organization
City, State *

Op-eds are a great opportunity to share an opinion with a wide audience, and they do not necessarily have to be in response to another article. Keep your submission to 800 words or less. Be concise and persuasive. This is your chance to influence opinions, affect policy, and highlight the work you or your organization is doing to support crime victims' rights.

Building a Better Road to Recovery for Child Victims

More and more, we are recognizing the lifelong implications of childhood experiences. Of children who have been victimized, almost two-thirds (64.5%) have been victimized more than once in their lifetime. These repeatedly victimized children are at increased risk for adversity and distress, which is why we need comprehensive victim-centered assessment and care. Without this, many of these children will be further victimized or go on to commit crimes themselves, continuing the victim-perpetrator cycle. Service providers must work together to address the effects of polyvictimization.

Children and teens are at risk for a wide variety of victimization—abuse or neglect in the home, bullying or dating violence at school, sexual abuse or exploitation, or exposure to violence at home or in the street. Polyvictimization occurs when an individual experiences multiple forms of victimization such as bullying at school and abuse in the home. While a single victimization event can cause harm, research shows that polyvictimization causes greater and longer lasting harm than exposure to one type of crime or abuse. This remains true even if the one type of crime or abuse happens repeatedly over time.

Polyvictimized children often face substantial threats to safety, stability, and support in their home, school, and community. They are left without a safe space to take refuge. Living in a constant atmosphere of stress and adversity is believed to limit children's self-esteem, ability to cope, and sense of control. Polyvictims show much higher levels of distress, including anxiety, depression, anger, and PTSD. They are also more likely to experience other hardships throughout their lifetime including illnesses, accidents, family unemployment, parental substance abuse, and mental illness. This increases the likelihood that they will commit crimes as an adult.

Traditionally, when victim service providers, child welfare agencies, schools, mental health providers, and others have worked with child victims, they treat only one form of victimization such as the trauma sustained from sexual abuse. This narrow focus regards victimization as an episode, a passing moment in the child's life rather than the condition of the child's entire lifetime. This failure to recognize the child's life condition severely limits the ability of service providers to restore a sense of safety for the victim and to respond to that victim's complex trauma. It is critical that victim service providers broaden their focus and further assess the child's situation to ensure that there aren't additional pieces of the puzzle that need to be addressed.

This growing understanding of polyvictimization has important implications for the way we respond to child and teen victims. While there are growing numbers of programs to prevent and respond to the victimization of children and teens, these programs have developed largely in isolation from one another. Agencies and organizations must work together and develop strategies to respond to polyvictimization. If service providers assess a child for multiple forms of victimization, they can more adequately respond to the child's needs, perhaps guiding the child away from a future where they, in turn, commit crimes. This would lessen crime rates in their community.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week (April 10-16, 2016) offers an opportunity to increase awareness of this issue, reach and serve polyvictimized children, and develop a more evidence-informed approach. The well-being of today's children, and tomorrow's adults, depends on it. *

15-Second PSA

Every year, millions of people's lives are impacted by crime. April 10-16 is National Crime Victims' Rights Week, a time to celebrate progress, raise awareness of victims' rights and services, and stand with those whose lives have been altered by crime. Call *[agency name]* at *[phone number]* or call 855-4-VICTIM or visit VictimConnect.org to learn about rights and options—confidentially and compassionately. *[Customize with local organization contact information.]*

30-Second PSA

Every year, millions of people's lives are impacted by crime. Many will need ongoing care and support. April 10-16 is National Crime Victims' Rights Week, a time to celebrate progress, raise awareness of victims' rights and services, and stand with our families, neighbors, friends, and colleagues whose lives have been forever altered by crime. Reach out, listen, and support them as they recover on their own terms. Call *[agency name]* at *[phone number]* or call 855-4-VICTIM or visit VictimConnect.org to learn about rights and options—confidentially and compassionately. *[Customize with local organization contact information.]*

60-Second PSA

Every year, millions of people's lives are impacted by crime. Many will need ongoing care and resources as they return to work, pay bills, or support their loved ones. April 10-16 is National Crime Victims' Rights Week, a time to celebrate progress, raise awareness of victims' rights and services, and stand with our families, neighbors, friends, and colleagues whose lives have been forever altered by crime. Reach out, listen, and support them as they recover on their own terms. Volunteer to serve at local organizations committed to helping crime victims rebuild their lives. Put together a care package for victims of crime who've had to relocate. There are many ways to give back. We all have a role to play to serve victims, build trust, and restore hope in our communities. Call *[agency name]* at *[phone number]* or call 855-4-VICTIM or visit VictimConnect.org to learn about rights and options—confidentially and compassionately. *[Customize with local organization contact information.]* *

WHAT ARE PSAS AND HOW DO I USE THEM?

PSAs (public service announcements) are short video or audio messages given to radio or television stations to broadcast at no cost to the submitting organization.

HOW DO I GET THEM TO AIR?

First, contact your local radio or television stations to inquire about their policies on airing PSAs and their submission guidelines. Broadcast media (radio and television) are required by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to serve "the public interest." Most stations donate portions of their commercial time to non-commercial causes.

Find out who is in charge of selecting which PSAs will run. This person could be the public affairs director, traffic director, program director, promotions manager, or station manager.

Once you've made contact with the stations, inform them that you will be sending a PSA to air. Include basic information about your organization in the delivery, such as a cover letter and pamphlet. Follow up with a phone call to ask if the PSA was received and when it will be aired. Continue to reach out to the station. Persistence is key.

COMMUNITY ACCESS AND PUBLIC TELEVISION

Many towns have local cable (sometimes called community access) and college stations. Locate the name of the station manager and follow the same procedure as above. Many of these stations also air community calendars with information about local events and activities. Submit yours on a regular basis.

YOUR WEBSITE OR SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

Also upload the PSAs to your website, Facebook, or YouTube account, and use additional outreach efforts (e.g., press releases, social networking status updates) to drive viewers to your site.

Social media offers powerful tools to assist with your outreach goals. Social networks such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, LinkedIn, and others provide powerful and extensive forums to publicize events, share information, enlist volunteers, raise funds, and instantly reach communities that share your goals and interests. More than 98% of nonprofits now use some form of social media, making it easier for you to reach the communities you want to engage online.

Social media strategies for National Crime Victims' Rights Week will depend on your organization's overall communications goals, the platforms you now use, your staff's knowledge, and the amount of time and resources you are able to invest in building and maintaining your online presence. Nonprofits of any size or staffing situation can benefit from social engagement. Your campaign should use social media to complement rather than replace your website and traditional media outreach. You don't want to miss the advantages offered by these great tools to enhance your NCVRW outreach.

Social Media Platforms

The most important social media platforms for your campaign are available for free, though many allow you to pay for additional reach to get your message to a larger audience. As you develop your strategies and identify your communications goals, you need to keep in mind the strengths and weaknesses of different social networks, the types of audiences you will be able to reach, the investment they require (if any), and the capabilities they offer to your organization. Among the most important tools are:

Facebook

Whatever your goals or your desired audience, you have a great chance of reaching them on Facebook. Because Facebook has 1.55 billion monthly active users, you may want to start with this tool, especially if you have time to maintain only one social media platform. According to the [Pew Research Center](#), 65 percent of all U.S. adults are on Facebook.

Facebook business pages must be administered by the personal profile of a designated individual who sets up the business or "fan" page. For instructions on how to complete that process, log in and visit Facebook's [signup instructions](#) page. Once you have signed up and established your URL (Uniform Resource Locator), begin posting content, visiting the Facebook pages of organizations in your field, "liking" them, and perhaps sending messages or (where

allowed) posting on their Facebook pages. Post photos, videos, company content, invitations to upcoming events, and links back to your website, and tag them in relevant posts on your own page. Interacting with others will help build your own community. Also join Facebook groups that are relevant to your interests. With some Facebook groups, you may need to send e-mails to invite them to "like" your Facebook page and become one of your fans. The resulting dialogue will help support and shape your Facebook strategy.

Posting pictures is a powerful way to promote engagement, as pictures tend to garner more views, likes, shares, and comments than text alone. Use this to your advantage in your Facebook strategy by posting pictures of your NCVRW events or promotional photos leading up to events. Facebook also supports hashtags, which can be used to categorize content. Include [#NCVRW2016](#) after your NCVRW posts to help others stay up to date on your events!

Twitter

Twitter is a "microblog," an information-sharing network made up of 140-character messages called "tweets." It's an easy way to send and receive links to the latest news and information. Twitter offers instant communication with an online community. Once you have [set up your own account](#), choose a Twitter handle (username) that other users will recognize (often the name or nickname of your organization/agency). Use Twitter to establish instant

How to Create a Social Media Campaign

connections with others in your industry or field of interest, and follow a steady stream of ideas, content, links, and resources.

Because Twitter users see themselves as a support network, it is particularly important to begin using the platform by following others and observing what they have to say. It is useful to search for the name of your organization, and search topics and organizations that are of interest. After you set up your account, begin following others, following their followers, retweeting their tweets, and promoting them to your audience. You will then find ways to weigh in on conversations and promote your events, projects, or policies. Learn how to use Follow Friday (#FF) lists that recommend others to follow you. You can also recruit followers by announcing on other platforms (like your Facebook page) that you have joined Twitter, and link back to your Twitter page.

Maximize your Twitter presence by staying engaged in conversations on subjects that are important to you, and by quickly responding to other users' tweets and mentions of your organization or causes. Hashtags are a useful way to become part of a conversation, so make sure to use the most applicable tags, and add [#NCVRW2016](#) to your NCVRW tweets. The most important part of a Twitter campaign is staying engaged with your followers!

Periscope

Periscope is Twitter's new live-streaming video app. It allows the user to broadcast and watch live video in real time from around the world. Twitter's intent was to "build the closest thing to teleportation" and allow anyone from anywhere to experience events and places otherwise inaccessible. It is a powerful application that has elevated social movements and allowed many to witness history. The application also contains more basic features, including the ability to "attend" meetings remotely and share events with the greater public. Note that Periscope video streams are only saved by the application for 24 hours.

YouTube

YouTube, a video platform, is the world's second largest search engine and the third most visited site on the Internet. To post videos to YouTube, you will need a digital camcorder, webcam, digital camera, or cell phone with video capacity, as well as someone who knows how to use those tools. To begin, set up a [YouTube channel](#) for your organization, which will be linked with any other Google accounts you have. Choose a name that matches your brand, and post your channel URL on your Facebook page and other social network profiles. If applicable, apply for a [YouTube Nonprofit Program](#) account, which gives you more features, such as the ability to add clickable "asks" on top of videos and upload longer videos.

If you decide to use YouTube, you might begin by posting a video about your work featuring your staff and success stories. Use YouTube to upload recordings of presentations you've given and share presentation slides and videos of interviews with experts or representatives from your organization who can offer subject-matter expertise. Post links to these videos (or the videos themselves) on your Facebook page, and tweet about them. Engage with the YouTube community by leaving comments and even uploading video responses to the videos of other organizations. Before, during, and after National Crime Victims' Rights Week, YouTube users post great videos on crime victims' rights, which you can re-post and share throughout all of your social media networks. You can also create playlists on your YouTube channel to display your favorite videos that others have posted. YouTube is an ideal way of showcasing your NCVRW events.

Instagram

Instagram is a highly popular photo-sharing site with more than 400 million active users that enables you to upload and share photos one at a time with your online network. Unlike photo archiving sites like [Flickr](#) and [Picasa](#), Instagram allows users to apply filters and other effects to give their

photos special vibrancy or an aged, vintage look. Once you have set up an [Instagram account](#), snap photos of your NCVRW events on your mobile devices and give your followers a sneak peek before you post them on your website. Expand the audience for your photos by “tagging” them with keywords and hashtags to identify or organize them on Instagram. Be sure to add [#NCVRW2016](#) to your NCVRW posts. If someone in your organization gives an NCVRW presentation, take a photo and post it on Instagram and Facebook, and tweet about it on Twitter. It provides a great opportunity to expand your audience as well as NCVRW publicity. Instagram can also be connected with Facebook and Twitter to automate posting across platforms.

WordPress or Blogger

If you are interested in sharing more in-depth communications with your community, you may want to consider starting a blog (or weblog). [WordPress](#) and [Blogger](#) are two excellent platforms to host your blog. To maintain the interest of your audience, post at least once or twice a week, and be sure to link to your blog from your Facebook and Twitter pages, and vice versa. If you don't have time for a blog, you can always post statements and information on your website, particularly during National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

LinkedIn

Use LinkedIn, the world's largest professional network, to connect with any of its three billion users. LinkedIn offers organizations, as well as individuals, the opportunity to set up profiles and network with others, share information, ask questions, participate in discussions, and promote events and causes. LinkedIn users build a presence by inviting others to join their networks and also by joining LinkedIn groups (such as LinkedIn's "Social Media for Nonprofits" group). Search the site for other professionals and organizations in your field, invite them to connect with you, follow them, send messages, ask questions, and join groups

(searchable by name and subject area). Be sure to learn and follow LinkedIn [etiquette](#), such as always responding quickly to invitations to connect, and [LinkedIn's best practices](#) for your company page. Update your profile regularly and arrange your settings so that your connections see each change.

You can also create a [LinkedIn Company Page](#) for your organization. Follow the setup wizard for creating your company profile. Be sure to include a header image and profile image for your page, and focus on keywords from your mission statement throughout your description information. Additionally, [LinkedIn Showcase pages](#) can be used to highlight specific initiatives.

LinkedIn is more of a professional network than Facebook or Twitter, and can be used to ask and answer questions of other professionals in your field. This will bring you the best engagement, and could be a useful way to share ideas about NCVRW events or programming.

Making a Plan

Before diving into social media, meet with your staff to develop a realistic plan. You may be surprised to learn how much time is required to launch and sustain a robust social media presence. *Social Media for Social Good: A How-to Guide for Nonprofits* shares that large nonprofits with successful social media outreach average 15 hours on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube; 5 hours on photo-sharing sites; and 10 hours on their blogs each week.

Such allotments are probably unrealistic for smaller organizations, but it is still possible to launch an effective social media campaign with a much smaller staff. Social media can occupy as much time as you have to dedicate to it. Even devoting a few hours a week to Facebook and Twitter and posting several times a week will help increase connections and exposure.

How to Create a Social Media Campaign

You should also clarify your goals in using social media to focus your efforts and to help determine which social networks are right for you. What do you want to accomplish? What audiences are you trying to reach, and what do you want them to know? How do you want them to engage? If you want to show off images or video of your NCVRW events, and let your community know what you've been doing, then Facebook and YouTube are probably your best options. If you want to stay engaged in a real-time, back-and-forth conversation on trending issues, you should put your efforts into Facebook and Twitter. Do you want to have a Q&A with other professionals in your field? LinkedIn has you covered.

Your overall and NCVRW-related social media goals should also be specific (e.g., reach 200 local Facebook users with NCVRW messages; invite five new groups to your NCVRW events). Aim to make your goals measurable, achievable, important to your organization, and time-limited. For example, in a period of two months, you would like to gain 200 local Facebook fans for your organization and sign them up for an NCVRW event. Think about how you will follow up with these fans throughout the year. Then choose the social media tool that will best suit your goals, assign appropriate staff members to manage these media, and create a balanced [social media policy](#) for your organization. Now you are ready!

If you decide to use social media, you should remember that these tools are two-way communications vehicles for sharing information and supporting users—not a one-way bulletin board to promote your organization. Back-and-forth conversations and engaging with the content of your followers, rather than simply relaying information, are key to your success. This is especially true for Twitter, where experts suggest tweeting or retweeting at least 10 times for every tweet devoted strictly to your organization's goals. Actively engaging will give you better results and build a community with deeper interest in your work.

Also, the quality of the content you post is the key to your success. Organizations with successful social media campaigns focus on providing content that is new and of value to their visitors. By posting excellent content, sharing generously, and responding quickly on all your platforms, you will build the community and the reputation you desire.

Note: The National Center for Victims of Crime invites you to share NCVRW photos and information with us, and we will happily post it to our network and retweet your messages to help get the word out about your events. We encourage you to do the same. Message content to us at <https://www.facebook.com/ncvcfan> or e-mail webmaster@ncvc.org during the month of April. If you are on Twitter, please follow us at [@CrimeVictimsOrg](https://twitter.com/CrimeVictimsOrg) and tweet using the [#NCVRW2016](#) hashtag. *

Below are status updates to post on Facebook and Twitter in the lead-up to and during National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The Twitter updates are all 140 characters or fewer, and ready to use. You may use these items on any date you choose. We encourage you to also write your own status updates (see sidebar), especially to alert your audience about your local events.

Facebook Status Updates

Below is a list of status updates to use as Facebook posts. In your posts, you can also include related photos or graphics (e.g., the 2016 NCVRW logo), as well as your fans' responses.

- When victims feel understood, heard, and supported, they are more likely to seek services. Serving Victims. Building Trust. Restoring Hope. #NCVRW2016 www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2016
- This year we highlight work being done to restore trust in underserved communities, and with victims of repeated trauma. Our theme is Serving Victims. Building Trust. Restoring Hope. Learn more here and get involved: www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2016
- Trust may be of particular concern in certain communities that may feel isolated from or invisible to mainstream service providers and the criminal justice system. This year we work to "serve victims, build trust, and restore hope." Get your resources to be a part of National Crime Victims' Rights Week here: www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2016
- By providing early intervention and victim services, we establish trust from the beginning for victims, which in turn restores hope for healing and recovery. #NCVRW2016 www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2016
- Children who suffer repeat victimization (polyvictimization) or who frequently witness traumatic incidents in their communities may lose trust in their loved ones, their neighborhoods, authority figures, the justice system, and themselves. This week we focus on rebuilding trust and restoring hope. #NCVRW2016
- Our efforts cannot succeed without local law enforcement, victim advocates, prosecutors, probation and parole officers, child and family services, community leaders, community members, educators, coaches, parents, and others. Everyone plays a role in serving victims. #NCVRW2016
- The National Crime Victims' Rights Week 2016 theme is "Serving Victims. Building Trust. Restoring Hope." We must reach victims where they are—physically, culturally, emotionally—if they are to trust that the system will work for them. #NCVRW2016
- Share photos and announcements about your NCVRW planning and events at www.facebook.com/ncvcfan. The National Center for Victims of Crime will share your posts with others on Facebook and its other social media outreach throughout April.
- See past National Crime Victims' Rights Week Community Awareness Projects via the National Association for VOCA Assistance Administrators and find ways to partner with advocates in your community. www.navaa.org/cap/previous.html
- National Crime Victims' Rights Week begins April 10. Visit the Office for Victims of Crime National Crime Victims' Rights Week website for information about resources and help in planning events and activities. www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2016
- Today marks the beginning of National Crime Victims' Rights Week! How do you plan on commemorating this week? Let us know!
- Too many victims are not empowered in their recovery and healing. Work with us this week to reach all

Sample Social Media Status Updates

populations, serve victims, build trust and restore hope #NCVRW2016.

- Looking for information about victims of assault, domestic violence, stalking, child abuse, sexual assault, and other crimes? Download the Help Series brochures from the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. www.ovc.gov/pubs/helpseries/index.html
- How have you used the theme video from National Crime Victims' Rights Week? Tell us in the comments and share your activities with other activists.
- Visit www.victimsofcrime.org/training for updates about the National Center for Victims of Crime National Conference in Philadelphia this September, a great opportunity to learn from and network with others.
- Visit the National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards for information on crime victim compensation in your state: www.nacvcb.org/index.asp?sid=6
- Follow the National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide Partners to learn about the activities of other victim advocates and to get the resources you need for your NCVRW 2016 activities. See Section 7 of the Resource Guide for the partner list: www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2016
- Share "Taking Action: An Advocate's Guide to Assisting Victims of Financial Fraud" with your followers and spread the word about the dangers of fraud this National Crime Victims' Rights Week. www.victimsofcrime.org/taking-action
- April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month! Visit our partners at HHS to get informed and learn how you can help protect kids. <https://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/preventionmonth>

TIP: EMBEDDING LINKS IN FACEBOOK

To embed a link in your Facebook status, copy the URL into the status field and wait momentarily until Facebook generates a thumbnail and page description. Then delete the URL text you copied, enter the rest of your status text, and post.

- April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month! Find out how to support victims of sexual assault in our schools, college campuses, workplaces, and the wider community. www.nsvrc.org/saam/sexual-assault-awareness-month-home
- This National Crime Victims' Rights Week, we reaffirm our commitment to creating a victim service and criminal justice response that assists all victims of crime and works to build trust and hope in underserved communities. We 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. www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2016

Twitter Status Updates

- National Crime Victims' Rights Week begins April 10. Visit www.ovc.gov for information about resources and events. #NCVRW2016
- National Crime Victims' Rights Week is April 10-16, 2016. Search #NCVRW2016 to stay connected!
- Victims should be given the assistance they need to make informed decisions for their own lives! Follow #NCVRW2016 to get involved!

- Serving Victims. Building Trust. Restoring Hope. Search #NCVRW2016 to learn how you can help victims of crime!
- We must reach victims where they are—physically, culturally, emotionally—if they are to trust that the system will work for them #NCVRW2016
- We reaffirm our commitment to creating a victim service and criminal justice response that assists all victims of crime #NCVRW2016
- Repeat victimization is a pervasive problem. Learn what you can do to help restore hope at <http://ow.ly/TdgJF> #NCVRW2016
- National Crime Victims' Rights Week 2016 starts today! This year's theme is "Serving Victims. Building Trust. Restoring Hope." #NCVRW2016
- When victims are heard, and supported, they are more likely to seek services. "Serving Victims. Building Trust. Restoring Hope." #NCVRW2016
- Visit <http://ow.ly/TbDZB> to sign up for Resource Guide information. #NCVRW2016
- Download the #NCVRW2016 Resource Guide free at <http://ow.ly/TdgJF> for tips on observing National Crime Victims' Rights Week.
- Free resources are available to help victims of financial fraud this #NCVRW2016. Download here: <http://ow.ly/q1NmI>
- Download free awareness posters for your #NCVRW2016 activities! <http://ow.ly/q1NrP>
- Looking for ways to get involved in #NCVRW2016? Find ways to raise awareness here: <http://ow.ly/q1NuA>
- April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Visit <http://ow.ly/TbMtl> or follow @NSVRC for info! #NCVRW2016
- Get statistics and talking points for your #NCVRW2016 activities: <http://ow.ly/TbMxb>
- Do you know any victims of crime? Have you been victimized? Get helpful info from the #NCVRW2016 Resource Guide: <http://ow.ly/TdgJF>
- Visit <http://ow.ly/TdgJF> Section 7 to learn more about the National Crime Victims' Rights Week guide partners #NCVRW2016
- Need inspiration for your #NCVRW2016 event? See Section 2 of the NCVRW Resource Guide for #victim centered quotes <http://ow.ly/TdgJF>
- See Section 2 of the #NCVRW2016 Resource Guide for other key events in 2016 <http://ow.ly/TdgJF> and stay active in supporting victims
- Learn how to protect yourself from fraud this #NCVRW2016 and how to assist others: <http://ow.ly/q1Nmi>
- OVC offers a calendar of upcoming #victim assistance events. Learn more or add your training at <http://ow.ly/q1NDo> #NCVRW2016
- Want to network with #victim advocates? Visit VictimsofCrime.org/training for updates on the @CrimeVictimsOrg National Conference in Philadelphia #NCVRW2016
- OVC hosts a searchable database of victims' rights laws. Learn more: <http://ow.ly/q1NM9> #NCVRW2016
- Stalking is a crime, not a joke. Get the facts: <http://ow.ly/q1NQj> @SRC_NCVC #NCVRW2016
- OVC's TTAC offers free trainings on victim advocacy and assistance. Learn more here: <http://ow.ly/rpGhK> #NCVRW2016
- April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month! Learn more at: <http://ow.ly/rpLET> #NCVRW2016

Sample Social Media Status Updates

- April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month!
Get resources for your campaign: <http://ow.ly/rpLR7> *

MORE TIPS FOR SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

In addition to Facebook and Twitter status updates, use the following ideas to generate more NCVRW posts on your social media sites.

- Download NCVRW Theme Artwork from the [Office for Victims of Crime website](#), including NCVRW-specific Facebook cover and profile images.
- Post photos or videos of your organization's NCVRW planning or events.
- Post photos of your NCVRW event speakers on your Facebook page (in advance of the events), and promote them on Twitter and your other social media.
- [Download the app](#) for Instagram, a photo-editing platform for iPhone or Android users that converts your photos to clear, small images and allows you to add filters to those images. Instagram interfaces with Twitter, Facebook, and other platforms.
- Upload posters from the Office for Victims of Crime's [gallery of awareness posters](#) on crime- and victim-related topics to your social media platforms.
- Post links to NCVRW op-eds or news releases in your local newspaper or television station website.
- Pull relevant statistics from the newly designed Crime and Victimization Fact Sheets in Section 6 of the NCVRW Resource Guide.
- Post links to the NCVRW statements or proclamations of your local or state officials (and include brief blurbs about these statements).
- Allow other Facebook users to post stories, event reminders, pictures, and updates on your wall. Change your Facebook settings to "open settings," and be sure to monitor your wall consistently for negative or offensive posts.
- Check the Facebook pages of the *2016 NCVRW Resource Guide* Partners in Section 7 and "like" these partners or link to them.
- Ask your Facebook fans and Twitter followers to post your status updates on their social media networks.
- Post current and recent NCVRW videos on YouTube.

Media coverage of crime greatly influences public perceptions about victims. Particularly in the immediate aftermath of crimes, as reporters rush to meet deadlines, their reporting may not reflect the desired sensitivity to traumatized victims. Because many television and print reporters do not receive training in how to interact with victims, you have an opportunity to help them approach crime stories with sensitivity. As a victim advocate who understands the perspective of victims and knows what reporters need to include their stories, you can play a key role in advocating for victim-sensitive coverage of crime.

Tips for Reporters

In writing news stories about crime, reporters have the difficult task of seeking interviews from victims and conducting those interviews in an ethical manner when victims agree to speak. Advocates can help reporters prepare to speak with victims by offering suggestions about how to approach the victim so that he or she feels comfortable and safe. Educate reporters on how to approach crime victims by sharing the following guidelines.¹

Asking for the Interview

- Recognize that the victim may be coping with shock and trauma;
- Approach the victim without equipment—notebooks, tape recorders, cameras, and lights—and try to make a human connection;
- Introduce yourself as a reporter, give the victim your name and title, and briefly explain what you hope to achieve with your story;
- Express concern for the victim by saying, “I am sorry for what happened to you” or “I am sorry for your loss;”
- Ask victims how they would prefer to be addressed, and observe that preference in all your questions;

- Give the victim a reason to speak with you by explaining the purpose of the story, the fact that it will be published, and why the victim’s participation is important;
- Tell the victim how much time you need and observe that time limit;
- Courteously accept the victim’s refusal if he or she is unwilling to be interviewed;
- If the victim says no, express interest in a future interview, leave a business card, or send an e-mail with your contact information, and ask for the names of others who may be willing to speak.

Logistics and Other Considerations

- Make the victim comfortable—offer a chair or suggest a comfortable, safe place to talk;
- Respect victims’ space—because people in trauma often do not want to be touched, hand the microphone to the victim and explain how to adjust it;
- Ask permission to record the interview;
- Clarify ground rules—explain that anything victims say may be used in the interview and give victims permission to turn off the microphone if they want to say something they do not want included.

¹ Bonnie Bucqueroux and Anne Seymour, *A Guide for Journalists Who Report on Crime and Crime Victims*, (Washington, DC: Justice Solutions, 2009), 2-10, accessed December 20, 2015, <http://www.mediacrimevictimguide.com/journalistguide.pdf>.

Victim Advocacy during Interviews

With the help of victim advocates, reporters can approach the interview with sensitivity toward the victim and the understanding that he or she may be undergoing trauma associated with the crime. Advocates who are present during the interview can step in if the reporter's questions become too pointed or difficult or if the victim seems to be getting upset. By making victims' needs a priority, advocates can keep the interview on track and encourage the reporter to do so as well.

Tips for Victims

Advocating for victims with the media also includes helping victims decide whether to accept interviews, how to minimize invasions of their privacy, and how to exercise their rights and options in dealing with reporters. Advocates can also help victims anticipate questions and prepare how to answer them.

Before the Interview

By giving victims the following checklist of questions and walking through it with them, you can help victims decide whether to participate in an interview:

- **What are your goals in speaking to the media?**
What purpose do you hope the interview will serve? Will it help the community learn more about your loved one or understand the impact of crime on victims? Are you willing to answer questions from reporters who might not understand your pain or your point of view?
- **Would the interview invade your privacy?** If you are still struggling with the emotional, physical, or financial impact of the crime, would speaking to a reporter disturb you or make you feel violated? You may want to discuss the pros and cons with a victim advocate before making your decision.
- **Does refusing the interview increase or decrease your control over what is published about the crime?** Denying an interview will not prevent publicity about your case. If the story is newsworthy, the media will publish the story with or without interviewing you. Also, an interview may provide you with an opportunity to offer your perspective on the crime.
- **Would you prefer that someone else speak for you?** If you would rather not be interviewed, you may ask someone else—an attorney, victim advocate, clergy member, another family member, or friend—to represent you in media interviews. That person can also release written statements on your behalf or accompany you to interviews if you decide to accept them.
- **Would granting an interview affect the investigation or prosecution of the crime?** Giving an interview may compromise the investigation or prosecution of a crime. You may want to speak with an advocate or attorney before deciding to grant an interview.
- **Do you want to set conditions for the interview?**
Although reporters and producers may not agree to the conditions you suggest, if they want your interview they will most likely comply with reasonable requests. You have the right to ask or express your wishes regarding:
 - > Time and location of the interview
 - > Visiting the set or location before an interview
 - > Advance information about questions, the reporter's angle, or plans for using your interview
 - > Requesting a victim's advocate, lawyer, or support person be present
 - > Issues you will not discuss
 - > Requesting a specific reporter or producer
 - > Protecting your identity (through silhouettes and electronic distortion of your voice)

- > Excluding children and other family members from the interview
- > Excluding photos and other images you find offensive
- > Excluding offenders or other participants to whom you might object

- You may refuse a follow-up interview, even if you have previously agreed to be interviewed a second time.

Victim advocates can play a key role in mediating between reporters and victims, especially when victims are feeling vulnerable and under stress. The victim, his or her family, and the wider community have an important interest in ensuring that media coverage is sensitive, accurate, and does not put the victim under duress or at risk. *

Preparing Victims for the Interview

Share the following tips with victims who agree to interviews:

- Bring someone to provide support.
- Prepare for the interview by having an advocate list questions the reporter may ask and rehearsing responses.
- Refuse to answer a question by:
 - > Polite refusal: "I'm sorry, but I don't want to talk about that."
 - > Bridging: Change the subject to what YOU want to talk about. Answer by saying, "what is really important about that issue is..." and then talk about what you think the audience should know.
- Never speak "off the record." Reporters may publish or broadcast anything you say.
- If you don't know the answer to a question, simply say you don't know. Don't guess or speculate.
- You may request a correction if the article that is published is inaccurate or you are quoted out of context. Newspapers and other outlets may publish corrections and television news may correct serious errors (although the option to do so is theirs). You can also complain to management at the news outlet prior to publication or broadcast if the reporter was aggressive, insensitive, or obtained information dishonestly.

Serving Victims Building Trust Restoring Hope

SECTION 5 | LANDMARKS IN VICTIMS' RIGHTS AND SERVICES

Crime Victims' Rights in America: A Historical Overview

Every year, National Crime Victims' Rights Week creates an opportunity for communities to come together and reflect on the history of crime victims' rights. "Landmarks in Victims' Rights and Services" outlines this progress from 1965 to the present by highlighting the creation and growth of national and community victim service organizations, the passage of key federal and state legislation, notable court decisions, groundbreaking reports and studies, and the advances of victim assistance approaches to helping crime victims. It tells the story of our nation's capacity to help victims rebuild their lives.

Let these milestones inform your speeches, op-ed columns, media interviews, and other education efforts during National Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year.

KEY FEDERAL VICTIMS' RIGHTS LEGISLATION

1974	Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act
1980	Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act
1982	Victim and Witness Protection Act
1982	Missing Children's Act
1984	VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT
1984	Justice Assistance Act
1984	Missing Children's Assistance Act
1984	Family Violence Prevention and Services Act
1985	Children's Justice Act
1988	Drunk Driving Prevention Act
1990	Hate Crime Statistics Act
1990	Victims of Child Abuse Act
1990	Victims' Rights and Restitution Act
1990	National Child Search Assistance Act
1992	Battered Women's Testimony Act
1993	Child Sexual Abuse Registry Act
1994	Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act
1994	VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT
1996	Community Notification Act ("Megan's Law")
1996	Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act
1996	Mandatory Victims' Restitution Act
1997	Victims' Rights Clarification Act
1998	Crime Victims with Disabilities Awareness Act
1998	Identity Theft and Deterrence Act
2000	Trafficking Victims Protection Act
2001	Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act (established September 11th Victim Compensation Fund)
2003	PROTECT Act ("Amber Alert" law)
2003	Prison Rape Elimination Act
2003	Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act
2004	JUSTICE FOR ALL ACT , including Title I The Scott Campbell, Stephanie Roper, Wendy Preston, Louarna Gillis, and Nila Lynn Crime Victims' Rights Act
2006	Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act
2010	Tribal Law and Order Act

To persevere, trusting in what hopes he has,
is courage in a man.

— **EURIPIDES** (480 – 406 BC)

1965

- The first crime victim compensation program is established in California.
- By 1970, five additional compensation programs are created in New York, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Maryland, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

1972

- The first three victim assistance programs are established:
 - > Aid for Victims of Crime in St. Louis, Missouri.
 - > Bay Area Women Against Rape in San Francisco, California.
 - > D.C. Rape Crisis Center in Washington, DC.

1973

- The results of the first annual National Crime Victimization Survey are released. The survey, commissioned by the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice, asks U.S. household members about their exposure to crime. It is intended to complement the FBI's annual compilation of crimes reported to law enforcement agencies.

1974

- The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) funds the first victim/witness programs in the Brooklyn and Milwaukee District Attorneys' Offices and seven other offices through a grant given to the National District Attorneys Association to establish model assistance programs for victims, encourage victim cooperation, and improve prosecution.
- The first law enforcement-based victim assistance programs are established in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Congress passes the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, which establishes the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect. The new Center establishes an information clearinghouse and provides technical assistance and model programs.

1975

- The first "Victims' Rights Week" is organized by the Philadelphia District Attorney.
- Citizen activists from across the country unite to expand victim services and increase recognition of victims' rights through the formation of the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA).

1976

- The National Organization for Women forms a task force to examine the problem of battering. It calls for research into the problem, along with money for battered women's shelters.
- The first national conference on battered women is sponsored by the Milwaukee Task Force on Women in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- In Fresno County, California, Chief Probation Officer James Rowland creates the first victim impact statement to provide the sentencing court with an objective inventory of victim injuries and losses.
- The first hotline for battered women is started by Women's Advocates in St. Paul, Minnesota.
- Women's Advocates and Haven House in Pasadena, California, establish the first shelters for battered women.
- Nebraska and Wisconsin become the first states to abolish the marital rape exemption.

1977

- The National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards is established by the existing 22 state victim compensation programs to foster a nationwide network of compensation programs.
- Oregon becomes the first state to enact a mandatory arrest law in domestic violence cases.

1978

- The National Coalition Against Sexual Assault is formed to combat sexual violence and promote services for rape victims.

- The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) is organized as a voice for the battered women's movement on a national level.
- Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc. (POMC), a self-help support group, is founded in Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Minnesota becomes the first state to allow probable cause (warrantless) arrests in cases of domestic assault, whether or not a protection order has been issued.

1979

- Frank G. Carrington founds the Crime Victims' Legal Advocacy Institute, Inc., to promote the rights of crime victims in the civil and criminal justice systems. The nonprofit organization is renamed VALOR, the Victims' Assistance Legal Organization, in 1981.
- The Office on Domestic Violence is established in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (later closed in 1981).
- The World Society of Victimology is formed to promote research relating to crime victims and victim assistance, advocate for victims' interests, and advance cooperation of international, regional, and local agencies concerned with crime victims' issues.

1980

- Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) is founded after the death of 13-year-old Cari Lightner, who was killed by a repeat drunk-driving offender. The first two MADD chapters are established in Sacramento, California, and Annapolis, Maryland.
- Congress passes the Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act of 1980.

Landmarks in Victims' Rights and Services

- Wisconsin passes the first "Crime Victims' Bill of Rights."
- The first National Day of Unity is established in October by NCADV to mourn battered women who have died, celebrate women who have survived the violence, and honor all who have worked to end domestic violence.
- The first Victim Impact Panel is sponsored by Remove Intoxicated Drivers (RID) in Oswego County, New York.

1981

- President Ronald Reagan proclaims the first national "Crime Victims Week" in April.
- The abduction and murder of six-year-old Adam Walsh prompts a national campaign to raise public awareness about missing children and enact laws to better protect children.
- The Attorney General's Task Force on Violent Crime recommends that a separate national task force be created to examine victims' issues.

1982

- In a Rose Garden ceremony, President Reagan appoints members to the Task Force on Victims of Crime, which holds public hearings in six cities across the nation to focus attention on the needs of crime victims. The Task Force's Final Report offers 68 recommendations that become the framework for the advancement of new programs and policies. Its final recommendation, to amend the Sixth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution to guarantee that "...the victim, in every criminal prosecution, shall have the right to be present and to be heard at all critical stages of judicial proceedings..." becomes a vital source of new energy

to secure constitutional amendments for victims' rights in each state.

- The Victim and Witness Protection Act of 1982 brings "fair treatment standards" to victims and witnesses in the federal criminal justice system.
- California becomes the first state to amend its constitution to address the interests of crime victims by establishing a constitutional right to victim restitution.
- The passage of the Missing Children's Act of 1982 helps guarantee that identifying information about missing children is promptly entered into the FBI National Crime Information Center (NCIC) computer system.
- Congress abolishes, through failure of appropriations, the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration; many grassroots and system-based victim assistance programs close.

1983

- The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) is established by the U.S. Department of Justice within the Office of Justice Programs to implement recommendations from the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime. OVC establishes a national resource center, trains professionals, and develops model legislation to protect victims' rights.
- U.S. Attorney General William French Smith establishes a Task Force on Family Violence, which holds six public hearings across the United States.
- U.S. Attorney General Smith issues the first *Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance*, which outlines standards for federal victim and witness assistance and the implementation of victims' rights contained in the federal Victim and Witness Protection Act of 1982.

- In April, President Reagan honors crime victims in a White House Rose Garden ceremony.
- The First National Conference of the Judiciary on Victims of Crime is held at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada, with support from the National Institute of Justice. Conferees develop recommendations for the judiciary on victims' rights and services.
- President Reagan proclaims the first National Missing Children's Day in observance of the fourth anniversary of the disappearance of six-year-old Etan Patz.
- Wisconsin passes the first Child Victim and Witness Bill of Rights.
- The International Association of Chiefs of Police Board of Governors adopts a Crime Victims' Bill of Rights and establishes a Victims' Rights Committee to focus attention on the needs of crime victims by law enforcement officials nationwide.
- The Task Force on Family Violence presents its report to the U.S. Attorney General with recommendations for action, including improving the criminal justice system's response to battered women and establishing prevention and awareness activities, education and training, and data collection and reporting.
- The National Minimum Drinking Age Act of 1984 is enacted, providing strong incentives to states to raise the minimum age for drinking to 21, saving thousands of young lives in years to come.
- The Spiritual Dimension in Victim Services in Charleston, South Carolina, is founded to involve the faith community in violence prevention and victim assistance.
- Congress passes the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, which earmarks federal funding for programs serving victims of domestic violence.
- Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS) is organized at the first police survivors' seminar held in Washington, DC, by 110 relatives of officers killed in the line of duty.

1984

- The passage of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) establishes the Crime Victims Fund, made up of federal criminal fines, penalties, and bond forfeitures, to support state victim compensation and local victim assistance programs.
- President Reagan signs the Justice Assistance Act, which establishes a financial assistance program for state and local government and funds 200 new victim service programs.
- The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is established as the national resource agency for missing children. The Center was mandated as part of the Missing Children's Assistance Act of 1984.
- A victim/witness notification system is established within the Federal Bureau of Prisons.
- Victim/witness coordinator positions are established in the U.S. Attorneys' Offices within the U.S. Department of Justice.
- California State University, Fresno, initiates the first Victim Services Certificate Program offered for academic credit by a university.
- OVC establishes the National Victims Resource Center, now named the Office for Victims of Crime Resource Center (OVCRC), to serve as a clearinghouse for OVC publications and other resources.

1985

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$68 million.
- The National Victim Center (renamed the National Center for Victims of Crime in 1998) is founded in honor of Sunny von Bülow to provide a strong national voice on behalf of crime victims and to educate Americans about the devastating effect of crime on our society.
- The United Nations General Assembly adopts the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power that serves as the basis for victim service reform at national and local levels throughout the world.
- President Reagan announces the Child Safety Partnership to enhance private sector efforts to promote child safety, clarify information about child victimization, and increase public awareness of child abuse.
- The U.S. Surgeon General issues a report identifying domestic violence as a major public health problem.

1986

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$62 million.
- OVC awards the first grants to support state victim assistance and compensation programs.
- Two years after its passage, the Victims of Crime Act is amended by the Children's Justice Act to provide funds specifically for the investigation and prosecution of child abuse.
- More than 100 victim advocates meet in Washington, DC, at a forum sponsored by NOVA, and formally agree to seek a federal constitutional amendment on victims' rights.

- Rhode Island passes a victims' rights constitutional amendment granting victims the rights to restitution, to submit victim impact statements, and to be treated with dignity and respect.
- MADD's "Red Ribbon Campaign" enlists motorists to display a red ribbon on their automobiles, signaling a pledge to drive safely and soberly during the holidays. (This national public awareness effort has since become an annual campaign.)
- By year's end, 35 states have established victim compensation programs.

1987

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$77 million.
- The National Victims' Constitutional Amendment Network and Steering Committee are formed at a meeting hosted by the National Center for Victims of Crime. This initiative becomes instrumental in the passage of victims' rights amendments throughout the United States.
- Security on Campus, Inc., (SOC) is established by Howard and Connie Clery, following the tragic robbery, rape, and murder of their daughter, Jeanne, at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania. SOC raises national awareness about crime and victimization on our nation's campuses.
- The American Correctional Association establishes a Task Force on Victims of Crime.
- NCADV establishes the first national toll-free domestic violence hotline.
- October is officially designated as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month to honor battered women and those who serve them.
- In a 5-4 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court rules in *Booth v. Maryland* (482 U.S. 496) that victim impact

statements are unconstitutional (in violation of the Eighth Amendment) when applied to the penalty phase of a capital trial because “only the defendant’s personal responsibility and moral guilt” may be considered in capital sentencing. Significant dissenting opinions are offered.

- Victims and advocates in Florida, frustrated by five years of inaction by their legislature on a proposed victims’ rights constitutional amendment, begin a petition drive. Thousands of citizens sign petitions supporting constitutional protection for victims’ rights. The Florida legislature reconsiders, and the constitutional amendment appears on the 1988 ballot.

1988

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$93 million.
- OVC sets aside funds for the Victim Assistance in Indian Country grant program to provide direct services to Native Americans by establishing “on-reservation” victim assistance programs in Indian Country.
- The National Aging Resource Center on Elder Abuse is established by a cooperative agreement among the American Public Welfare Association, the National Association of State Units on Aging, and the University of Delaware. Renamed the National Center on Elder Abuse, it provides information and statistics on this issue of growing concern.
- *State v. Ciskie* is the first case to allow the use of expert testimony to explain the behavior and mental state of an adult rape victim. The testimony is used to show why a victim of repeated physical and sexual assaults by her intimate partner would not immediately call the police or take action. The jury convicts the defendant on four counts of rape.
- The Drunk Driving Prevention Act is passed, and all states raise the minimum drinking age to 21.
- Victims’ rights constitutional amendments are introduced in Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Michigan, South Carolina, and Washington. Florida’s amendment is placed on the November ballot, where it passes with 90 percent of the vote. Michigan’s amendment passes with more than 80 percent of the vote.
- OVC sponsors the first “Indian Nations: Justice for Victims of Crime” conference in Rapid City, South Dakota.
- Amendments to the Victims of Crime Act legislatively establish the Office for Victims of Crime, elevate the position of Director by making Senate confirmation necessary for appointment, and encourage state compensation programs to cover victims of domestic violence, homicide, and drunk driving. In addition, VOCA amendments, at the behest of MADD and POMC, add a new “priority” category for funding victim assistance programs for “previously underserved victims of violent crime.”
- OVC establishes a Federal Emergency Fund for victims in the federal criminal justice system.

1989

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$133 million.
- In a 5-4 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court reaffirms in *South Carolina v. Gathers* its 1987 decision in *Booth v. Maryland* that victim impact evidence and arguments are unconstitutional when applied to the penalty phase of a capital trial. Again, significant dissenting opinions are offered.
- The legislatures in Texas and Washington pass victims’ rights constitutional amendments. Both are ratified by voters.

1990

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$146 million.
- Congress passes the Hate Crime Statistics Act, requiring the U.S. Attorney General to collect data on the incidence of certain crimes motivated by prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnicity.
- The Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act, requiring institutions of higher education to disclose murder, rape, robbery, and other crimes on campus, is signed into law by President George H.W. Bush.
- Congress passes the Victims of Child Abuse Act, which features reforms to make the federal criminal justice system less traumatic for child victims and witnesses.
- The Victims' Rights and Restitution Act of 1990 incorporates a Bill of Rights for federal crime victims and codifies services that should be available to victims of crime.
- Congress passes legislation proposed by MADD to prevent drunk drivers and other offenders from filing bankruptcy to avoid paying criminal restitution or civil fines.
- The Arizona petition drive to place the victims' rights constitutional amendment on the ballot succeeds, and the amendment is ratified by voters.
- The first National Incidence Study on Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children in America finds that in a one-year period there were as many as 450,000 runaways; 127,000 throwaways; 438,000 children who were lost, injured, or otherwise missing; 4,600 children abducted by nonfamily members; and 114,600 children who were targets of attempted abduction by nonfamily members.
- The National Child Search Assistance Act requires law enforcement to enter reports of missing children

and unidentified persons into the FBI's NCIC computer system.

- California becomes the first state in the country to pass a law against stalking, CA Penal Code Section 646.9.

1991

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$128 million.
- U.S. Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) introduces the first Congressional Joint Resolution (H.R.J. Res. 247) to place victims' rights in the U.S. Constitution.
- California State University, Fresno, approves the first bachelor's degree program in victimology in the nation.
- The National Center for Victims of Crime releases *America Speaks Out*, a report on the first national public opinion poll to examine citizens' attitudes about violence and victimization.
- In a 7-2 decision in *Payne v. Tennessee* (501 U.S. 808), the U.S. Supreme Court reverses its earlier decisions in *Booth v. Maryland* (1987) and *South Carolina v. Gathers* (1989) and rules that testimony and prosecutorial arguments commenting on the murder victim's good character, as well as how the victim's death affected his or her survivors, do not violate the defendant's constitutional rights in a capital case.
- U.S. Attorney General William P. Barr issues new comprehensive guidelines that establish procedures for the federal criminal justice system to respond to the needs of crime victims. The 1991 *Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance* implement new protections of the Crime Control Act of 1990, integrating requirements of the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights, the Victims of Child Abuse Act, and the Victim and Witness Protection Act.

- The American Probation and Parole Association establishes a Victim Issues Committee to examine victims' issues and concerns related to community corrections.
- The New Jersey legislature passes a victims' rights constitutional amendment, which is ratified by voters in November.
- Colorado legislators introduce a victims' rights constitutional amendment on the first day of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The bill is unanimously passed by both Houses to be placed on the ballot in 1992.
- In an 8-0 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court rules in *Simon & Schuster v. New York Crime Victims Board* that New York's notoriety-for-profit statute was overly broad and unconstitutional. Notoriety-for-profit statutes had been passed by many states by this time to prevent convicted criminals from profiting from the proceeds of depictions of their crimes in the media or publications.
- The Washington Secretary of State implements the nation's first Address Confidentiality Program, which provides victims of domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault an alternative, confidential mailing address and secures the confidentiality of two normally public records—voter registration and motor vehicle records.
- By the end of 1991, seven states have incorporated victims' rights into their state constitutions.
- of rape on victims' mental health, and the effect of media disclosure of victim identities on reporting rape to law enforcement.
- The Association of Paroling Authorities International establishes a Victim Issues Committee to examine victims' needs, rights, and services in parole processes.
- Congress reauthorizes the Higher Education Bill, which includes the Campus Sexual Assault Victims' Bill of Rights.
- The Battered Women's Testimony Act, which urges states to accept expert testimony in criminal cases involving battered women, is passed by Congress and signed into law by President George H.W. Bush.
- In a unanimous decision, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *R.A.V. v. City of St. Paul*, strikes down a local hate crimes ordinance in Minnesota. The ordinance had prohibited the display of a symbol that one knew or had reason to know "arouses anger, alarm or resentment in others on the basis of race, color, creed, religion or gender," and was found to violate the First Amendment.
- Five states—Colorado, Kansas, Illinois, Missouri, and New Mexico—ratify victims' rights constitutional amendments.
- Twenty-eight states pass anti-stalking laws.
- Massachusetts passes a landmark bill creating a statewide computerized domestic violence registry and requiring judges to check the registry when handling such cases.

1992

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$221 million.
- The National Center for Victims of Crime releases *Rape in America: A Report to the Nation*, a groundbreaking study that includes data on rape frequency, victims' reporting rate to police, the impact

1993

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$144 million.

Landmarks in Victims' Rights and Services

- Wisconsin ratifies its victims' rights constitutional amendment, bringing the total number of states with these amendments to 14.
 - Congress passes the International Parental Kidnapping Act, which makes a federal felony the removal of a child from the United States or keeping a child outside of the United States with the intent to obstruct the lawful exercise of parental rights.
 - President William J. Clinton signs the "Brady Bill," requiring a waiting period for the purchase of handguns.
 - Congress passes the Child Sexual Abuse Registry Act, establishing a national repository for information about child sex offenders.
 - The National Center for Victims of Crime launches INFOLINK (later renamed the "National Crime Victim Helpline"), a toll-free service that provides trained victim advocacy and support for victims of all types of crime.
 - Twenty-two states pass anti-stalking statutes, bringing the total number of states with anti-stalking laws to 50, plus the District of Columbia.
- include Alabama, Alaska, Idaho, Maryland, Ohio, and Utah.
- President Clinton signs a comprehensive package of federal victims' rights legislation as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act. The Act includes:
 - > The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which authorizes more than \$1 billion in funding for programs to combat violence against women.
 - > Enhanced VOCA funding provisions.
 - > Establishment of a National Child Sex Offender Registry.
 - > Enhanced sentences for drunk drivers with child passengers.
 - Kentucky becomes the first state to institute automated telephone notification to crime victims of their offender's status, location, and release date.
 - OVC establishes the Community Crisis Response program, using the NOVA model, to improve services to victims in communities that have experienced a crime resulting in multiple violent victimizations.

1994

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$185 million.
- The American Correctional Association Victims Committee publishes the landmark *Report and Recommendations on Victims of Juvenile Crime*, which offers guidelines for improving victims' rights and services within the juvenile justice system.
- Six additional states pass victims' rights constitutional amendments—the largest number ever in a single year—bringing the total number of states with amendments to 20. States with new amendments

1995

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$233 million.
- Legislatures in three states—Indiana, Nebraska, and North Carolina—pass victims' rights constitutional amendments that will be placed on the ballot in 1996.
- The National Victims' Constitutional Amendment Network proposes the first draft of language for a federal victims' rights constitutional amendment.
- The first class graduates from the National Victim Assistance Academy (NVAA) in Washington, DC. Supported by OVC, NVAA provides an academically

credited, 45-hour curriculum on victimology, victims' rights, and other victim-related topics.

- *The Anatomy of Fraud: Report of a Nationwide Survey* by Richard Titus, Fred Heinzmann, and John M. Boyle is published. The report is based on the first nationwide survey, conducted in 1991 by the National Institute of Justice, to determine the scope of fraud and its effects, with findings that an estimated \$40 billion is lost to fraud each year. One-third of the people surveyed reported that an attempt to defraud them had occurred in the previous year.
- The U.S. Department of Justice issues the revised *Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance*, which increases the accountability of federal criminal justice officials, directing that performance appraisals and reports of best efforts include information on guidelines compliance.
- The Beijing World Conference on Women issues a landmark call for global action to end violence against women.
- The US Department of Justice creates the Violence Against Women Office to provide federal leadership in developing the national capacity to reduce violence against women and administer justice for and strengthen services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

1996

- The Crime Victims Fund reaches a historic high with deposits over \$525 million.
- Federal victims' rights constitutional amendments are introduced in both houses of Congress with bipartisan support.
- Both presidential candidates and Attorney General Janet Reno endorse the concept of a federal victims' rights constitutional amendment.
- Eight states ratify the passage of victims' rights constitutional amendments—raising the total number of such state constitutional amendments to 29 nationwide.
- President Clinton reaffirms his support of federal constitutional rights for crime victims in a Rose Garden ceremony attended by members of Congress, criminal justice officials, and representatives of local, state, and national victims' rights organizations.
- The Community Notification Act, known as "Megan's Law," amends the Child Sexual Abuse Registry law to provide for notifying communities of the location of convicted sex offenders.
- President Clinton signs the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, providing \$1 million to strengthen antiterrorism efforts, make restitution mandatory in violent crime cases, and expand compensation and assistance for victims of terrorism both at home and abroad, including victims in the military.
- OVC uses its new authority under the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act to provide substantial financial assistance to the victims and survivors of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
- The Mandatory Victims' Restitution Act, enacted as Title II of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, allows federal courts to award "public harm" restitution directly to state VOCA victim assistance programs. The Act makes restitution in federal cases mandatory, regardless of the defendant's ability to pay. It also requires federal courts to order restitution to victims of fraud.
- The VOCA definition of "crime victim" is expanded to include victims of financial crime, allowing this group to receive counseling, advocacy, and support services.
- The National Domestic Violence Hotline is established by Congress to provide crisis intervention, information,

Landmarks in Victims' Rights and Services

and referrals to victims of domestic violence and their friends and family.

- The Church Arson Prevention Act is enacted to respond to an increasing number of acts of arson against religious institutions around the country.
- The Drug-Induced Rape Prevention Act is enacted to address the emerging issue of drug-facilitated rape and drug-facilitated sexual assault.
- The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, within the U.S. Department of Justice, issues the Juvenile Justice Action Plan, which includes recommendations for victims' rights and services within the juvenile justice system for victims of juvenile offenders.

1997

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$363 million.
- Congress passes the Victims' Rights Clarification Act of 1997 to clarify existing federal law allowing victims to attend a trial and to appear as "impact witnesses" during the sentencing phase of both capital and non-capital cases. President Clinton signs the Act, allowing the victims and survivors of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City in April 1995 to observe the trial and to provide input later at sentencing.
- A federal victims' rights constitutional amendment is reintroduced in the opening days of the 105th Congress with strong bipartisan support. The Senate and House Judiciary Committees conduct hearings on the proposed federal victims' rights constitutional amendment. While not endorsing specific language, Attorney General Janet Reno testifies at the Senate hearing in support of federal constitutional rights for crime victims.

- To fully recognize the sovereignty of Indian Nations, OVC for the first time provides victim assistance grants directly to Tribes in Indian Country.
- Congress enacts a federal anti-stalking law as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997.
- Due to the large influx of VOCA funds in the previous fiscal year, OVC hosts a series of regional meetings with state VOCA administrators to encourage states to develop multiyear funding strategies to help stabilize local program funding, expand outreach to previously underserved victims, and support the development and implementation of technologies to improve victims' rights and services.
- OVC continues its support of the victims and survivors of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City by funding additional advocates, crisis counseling, and travel expenses for the bombing victims to attend court proceedings. When the venue of the trial is changed to Denver, Colorado, OVC provides funding for a special closed-circuit broadcast to victims and survivors in Oklahoma City.
- OVC releases *New Directions from the Field: Victims' Rights and Services for the 21st Century*, which assesses the nation's progress in meeting the recommendations set forth in the *Final Report of the 1982 President's Task Force on Victims of Crime* and issues over 250 new recommendations from the field for the next millennium.

1998

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$324 million.
- Senate Joint Resolution 44, a new bipartisan version of a federal victims' rights constitutional amendment, is introduced in the Senate by Senators Jon Kyl (R-AZ) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA). The Senate Judiciary

Committee subsequently approves S.J. Res. 44 by an 11-6 vote. No further action is taken on S.J. Res. 44 during the 105th Congress.

- Four new states pass state victims' rights constitutional amendments: Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, and Tennessee. The Supreme Court of Oregon overturns the Oregon state victims' rights amendment, originally passed in 1996, citing structural deficiencies.
- The Higher Education Amendments of 1998 is passed. Part E of this legislation, "Grants to Combat Violent Crimes Against Women on Campus," is authorized through the year 2003 and appropriates a total of \$10 million in grant funding to the Violence Against Women Grants Office for Fiscal Year 1999. Another primary aim of this legislation is to reduce binge drinking and illegal alcohol consumption on college campuses.
- Congress enacts the Child Protection and Sexual Predator Punishment Act of 1998, providing for numerous sentencing enhancements and other initiatives addressing sex crimes against children, including crimes facilitated by the use of interstate facilities and the Internet.
- Congress passes the Crime Victims with Disabilities Awareness Act, representing the first effort to systematically gather information about the extent of victimization of individuals with disabilities. This legislation directs the U.S. Attorney General to conduct a study on crimes against individuals with developmental disabilities. In addition, the Bureau of Justice Statistics is required to include statistics on the nature of crimes against individuals with developmental disabilities and victim characteristics in its annual National Crime Victimization Survey by 2000.
- The Identity Theft and Deterrence Act of 1998 is signed into law. This landmark federal legislation outlaws identity theft and directs the U.S. Sentencing

Commission to consider various factors in determining penalties, including the number of victims and the value of losses to any individual victim. The Act further authorizes the Federal Trade Commission to log and acknowledge reports of identity theft, provide information to victims, and refer complaints to appropriate consumer reporting and law enforcement agencies.

- OVC provides funding to the U.S. Department of State to support the development of a Victim Assistance Specialist position to improve the quality and coordination of services provided to U.S. citizens who are victimized abroad.

1999

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$985 million.
- The proposed federal victims' rights constitutional amendment (Senate Joint Resolution 3, identical to S.J. Res. 44) is introduced in the 106th Congress.
- The fifth National Victim Assistance Academy is held at five university locations across the United States, bringing the total number of Academy graduates to nearly 1,000.
- OVC issues the first grants to create State Victim Assistance Academies.
- The National Crime Victim Bar Association is formed by the National Center for Victims of Crime to promote civil justice for victims of crime.

2000

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$777 million.
- Congress passes a new national drunk driving limit of 0.08 blood alcohol concentration (BAC) with the support of MADD, other victim advocacy

organizations, and leading highway safety, health, medical, law enforcement, and insurance groups. The new law, passed with bipartisan support, requires states to pass 0.08 "per se intoxication" laws or lose a portion of their annual federal highway funding.

- Congress reauthorizes the Violence Against Women Act of 2000, extending VAWA through 2005 and authorizing funding at \$3.3 billion over the five-year period. In addition to expanding federal stalking statutes to include stalking on the Internet, the Act authorizes:
 - > \$80 million a year for rape prevention and education grants.
 - > \$875 million over five years for battered women's shelters.
 - > \$25 million in 2001 for transitional housing programs.
 - > \$25 million to address violence against older women and women with disabilities.
- The Internet Crime Complaint Center website, www.ic3.gov, is created by the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the National White Collar Crime Center to combat Internet fraud by giving consumers a convenient way to report violations and by centralizing information about fraud crimes for law enforcement.
- Attorney General Reno revises and reissues the *Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance*, which mandates that every Department of Justice employee who comes into contact with crime victims receives at minimum one hour of training about victim rights laws and the guidelines.
- Victimization rates as reported in the National Crime Victimization Survey are the lowest recorded since the survey's creation in 1973.
- The Treasury Department conducts the National Summit on Identity Theft, which addresses prevention techniques, victims' experiences, and remediation in the government and private sector. The summit is the first national-level conference involving law enforcement, victims, industry representatives, and nonprofit organizations interested in the issue. At the summit, Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers unveils four new initiatives to address identity theft.
- A federal victims' rights constitutional amendment is addressed for the first time by the full U.S. Senate. Following two-and-a-half days of debate, the measure (S.J. Res. 3) is withdrawn for further consideration by its cosponsors, Senators Kyl (R-AZ) and Feinstein (D-CA), when it becomes apparent that the measure will not receive the two-thirds majority vote necessary for approval.
- Congress passes and the President signs the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. This new law significantly strengthens criminal enforcement, prosecution, and penalties against traffickers; provides new protections to victims; and enables victims of severe forms of trafficking to seek benefits and services available to other crime victims.

2001

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$544 million.
- The National Crime Victimization Survey reports that victimization rates continue to drop, reaching a new low of 26 million victims for the year 2000.
- On September 11, 2001, two hijacked planes crash into the World Trade Center, another into the Pentagon, and a fourth into a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, killing 2,974 victims and injuring countless others in the worst terrorist attacks on American soil.
- Congress responds to the terrorist acts of September 11 with a raft of new laws providing funding for victim assistance, tax relief for victims, and other

accommodations and protections for victims. As part of the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act, a new federal victim compensation program is created specifically for the victims of September 11. The program includes many types of damages normally available only through civil actions, such as payment for pain and suffering, lifetime lost earnings, and loss of enjoyment of life. To receive compensation, claimants are required to waive their right to bring civil action for damages suffered as a result of the terrorist acts.

- Congress passes and President George W. Bush signs the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001, a package of antiterrorism legislation that includes changes to the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), including increasing the percentage of state compensation payments reimbursable by the federal government and allowing OVC to fund compliance and evaluation projects.
- OVC augments state victim compensation funding to aid victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks in New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania; offers assistance to victims of the September 11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon through the Pentagon Family Assistance Center; and establishes a toll-free telephone number and secure website for victims and their immediate family members.
- The Child Abuse Prevention and Enforcement Act and Jennifer's Law increase the annual Crime Victims Fund set-aside for child abuse victims from \$10 million to a maximum of \$20 million, and allow the use of Byrne grant funds for the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Jennifer's Law authorizes \$2 million per year through Fiscal Year 2002 for states to apply for grants to cover costs associated with entering complete files of unidentified crime victims into the FBI's NCIC database.
- New regulations, policies, and procedures for victims of trafficking dramatically change the response to this class of crime victims by agencies throughout the

federal government, including the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and several U.S. Department of Justice agencies (the FBI, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and U.S. Attorneys' Offices).

2002

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$519 million.
- OVC releases final program guidelines and an accompanying application kit for the Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program for Terrorism and Mass Violence Crimes, which provides funding to compensate and assist victims of terrorism and mass violence that occur within and outside the United States.
- The National Crime Victimization Survey continues to show a decline in crime victimization. Violent crime victimization dropped 10 percent from the previous year, and property crime dropped 6 percent.
- President Bush attends the presentation of the National Crime Victims' Rights Week awards and announces the Administration's support for the proposed Crime Victims' Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
- The National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators (NAVAA) is established. With OVC support, NAVAA provides technical assistance and training to state VOCA assistance administrators.
- OVC makes available the first Helping Outreach Programs to Expand grants to grassroots, nonprofit, community-based victim organizations and coalitions to improve outreach and services to victims of crime through the support of program development, networking, coalition building, and service delivery.
- Congress appropriates approximately \$20 million to fund services to trafficking victims, including shelter,

Landmarks in Victims' Rights and Services

medical and mental health care, legal assistance, interpretation, and advocacy.

- President Bush hosts the first White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children and announces his support for the Hutchison-Feinstein National AMBER Alert Network Act of 2002, which would help develop, enhance, and coordinate AMBER (America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response). The Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs is designated as the National AMBER Alert Coordinator at the Department of Justice.
- By the end of 2002, all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Guam have established crime victim compensation programs.
- *Our Vulnerable Teenagers: Their Victimization, Its Consequences, and Directions for Prevention and Intervention* is released by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency and the National Center for Victims of Crime. This landmark report documents the disproportionate representation of teenagers, ages 12 to 19, as victims of crime, and discusses promising prevention and intervention strategies.
- Congress passes federal legislation making the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), formerly known as the Violence Against Women Office, a permanent part of the Department of Justice with a Presidentially appointed, Senate-confirmed Director.

2003

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$361 million.
- The Senate Judiciary Committee passes the federal victims' rights constitutional amendment to ensure basic rights to victims nationwide.
- Congress makes the Office on Violence Against Women (formerly the Violence Against Women Office

within the Office of Justice Programs) a permanent, independent office within the U.S. Department of Justice.

- Congress passes and President Bush signs the PROTECT Act of 2003—also known as the “AMBER Alert” law—which creates a national AMBER network to facilitate rapid law enforcement and community response to kidnapped or abducted children.
- The American Society of Victimology (ASV) is established at the first American Symposium on Victimology held in Kansas City, Kansas. The ASV serves as a forum for academics and practitioners on all topics related to victimology in partnership with the World Society of Victimology.
- The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 is enacted to track and address the issue of rape in correctional institutions and develop national standards aimed at reducing prison rape.
- Congress establishes January as National Stalking Awareness Month.
- The National Domestic Violence Hotline, operated by the Texas Council on Family Violence, receives its one millionth call.
- The U.S. Postal Service releases the Stop Family Violence postage stamp to raise money for domestic violence prevention programs.
- Congress appropriates \$22 million for the U.S. Department of Defense's Family Advocacy Program, \$900,000 of which is for the National Domestic Violence Hotline Awareness, Intervention, and Prevention Campaign in the military services.
- The Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003 is enacted to provide new protections against identity theft and help victims of identity theft recover their financial losses.

- Congress passes and President Bush signs the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act. Along with reauthorizing programs created under the first TVPA, this legislation strengthens prevention efforts, supports prosecution of offenders, simplifies the process by which victims are certified eligible for benefits, and allows benefits and services to be available for victims' family members who are legally allowed to come to the United States. The legislation also creates a civil cause of action for victims of forced labor or forced prostitution.

rights of crime victims, giving victims and prosecutors legal standing to assert victims' rights, authorizing the filing of writs of mandamus to assert a victim's right, and requiring the U.S. Attorney General to establish a victims' rights compliance program within the Department of Justice. The legislation authorizes \$155 million in funding over the next five years for victim assistance programs at the federal and state level. This omnibus crime legislation also provides funding for DNA testing, crime labs, sexual assault forensic examiners, and programs for post-conviction DNA testing.

2004

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$834 million.
- The U.S. Department of Defense Task Force on Care for Victims of Sexual Assault releases its report and recommendations for preventing sexual assault in the military and providing a sensitive response to victims. The recommendations include establishing a single office within the U.S. Department of Defense to handle sexual assault matters, launching an information campaign to inform personnel about services available to victims, and convening a summit to update the definition of sexual assault and address victim privacy concerns within the military context.
- The Identity Theft Penalty Enhancement Act is enacted, defining aggravated identity theft as stealing another person's identity in connection with the commission of other specified felonies. The legislation also prohibits the court from ordering an offender's sentence for identity theft to run concurrently with a sentence imposed on the same offender for any other crime.
- Congress passes and President Bush signs the Justice for All Act of 2004, which includes the Scott Campbell, Stephanie Roper, Wendy Preston, Louarna Gillis, and Nila Lynn Crime Victims' Rights Act, providing substantive rights for crime victims. The law provides mechanisms at the federal level to enforce the

- President Bush hosts the first national training conference on human trafficking, which brings together trafficking response teams of federal, state, and local law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, and victim service providers from at least 21 cities with a known concentration of trafficking victims. The conference emphasizes the importance of combating trafficking using a victim-centered approach.
- The National Center for Victims of Crime releases *Repairing the Harm: A New Vision for Crime Victim Compensation in America*, which examines compensation data from all 50 states, the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, and compensation programs in other countries. The report also recommends a framework for strengthening victim compensation in the United States.

2005

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$668 million.
- The U.S. Department of Justice establishes an online national sex offender registry that provides real-time access to public sex offender data nationwide with a single Internet search.
- OVC and the Bureau of Justice Assistance initiate a program to establish teams of law enforcement

Landmarks in Victims' Rights and Services

- task forces and victim services to respond to human trafficking. The primary goals of this program are to develop sustainable programs to combat human trafficking through proactive law enforcement and prosecution at all levels of government, to coordinate U.S. Attorneys' Offices' efforts, to collaborate with victim service providers, and to increase the identification and rescue of trafficking victims.
- The U.S. House of Representatives establishes the first congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, co-chaired by Representatives Ted Poe (R-TX) and Jim Costa (D-CA). The mission of the Caucus is to elevate crime victim issues in Congress in a bipartisan manner, without infringing on the rights of the accused, and to advocate for crime victims' interests before the Administration and within Congress.
 - The Department of Justice announces more than \$84 million in DNA grants nationwide as part of President Bush's Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology initiative. The initiative is designed to improve the nation's capacity to use DNA evidence by eliminating casework and convicted offender backlogs, funding research and development, improving crime lab capacity, providing training for all stakeholders in the criminal justice system, and conducting testing to identify missing persons.
 - Attorney General Alberto Gonzales issues the revised *Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance*. The guidelines incorporate provisions for crime victims' rights and remedies, including those in the Justice for All Act, which had been enacted since the publication of the previous edition. The guidelines also address victim and witness assistance in human trafficking and identity theft cases.
 - The National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators releases the Crime Victims Fund Report, which highlights the Crime Victims Fund's contribution to the federal government's efforts to assist victims, analyzes the sources of deposits into the Fund, examines the issues involved in administering the Fund, and explores future challenges to the Fund's capacity to meet victims' needs.
 - The American Bar Association (ABA) releases *Elder Abuse Fatality Review Teams: A Replication Manual*, developed by the ABA Commission on Law and Aging and funded by OVC, providing guidance to communities on establishing elder abuse fatality review teams that review deaths caused by or related to elder abuse.
 - The U.S. Department of Justice issues its final rule implementing the victims' rights compliance provisions of the Crime Victims Rights' Act portion of the Justice for All Act. The rule establishes the Office of the Victims' Rights Ombudsman within the Executive Office for United States Attorneys (EOUSA) to receive and investigate complaints relating to the provision or violation of the rights of crime victims. The rule also creates procedures for filing complaints, investigating complaints, and imposing disciplinary sanctions against employees when warranted.
 - The U.S. Department of Defense announces a new sexual assault policy. The policy creates a military-wide definition of sexual assault, sets a baseline standard for prevention and response training for the armed services, and requires all military installations to have a sexual assault response coordinator with a staff of victim advocates. The policy also requires the establishment of a senior level of command to handle sexual assault cases and review any administrative discharges of sexual assault victims.
 - Congress passes the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2005 further continuing to strengthen VAWA by providing an increased focus on the access to services for underserved populations and reauthorizing existing VAWA programs. VAWA 2005 also:

- > Creates the Sexual Assault Services Program, which is the first federal funding stream dedicated to direct services for victims of sexual assault.
- > Provides housing resources to prevent victims from becoming homeless and ensure that victims can access the criminal justice system without jeopardizing their current or future housing.
- > Establishes prevention programs that intervene early with children who have witnessed domestic violence, support young families at risk for violence, and change social norms through targeted interventions with men and youth.
- > Improves the response to violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women, funding research and establishing a Tribal registry to track sex offenders and orders of protection.
- > Creates a National Resource Center on Workplace Responses.

Protection Act of 2000 by enhancing efforts to fight domestic trafficking in persons.

- During the National Crime Victims' Rights Week ceremony, OVC awards the first Ronald Wilson Reagan Public Policy Awards to honor outstanding individuals whose leadership, vision, and innovation have led to significant changes in public policy and practice that benefit crime victims.
- President Bush signs the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006. Along with increasing supervision of sex offenders, this wide-ranging legislation also extends the federal Crime Victims' Rights Act to federal habeas corpus proceedings arising out of state convictions, eliminates the statute of limitations for federal prosecution of certain sexual offenses and child abduction, and extends the civil remedy for child sex crime victims to persons victimized as children, even if their injuries did not surface until the person became an adult.
- Attorney General Gonzales launches Project Safe Childhood, aimed at ending Internet-based child sexual exploitation. This nationwide project creates locally designed partnerships of federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies together with community leaders to develop a coordinated strategy to prevent, investigate, and prosecute sexual predators, abusers, and pornographers who target children. All United States Attorneys are charged with taking the lead in designing a strategic plan for their community.
- The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit decides *Kenna v. U.S. District Court for the Central District of California*, in which the court considered whether the Crime Victims' Rights Act portion of the Justice for All Act gave victims the right to speak at sentencing hearings. The case involved a father and son who swindled dozens of victims. The defendants pled guilty to wire fraud and money laundering. More than 60 victims submitted victim

2006

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$650 million.
- Congress passes and President Bush signs the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005. This extension of the Violence Against Women Act includes provisions for early intervention, prevention, and health care, and promotes a national commitment to keep women and children safe from fear and abuse.
- Congress passes and President Bush signs the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005. This law expands the Trafficking Victims

impact statements. At the father's sentencing hearing, several victims spoke about the effects of the crimes, but at the son's sentencing, the judge refused to allow the victims to speak. The court held that the district judge had made a mistake, and made three key points: (1) in passing the Crime Victims' Rights Act, it was the intent of Congress to allow victims to speak at sentencing hearings, not just to submit victim impact statements; (2) victims have a right to speak even if there is more than one criminal sentencing; and (3) the remedy for a crime victim denied the right to speak at a sentencing hearing is to have the sentence vacated and a new sentencing hearing held in which the victims are allowed to speak.

- The Department of Justice issues its final rule implementing the new International Terrorism Victim Expense Reimbursement Program (ITVERP). This new federally administered program extends crime victim compensation to American victims of terrorism abroad, reimbursing them for direct, out-of-pocket expenses resulting from an act of terror.
- President Bush signs the Older Americans Act Reauthorization (OAA), which includes victim-related provisions. It requires the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to develop a long-term plan for a national response to elder abuse; improves access to programs and services under OAA by addressing the needs of older individuals with limited English proficiency; promotes multidisciplinary responses by states and Indian Tribes to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation; and preserves the long-term care ombudsman program.

2007

- For the first time ever, the Crime Victims Fund deposits surpass a billion dollars, totaling \$1.02 billion.
- Attorney General Gonzales and Federal Trade Commission Chairman Deborah Platt Majoras release

the President's Identity Theft Task Force strategic plan to combat identity theft. Task Force recommendations include reducing the unnecessary use of Social Security numbers by federal agencies, establishing national standards requiring private entities to safeguard the personal data they compile and to notify consumers of any breach that poses a significant risk of identity theft, implementing a consumer awareness campaign, and creating a National Identity Theft Law Enforcement Center to coordinate law enforcement efforts and information to improve the investigation and prosecution of identity thieves.

- OVC makes the first payments of the ITVERP program to U.S. victims of international acts of terrorism, including the victims of: the 1998 U.S. Embassy bombings in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; the October 2002 Bali, Indonesia, nightclub bombing; the May 2003 bombing of expatriate housing in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; and the 2003 airport bombing in Davao City, Philippines.
- House and Senate Resolutions establishing September 25 as the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims coincide with the first annual national event held on Capitol Hill.

2008

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$896 million.
- President Bush signs into law the Identity Theft Enhancement and Restitution Act as part of the Former Vice President Protection Act of 2008. This legislation permits courts to order restitution to cybercrime victims for the costs associated with identity theft, including the loss of time and money spent restoring their credit record.
- OVC releases two guides on the rights of victims of perpetrators with mental illness, a long-underserved victim population. *Responding to People Who*

Have Been Victimized by Individuals with Mental Illnesses sets out the steps policymakers, advocates, mental health professionals, and others can take to understand and protect the rights and safety of these crime victims. *A Guide to the Role of Crime Victims in Mental Health Courts* offers practical recommendations to mental health court practitioners about how to engage crime victims in case proceedings. Both publications were developed by the Council of State Governments' Justice Center.

- Congress passes the Reconnecting Homeless Youth Act of 2008, which amends the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. This legislation extends funding for various programs to serve homeless youth, including programs to prevent the sexual abuse of youth. It includes a requirement for regular statistical reports on the problem.
- OVC releases the *Resource Guide for Serving U.S. Citizens Victimized Abroad*, an online guide to help U.S.-based victim service providers deliver comprehensive and effective services to victims of overseas crime. The guide helps service providers access resources abroad and in the United States.
- The Government Accountability Office (GAO) releases a report on the federal Crime Victims' Rights Act (CVRA). The report makes a number of recommendations to improve CVRA implementation, including making efforts to increase victims' awareness of mechanisms to enforce their rights, restructuring the complaint investigation process to promote greater independence and impartiality of investigators, and identifying performance measures regarding victims' rights.
- President Bush signs legislation requiring the Department of Justice to develop and implement a National Strategy on Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction, to improve the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, to increase resources for regional computer forensic labs, and to make

other improvements to increase the ability of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute child predators.

2009

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$1.75 billion.
- U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics releases the first national statistics on the prevalence of stalking in America. *Stalking Victimization in the United States* finds that 3.4 million persons identified themselves as victims of stalking in a 12-month period.
- President Barack Obama signs the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which includes supplemental funding for crime victim assistance and compensation, STOP (Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors) Violence Against Women formula grants, and transitional housing programs for domestic violence victims.
- President Obama issues the first White House Proclamation of National Sexual Assault Awareness Month.
- President Obama names Lynn Rosenthal to the newly created position of White House Advisor on Violence Against Women.
- Congress passes and the President signs the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act of 2009 (FERA), expanding federal fraud laws to cover mortgage fraud, additional forms of securities fraud, and certain money laundering; and authorizing additional funding for investigation and prosecution of such fraud. The new law also establishes a Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission to examine the causes of the current financial and economic crisis in the United States and present its findings to the President and Congress in 2010.

Landmarks in Victims' Rights and Services

- President Obama and the House of Representatives recognize the 15th anniversary of the passage of the Violence Against Women Act through a Presidential Proclamation and House Resolution.
- The Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, releases the first national report on crimes against persons with disabilities, based on the National Crime Victimization Survey. The report finds that the rate of nonfatal violent crime against persons with disabilities was 1.5 times higher than the rate for persons without disabilities. The report fulfilled the mandate of the Crime Victims with Disabilities Awareness Act.
- The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice, releases a report on a national survey on children's exposure to violence, the most comprehensive survey to date on this issue. The report includes findings regarding children's direct and indirect exposure to specific categories of violence, how exposure to violence changes as children grow up, and the prevalence and incidence of multiple and cumulative exposures to violence.
- President Obama establishes the Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force, comprising more than 20 agencies, 94 U.S. Attorneys' Offices, and state and local partners, to examine mortgage fraud, Ponzi schemes, tax fraud, predatory lending, credit card fraud, and more. Its goal is to improve efforts to investigate and prosecute significant financial crimes, ensure just and effective punishment for those who perpetrate financial crimes, recover proceeds for victims, and address financial discrimination in the lending and financial markets.
- Congress passes and the President signs the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010. The Act extends the definition of federal hate crimes to include crimes based on

sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability; authorizes the Attorney General to provide assistance to state, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies in investigating and prosecuting hate crimes; and amends the Hate Crimes Statistics Act to include crimes motivated by gender and gender identity, as well as hate crimes committed by and against juveniles.

2010

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$2.4 billion.
- The Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force launches StopFraud.gov, which combines resources from federal agencies on ways consumers can protect themselves from fraud and report fraudulent activity. It also includes information about the task force activities.
- President Obama signs the Cruise Vessel Security and Safety Act of 2010, legislation that mandates that cruise ship personnel promptly report serious crime on board ships to both the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Coast Guard, requires the cruise industry to comply with certain security provisions, and requires ships to be equipped with a video surveillance system and maintain a log book to record reporting of deaths, missing individuals, thefts, and other crimes.
- President Obama signs the Tribal Law and Order Act, designed to increase Tribal law enforcement agencies' power to combat crime on reservations and to increase the accountability of federal agencies responsible for public safety in Indian Country. The Act requires federal prosecutors to keep data on criminal cases in Indian Country that they decline to prosecute, and to support prosecutions in Tribal court by sharing evidence. It also increases the maximum sentence that a Tribal court can impose from one to three years in prison, expands training of Tribal law enforcement officers on handling domestic violence and sexual assault cases, calls for standardized protocols for investigating and prosecuting sexual assault, and

provides Tribal police greater access to criminal history databases.

- The Department of Justice releases its first National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction, designed to: increase coordination among the nation's investigators; better train investigators and prosecutors; advance law enforcement's technological capabilities; and enhance research to inform decisions on deterrence, incarceration, and monitoring. The strategy also includes a renewed commitment to public awareness and community outreach. The effort includes relaunching Project Safe Childhood, which marshals federal, state, Tribal, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute those who exploit children via the Internet, and to identify and rescue victims.
- President Obama signs the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010, which includes a requirement that the Coast Guard submit an annual report to Congress on sexual assaults involving members of the Coast Guard.

workers at any of the sites of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. It also extends the 9/11 victims' compensation fund for five years to allow the filing of new claims related to health injuries associated with debris removal at the crash sites.

- President Obama signs the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011, which strengthens the military's response to sexual assault by requiring the development of a comprehensive policy for sexual assault prevention and response, and issues standards to evaluate the effectiveness of prevention and response programs in each military branch.
- OVC launches Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services, an initiative to expand the vision and impact of the crime victim services field.
- President Obama signs the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act, which requires the Peace Corps to develop a comprehensive sexual assault policy, create an Office of Victim Advocacy and a Sexual Assault Advisory Council, and institute volunteer training on sexual assault, risk reduction, and response.
- President Obama signs the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012, which includes provisions to prevent and respond to military sexual assault. The Act ensures that members and dependents who are victims of sexual assault have access to legal assistance and sexual assault advocates, whether the victim chooses unrestricted or confidential reporting of the assault. The Act also calls for timely action on a sexual assault victim's application for consideration of a change of station or unit to reduce the possibility of retaliation for reporting the assault, requires the development of training in sexual assault prevention and response, and makes other related changes.
- Attorney General Eric H. Holder revises and reissues Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance, the standards for officers and employees of

2011

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total nearly \$2 billion.¹
- President Obama issues the first White House proclamation of National Stalking Awareness Month. The President calls on all Americans to learn to recognize the signs of stalking, acknowledge stalking as a serious crime, and urge victims not to be afraid to speak out or ask for help.
- President Obama signs the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, to provide health benefits for those who suffered health injuries from living or working near the site of the collapsed World Trade Center or for first responders and cleanup

¹ Actual deposits total \$1,998,220,205.15.

the Department of Justice investigative, prosecutorial, correctional, and parole components in the treatment of victims of and witnesses to crime. The revisions clarified DOJ's responsibilities to provide mandated rights and services enumerated in the Crime Victims' Rights Act (CVRA) and the Victims' Rights and Restitution Act (VRRRA) as well as other statutory requirements.

2012

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$2.79 billion.
- Congress passes and President Obama signs the Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act of 2011, removing the requirement of Senate confirmation for 170 executive positions, including that of the Office for Victims of Crime Director.
- Attorney General Eric H. Holder revises and reissues the *Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance* to include guidelines that examine the unique requirements of vulnerable victims, including an update to address the scope of the federal child abuse reporting requirement under section 13031 of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.
- The Bureau of Justice Statistics, with funding from the Office for Victims of Crime, embarks on a landmark three-year research study on the victimization of persons with disabilities who are in institutional settings.
- Attorney General Eric H. Holder releases a final rule to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse in confinement facilities, in accordance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA). This landmark rule sets national standards for four categories of facilities: adult prisons and jails, lockups, community confinement facilities, and juvenile facilities. The rule is the first-ever federal effort to set standards aimed at

protecting inmates in all such facilities at the federal, state, and local levels. Highlights include access to free forensic medical exams to all victims of sexual abuse and access to a victim advocate from a rape crisis center.

- The Unified Crime Report (UCR) definition of rape changes to include any gender of victim or perpetrator, as well as instances in which the victim is incapable of giving consent because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity (including due to the influence of drugs or alcohol or because of age). The UCR definition is used by the FBI to collect information from local law enforcement agencies about reported rapes.

2013

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$8.95 billion.
- OVC releases the final report of its *Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services* initiative. The report creates a framework for addressing the challenges for the victim services field, making recommendations in four broad categories: support for the development of research; continued strategic planning in the victim assistance field; ensuring the statutory, policy, and programmatic flexibility necessary to address enduring and emerging crime victim issues; and expanding the field's capacity to meet the demands of the 21st century.
- Congress passes and President Obama signs the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA 2013). The measure expands protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender survivors, Native American and Native Alaskan survivors, and teens and young adults. The reauthorization allows grant funds to be used to develop and promote legislation and policies that enhance best practices for responding to violence against women. It adds stalking to several grant programs, including Grants

to Encourage Arrests, and to campus safety provisions for the first time. It ensures that sexual assault victims do not incur the cost of forensic exams by requiring jurisdictions to provide exams to victims free of charge and without any out-of-pocket expense (rather than victims being reimbursed after paying the cost themselves, permissible previously). The law also, for the first time, provides that Tribes will be able to exercise their sovereign power to investigate, prosecute, convict, and sentence non-Indians who assault Indian spouses or dating partners or violate a protection order in Indian Country.

- Included in VAWA 2013 is the SAFER Act, which requires the U.S. Department of Justice to ensure that at least 75 percent of the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant funds are used to analyze backlogged sexual assault kits and expand the capacity of labs to test such evidence. It allows Debbie Smith grants to be used to conduct audits of untested sexual assault kits in law enforcement custody, as well as untested kits held by the labs. It also requires that protocols for the effective processing of DNA evidence be established within 18 months.
- The Trafficking Victims Protection Act Reauthorization is also adopted as part of VAWA 2013. Along with reauthorizing important grant programs, the law makes it a crime to destroy, conceal, or confiscate someone's passport for more than 48 hours for the purpose of smuggling or controlling that person. It also requires that state plans for foster care and adoption assistance include prevention measures and responses to the trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children.
- Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel in August releases a memo directing the immediate implementation of various measures to strengthen the military's sexual assault prevention and response programs. Victim-related measures include creating a program to provide legal representation to sexual assault victims

throughout the justice process; providing commanders with options to assign or transfer a service member accused of committing sexual assault; and changing the Manual for Courts-Martial to allow victims to give input to the post-trial action phase of courts-martial.

- OVC releases updated regulations for the VOCA Assistance formula grants. The new regulations are designed to increase the effectiveness of such funding, through increased flexibility, a reduction in the administrative burden relating to the funding, broadening the types of services that can be funded, drawing attention to previously underserved populations of victims, and supporting the training of volunteers who provide direct services to victims.

2014

- The Crime Victims' Fund deposits total \$3.59 billion in Fiscal Year 2014.
- President Obama signs the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014, which contains numerous reforms to address sexual assault in the military, including: requiring independent review of decisions not to refer charges for trial and limiting command discretion to modify court-martial findings; removing the statute of limitations on sexual assault; creating a Special Victims' Counsel to provide independent legal assistance to sexual assault victims; implementing anti-retaliation policies for victims who report sexual assault; and allowing victims to apply for a permanent change of station or unit transfer.
- The White House announces the release of the *Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States*. The plan outlines steps federal agencies will take to identify all victims of human trafficking and implement a victim services network that is comprehensive, trauma-informed, and responsive.

Landmarks in Victims' Rights and Services

- In January 2014, the White House Council on Women and Girls releases its report, "Rape and Sexual Assault: A Renewed Call to Action." This report analyzes the most recent data on rape and sexual assault in the United States. It identifies who is at risk of victimization, examines the cost of sexual violence (to both survivors and communities), and outlines the criminal justice response. The report describes the steps that the Administration has taken to combat rape and sexual assault and provides recommendations for further action.
- Under a provision of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA 2013), the Department of Justice selects three American Indian Tribes for a pilot program to extend criminal jurisdiction in Indian country. VAWA 2013 recognizes that Tribes have a right to exercise special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction over certain defendants, regardless of their Indian or non-Indian status, who commit acts of domestic or dating violence in Indian country. This provision takes effect in 2015, but the pilot project allows selected Tribes to begin exercising special jurisdiction sooner.
- President Obama issues a Presidential Memorandum to establish the "White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault." The task force has begun to share best practices to increase transparency, enforcement, public awareness, and interagency coordination to prevent violence and support victims of sexual assault on college campuses. In April, the task force released its first report "Not Alone," which provides recommendations to school administrations.
- President Obama signs the Kilah Davenport Child Protection Act of 2013. This legislation directs the U.S. Attorney General to issue a state-by-state report on child abuse laws within six months, with a particular focus on penalties for cases of severe child abuse. The law also amends the federal criminal code to enhance penalties for child abuse committed by habitual offenders.
- President Obama launched the My Brother's Keeper initiative to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color and to ensure that all young people can reach their full potential. The initiative comprises six milestones, the last one being "Keeping Kids on Track and Giving Them Second Chances." A key goal of this milestone is to address the overrepresentation of African American and Latino men in the criminal and juvenile justice systems and reduce the rates of violence and victimization for all young people. All children should be safe from violent crime.
- Congress appropriates funding to implement some of the recommendations in *Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services*. For the first time ever, OVC made awards to support initiatives such as capacity building at the state level and access to services for American citizens and Lawful Permanent Residents at the national and international level through innovative technology.
- President Obama signs the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2014. This Act directs the Secretary of State to report annually to Congress on international child abduction cases and ensure that U.S. diplomatic and consular missions properly report these abduction cases. The Secretary of State will also establish Memoranda of Understanding with countries that are unlikely to join the Hague Abduction Convention and advise the president on countries that do not cooperate in or fail to resolve abduction cases.
- On August 8, 2014, President Obama signs the Victims of Child Abuse Reauthorization Act of 2013. This Act authorizes appropriations for children's advocacy centers and the development of multidisciplinary child abuse investigation and prosecution programs. Additionally, the Act authorizes appropriations to national organizations that provide

technical assistance and training to attorneys and professionals working with the criminal prosecution of child abuse cases.

- President Obama is joined by Vice President Biden, leaders from institutions of higher education, media companies, grassroots organizations, and celebrities to launch the It's on Us public service campaign, which includes a personal commitment to help keep men and women safe from sexual assault. It is a pledge not to be a bystander, but to be part of the solution, to recognize that non-consensual sex is sexual assault, to identify situations in which sexual assault may occur, to intervene in situations where consent has not or cannot be given, and to create an environment in which sexual assault is unacceptable and survivors are supported. It's on Us raises awareness about the problem of sexual assault on college campuses and invites everyone to be part of the solution.

2015

- The Crime Victims' Fund deposits total \$2.64 billion in Fiscal Year 2015.
- President Obama signs the Fiscal Year 2015 Omnibus Appropriations Act, which releases \$2.36 billion from VOCA, almost quadruple the amount of funding released in 2014.
- President Obama signs the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act on September 29, 2014. This Act requires states to develop policies and procedures to identify, document, screen, and determine appropriate services for children in foster care who are victims of, or at risk of, sex trafficking. The Act also mandates data collection and reporting by states and establishes a National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the U.S. to advise on policies to improve the nation's response to the sex trafficking of children and youth.
- President Obama signs the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act on May 29, 2015. This legislation contains a variety of provisions aimed at improving the response to victims of trafficking, including: establishing the Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund, providing grant funds to enhance services for runaway and homeless victims, creating the United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking, and improving training for law enforcement, health professionals, and other service providers who work with trafficking victims. The Act also expressly recognizes child pornography production as a form of human trafficking.
- The White House releases the "Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States: Fiscal Years 2013 – 2014." This status report documents the progress of federal agencies during fiscal years 2013 – 2014 to ensure that all victims of human trafficking in the United States are identified and have access to the services they need to recover. OVC serves as a co-chair in the Federal Strategic Action Plan's development, along with the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families and the Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign.
- The White House convenes the 2015 White House Conference on Aging. Held once each decade to reflect on issues affecting America's seniors, the Conference includes a focus on elder justice to address elder financial exploitation, abuse, and neglect, and announces numerous federal efforts involving research, reporting, training, outreach, and more.
- The U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) announces the launch of "The Center for Changing Our Campus Culture," an online clearinghouse of resources related to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on campus. This website provides the latest information,

- materials, and resources for campus administrators, faculty, and staff, as well as campus and community law enforcement, victim service providers, students, parents, and other key stakeholders.
- In coordination with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Office for Victim Assistance and the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice for Victims of Overseas Terrorism, OVC announces the release of "Helping Victims of Mass Violence and Terrorism: Planning, Response, Recovery, and Resources." This online toolkit is designed to help jurisdictions implement a comprehensive, victim-centered response to incidents of mass violence by developing victim assistance protocols, addressing resources gaps, and creating and maintaining partnerships with stakeholders.
 - The White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault releases a Resource Guide to support students, faculty, administrators, and communities around the country to prevent sexual violence and improve the response to violence at colleges and universities. The Resource Guide compiles guidance, tools, model policies and procedures, training and technical assistance, funding opportunities, and public messaging materials. The Task Force also releases a sample memorandum of understanding to assist campuses and law enforcement agencies in working together to protect students and address the needs of sexual assault survivors.
 - OVC, in partnership with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, releases the Supporting Male Survivors of Violence Demonstration Initiative, designed to enhance and support trauma-informed systems of care for male crime victims and, in particular, boys and young men of color. The initiative seeks to strengthen victim service providers' knowledge and skills to produce innovative programs and practices that foster a better understanding among criminal and juvenile justice systems, and guide service providers regarding the rights and needs of these boys and young men.
 - The U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services launch a federal Domestic Violence and Housing Technical Assistance Consortium to provide national training, technical assistance, and resource development on domestic violence and housing. The Consortium supports national training and technical assistance awards to develop resources and foster increased collaboration among domestic violence and homeless service providers to better address the critical housing needs of victims of domestic violence and their children. *

Serving Victims Building Trust Restoring Hope

SECTION 7 | ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The *2016 NCVRW Resource Guide* provides a wealth of information, tools, and ideas to help you plan a meaningful observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. This final section features a directory of sources for accurate, current information about crime victim issues and a list of national organizations that have partnered with us to promote this year's guide. This section also features information about products showcased in the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice (OVC) multimedia gallery, which you can use in your NCVRW campaigns and throughout the year.

- **Online Resources**—Includes reliable facts, statistics, training opportunities, and other information assembled by OVC and the National Center for Victims of Crime.
- **NCVRW Resource Guide Partners**—Presents a list of the 2016 NCVRW Resource Guide partners who are joining us in our commitment to improving victims' rights and raising public awareness throughout the country. You can visit the websites of these organizations to help plan your own work or to find ideas for partners to broaden your own outreach.
- **OVC Gallery**—Includes an online collection of multimedia products featuring select posters, promotional materials, and artwork from past NCVRW observances. Visit www.ovc.gov/gallery. *

This time-saving list of reliable websites includes practical, up-to-date information and services for crime victims and those who serve them. When available, toll-free phone numbers are also provided.

Resource Centers

National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS)

www.ncjrs.gov

Administered by the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), U.S. Department of Justice, NCJRS provides information on crime, victim assistance, and public safety to support research, policy, and program development worldwide. Trained Information Specialists are available to respond to inquiries and direct individuals to appropriate resources.

Additional services include:

- 24-hour access to view and order OVC and other [OJP publications](#) and resources online;
- A searchable knowledge-base of nearly 150 victim-related [questions and answers](#);
- A database of [upcoming justice events](#);
- An online Virtual Library and searchable [Abstracts Database](#), featuring over 30,000 victim-related documents;
- The Justice Information ([JUSTINFO](#)) electronic newsletter containing OJP resources, events, funding opportunities, and more.

NCJRS Contact Information:

- Phone: 800-851-3420 or 202-836-6998 (international callers); TTY 301-240-6310
- Online E-mail Contact Form: www.ncjrs.gov/App/QA/SubmitQuestion.aspx

OVC Resource Center (OVCRC)

www.ovc.gov/resourcecenter/index.html

The Office for Victims of Crime Resource Center at NCJRS is a comprehensive repository of information for crime victims and victim service providers. With online services accessible 24 hours a day, OVCRC is the central clearinghouse for publications, products, DVDs, and reports from the Office for Victims of Crime. Trained Information Specialists are available to answer your questions. Staff can offer referrals, discuss publications, and search for additional resources.

OVCRC Contact Information:

- Phone: 800-851-3420; TTY 301-240-6310
- Online E-mail Contact Form: <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/askovc>
- Order publications and resources online at: www.ncjrs.gov/App/Publications/AlphaList.aspx

OVC Training and Technical Assistance Center (OVC TTAC)

www.ovcttac.gov

The OVC Training and Technical Assistance Center (OVC TTAC) is the gateway to the latest training and technical assistance available for victim service providers and allied professionals who serve crime victims. OVC TTAC's aim is to build the capacity of professionals and organizations that serve victims of crime nationwide. OVC TTAC does this by providing training, technical assistance, professional development opportunities, and resources to reach more victims, including those who are historically underserved; by assessing the needs of key constituencies and identifying resources to meet their needs; and by monitoring customer

satisfaction and measuring the effectiveness of its training over time.

OVC TTAC draws on the expertise of a network of consultants and seasoned victim service professionals with firsthand experience in designing and delivering customized responses to satisfy a variety of training and technical assistance needs. From its comprehensive database of experts, OVC TTAC provides developmental support, mentoring, and facilitation in such areas as program design and implementation, strategic planning, program management, evaluation, quality improvement, collaboration, and community coordination. OVC TTAC also supports the victim services community by providing professional development scholarships to those seeking additional training and educational opportunities.

OVC TTAC Contact Information:

- Phone: 866-OVC-TTAC/866-682-8822;
TTY 866-682-8880
- E-mail: ttac@ovcttac.org

Online Trainings

Ethics in Victim Services

www.ovcttac.gov/ethics

This downloadable version of the instructor-led *Ethics in Victim Services* training covers common ethical conflicts in providing victim services and how to resolve them by applying ethical standards and decision-making processes. The goal of the training is to increase self-awareness and understanding of how personal attitudes and beliefs influence responses to victims of crime.

Identity Theft Victim Assistance Online Training: Supporting Victims' Financial and Emotional Recovery

www.ovcttac.gov/identitytheft

The Identity Theft Victim Assistance Online Training is a user-friendly e-learning tool that provides victim service providers and allied professionals with the knowledge and skills they need to more effectively serve victims of identity theft and assist with their financial and emotional recovery. The training includes a reference library of information on types of identity theft, the various forms and paperwork that may need to be completed, referral agencies and resources, and information on victims' rights. The training also includes three case studies that highlight different forms of identity theft. The training is structured so that participants assume the role of victim advocate and interact with victims during each phase of recovery.

Sexual Assault Advocate/Counselor Training (SAACT)

www.ovcttac.gov/saact

SAACT is a downloadable curriculum that uses case studies, role playing, slides, vignettes, and other interactive exercises to help practitioners increase their understanding of sexual assault and gain the skills needed to assist victims of sexual assault.

Victim Assistance Training Online (VAT Online)

www.ovcttac.gov/vatonline

VAT *Online* is a foundational web-based victim assistance training program that offers victim service providers and allied professionals the opportunity to acquire the essential skills and knowledge they need to more effectively assist victims of crime. *VAT Online* has four sections: Basics; Core Competencies and Skills; Crimes; and Special Populations.

Victim Impact: Listen and Learn

www.ovcttac.gov/victimimpact

This downloadable curriculum is geared toward helping offenders become more aware of the impact of crime on victims, take responsibility for their actions, and begin to make amends.

Other Resources

Existe Ayuda Toolkit

www.ovc.gov/pubs/existeayuda

This toolkit includes replicable Spanish-language tools and resources to help improve the cultural competence of service providers and the accessibility of services for Spanish-speaking victims of sexual violence. Resources include Spanish terms related to sexual assault and trafficking; PowerPoint slides to use in presentations to *promotoras* (community health workers) and victim advocates; and a pocket card, handout, fact sheets, and scripts for public service announcements and outgoing answering machine messages.

Helping Victims of Mass Violence and Terrorism: Planning, Response, Recovery, and Resources

www.ovc.gov/pubs/mvt-toolkit/index.html

Created in coordination with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Office for Victim Assistance and DOJ's Office of Justice for Victims of Overseas Terrorism, this OVC toolkit is designed to help communities prepare for and respond to victims of mass violence and terrorism in the most timely, effective, and compassionate manner possible. This toolkit provides communities with the framework, strategies, and resources to:

- Develop a comprehensive victim assistance plan for responding to incidents of mass violence, terrorism, natural disasters, and high-profile criminal incidents.

- Bring key partners together to review existing emergency plans, and to initiate or continue the development of a victim assistance plan within a community.
- Establish victim assistance protocols, which can greatly enhance the effectiveness of response and recovery efforts.
- Follow protocols for short- and long-term responses to victims following incidents of mass violence.

Innovative Practices for Victim Services: Report from the Field

www.ovc.gov/pubs/InnovativePractices/index.html

This e-bulletin provides brief descriptions of the innovative practices currently used by VOCA victim assistance and compensation programs throughout the country. VOCA funding supports many innovative programs and protocols to serve victims more effectively, and this online resource promotes their replication where applicable. The bulletin focuses on six key program areas:

- [needs assessment](#),
- [systems advocacy and coordination](#),
- [compensation](#),
- [underserved populations](#),
- [victims' rights and services](#), and
- [technology](#).

OVC HELP for Victim Service Providers Web Forum

<http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ovcproviderforum>

The OVC *HELP for Victim Service Providers* Web Forum gives victim service providers and allied professionals a unique opportunity to tap into a national support network, learn about cutting-edge issues and best practices, and gain

peer insight through shared challenges and experiences. Through the Guest Host Session series, OVC makes national experts available each month to answer questions on a timely topic.

OVC National Calendar of Events

<http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ovccalendar>

OVC's National Calendar of Victim Assistance-Related Events lists upcoming conferences, workshops, and notable victim assistance-related events. A special feature allows service providers and allied professionals to add their organizations' events to the calendar.

OVC Online Directory of Crime Victim Services

<http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/findvictimservices>

The OVC Online Directory of Crime Victim Services, which lists more than 10,000 programs nationwide, helps crime victims and service providers locate non-emergency services in the United States and abroad. Add your program to the directory and increase your program profile with providers and crime victims.

Online Elder Abuse Training

<https://www.ovcttac.gov/elderabuse>

The online elder abuse training is a user-friendly tool that offers legal service providers the knowledge and skills they need to serve victims of elder abuse more effectively. The training consists of four modules, including: What Every Lawyer Needs to Know About Elder Abuse, Practical and Ethical Strategies, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Later Life, and Financial Fraud and Exploitation. This interactive, web-based training program includes a variety of information, tools, and resources, from interactive client scenarios to printable resources for the entire office.

SART Toolkit: Resources for Sexual Assault Response Teams

www.ovc.gov/sartkit

This toolkit is a compilation of resources for communities that want to develop Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs)—coordinated teams of people who serve victims of sexual assault—and for communities that want to improve their SART responses. The toolkit reviews the basics, lays out the steps involved in putting together a SART, describes how to retain focus on victims, highlights SART programs throughout the country, and includes sample resources to use when developing and evaluating a SART team.

VictimLaw

<https://www.victimlaw.info>

VictimLaw is a comprehensive, online database of more than 23,000 victims' rights-related legal provisions, including: federal and state victims' rights statutes, tribal laws, constitutional amendments, court rules, administrative code provisions, attorney general opinions, and case summaries of related court decisions. This user-friendly tool is available free of charge and provides instant access to a wide range of previously hard-to-find, regularly updated legal information.

National Center for Victims of Crime Website

www.victimsofcrime.org

This national not-for-profit organization advocates for the rights of crime victims, trains professionals who work with victims, and serves as a trusted source of information on victims' issues. The website features a variety of resources, bulletins, and checklists, and houses the National Center's many resource centers, including the Stalking Resource Center, DNA Resource Center, Financial Crime Resource Center, and the National Crime Victim Bar Association. National, regional, and virtual training opportunities are

also highlighted on the website. (This site is not associated with OVC or NCJRS.)

VictimConnect

www.victimconnect.org / 855-4-VICTIM

VictimConnect, a national helpline and program of the National Center for Victims of Crime, provides confidential referrals for victims of crime in the United States. Here, crime victims can connect with resources, access referrals, and craft next steps to regain control of their lives. VictimConnect has a special focus on populations, crimes, and topics that are generally underrepresented or underserved in victim services. The website includes a searchable referral directory and overviews of specific types of crime as well as information about self-care, options, and rights. Victims can connect with a resource specialist during business hours by chat at www.victimconnect.org or phone at 855-4-VICTIM (855-484-2846). *

The following national organizations are official partners of the *2016 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide*. In addition to working with the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, and the National Center for Victims of Crime to promote the annual observance, each of the following organizations represents additional collaboration opportunities for the field and makes available a wide range of victim-related information that you may be able to integrate into your own outreach and public awareness initiatives.

American Correctional Association

206 N. Washington Street, Suite 200
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703-224-0000

Fax: 703-224-0010
Website: www.aca.org
E-mail: aca@aca.org

The American Correctional Association (ACA) is a professional membership organization composed of individuals, agencies, and organizations involved in all facets of the corrections field, including adult and juvenile services, community corrections, probation and parole, and jails. It has approximately 20,000 members in the United States, Canada, and other nations, as well as over 100 chapters and affiliates representing states, professional specialties, or university criminal justice programs. For more than 140 years, the ACA has been the driving force in establishing national correctional policies and advocating safe, humane, and effective correctional operations. Today, the ACA is the world-wide authority on correctional policy and standards, disseminating the latest information and advances to members, policymakers, individual correctional workers, and departments of correction. The ACA was founded in 1870 as the National Prison Association and became the American Prison Association in 1907. At its first meeting in Cincinnati, the assembly elected Rutherford B. Hayes, then governor of Ohio and later U.S. president, as the first president of the Association. At the 1954 annual Congress of Correction in Philadelphia, the name of the American Prison Association was changed to the American Correctional Association, reflecting the changing philosophy of corrections and its increasingly important role in society.

American Probation and Parole Association

PO Box 11910
Lexington, KY 40578-1910
Phone: 859-244-8203

Fax: 859-244-8001
Website: www.appa-net.org
E-mail: appa@csg.org

The American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) is an international association composed of members from the United States, Canada, and other countries actively involved with probation, parole, and community-based corrections in both adult and juvenile sectors. All levels of government including local, state/provincial, legislative, executive, judicial, and federal agencies are counted among its constituents.

American Society of Victimology

Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies
Fresno Pacific University
1717 S. Chestnut Avenue, #2202
Fresno, CA 93702

Phone: 301-461-9974
Fax: 559-252-4800
Website: <http://american-society-victimology.us>
E-mail: dstanley@ubalt.edu

The American Society of Victimology advances the discipline of victimology by promoting evidence-based practice and providing leadership in research and education.

Association of State Correctional Administrators

1110 Opal Court, Suite 5
Hagerstown, MD 21740
Phone: 301-791-2722

Fax: 301-393-9494
Website: www.asca.net
E-mail: jbrookes@asca.net

The Association of State Correctional Administrators was founded on the belief that each represented correctional jurisdiction is unique with regard to obligatory statutes, policies, structure, incarcerated populations, resources, and burning issues, but that similarities of purpose, responsibilities, principles, and challenges among its member jurisdictions unite them in a quest for public safety, secure and orderly facilities, and professionalism that can be achieved through sharing ideas and vigorously entering into collaborative efforts to persistently improve the corrections profession.

California State University, Fresno

Department of Criminology
2576 E. San Ramon Avenue, MS/ST 104
Fresno, CA 93740-8029
Phone: 559-278-4800

Fax: 559-278-7265
Website: www.csufresno.edu
E-mail: ytakahashi@csufresno.edu

The Department of Criminology at California State University, Fresno, has been a leader in providing academic-based programs for students, victim service practitioners, and allied professionals since 1984. The first academic program consisted of the Victim Services Certificate, followed by the B.S. in Victimology in 1992. Today, the victimology program has 200 majors and continues to provide professional development programs throughout the United States. Courses are offered in a traditional classroom setting and in fully online formats.

Clery Center for Security On Campus

110 Gallagher Road
Wayne, PA 19087
Phone: 484-580-8754

Fax: 484-580-8759
Website: www.clerycenter.org
E-mail: info@clerycenter.org

To work with college and university communities to create safer campuses.

Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance

1325 South Colorado Boulevard, Suite 508B
Denver, CO 80222
Phone: 303-861-1160

Fax: 303-861-1265
Website: www.coloradocrimevictims.org
E-mail: nansutton@aol.com

The Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance (COVA) is a nonprofit, statewide membership organization with over 800 members and a mission to promote fairness and healing for crime victims, their families, and communities through leadership, education, and advocacy, while utilizing inclusivity and compassion to create solutions and positive change for crime victims. COVA's Annual Conference is its largest educational event. The two-and-a-half day conference generally draws 1,000 advocates, crime victims, district attorneys, law enforcement, and court services personnel who attend 72 educational sessions, three keynote addresses, and a variety of other events. The conference also includes five all-day, pre-conference, skill-building sessions on relevant topics. COVA produces the Victims Assistance Academy, which annually provides intensive victim service education to 35 victim service professionals. Additionally, COVA partners with community leaders and organizers to promote and produce public awareness events on specific topics, such as human trafficking and Colorado's event regarding the National Day of Remembrance for Homicide Victims.

Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. (COPS)

P.O. Box 3199 – 846 Old South 5
Camdenton, MO 65020
Phone: 573-346-4911

Fax: 573-346-1414
Website: www.nationalcops.org
E-mail: cops@nationalcops.org

Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc., (COPS) provides resources to assist in the rebuilding of the lives of surviving families and co-workers of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. COPS also provides training to law enforcement agencies on survivor victimization issues and educates the public about the need to support the law enforcement profession and the survivors of fallen officers.

Crime Victim Study Center

Department of Criminal Justice
University of New Haven
300 Boston Post Road
West Haven, CT 06516

Phone: 203-479-4591
Fax: 203-931-6071
Website: www.newhaven.edu
E-mail: tamborra@newhaven.edu

The University of New Haven's Department of Criminal Justice is actively involved in supporting victims of crime. The department mentors and educates students in the areas of victimology and victims' rights and services. The department has a Victim Services Administration concentration and is home to the Center for Victim Studies. In addition, the university-wide Victimology Club—which sponsors numerous victims' rights awareness events—is mentored by advisees from the Department of Criminal Justice.

Justice Solutions

720 7th Street, NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202-448-1710

Fax: 202-448-1723
Website: www.justicesolutions.org
E-mail: info@justicesolutions.org

Justice Solutions is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing rights, resources, and respect for victims and communities hurt by crime; enhancing governmental and societal responses to crime and its consequences on individuals and communities; and strengthening crime prevention initiatives in America. This mission is accomplished through the provision of education, training, and technical assistance; promoting research-to-practice as the foundation for public and justice-related policy development and community safety and victim assistance programs; promoting sound public policy that enhances victims' rights and services, offender accountability, and community protection; and collaborating with others who share the organization's vision and goals.

Legal Momentum

5 Hanover Square, Suite 1502
New York, NY 10004
Phone: 212-925-6635

Website: www.legalmomentum.org
E-mail: lschafran@legalmomentum.org

Legal Momentum is the nation's oldest legal defense and education fund dedicated to advancing the rights of all women and girls. Legal Momentum led the effort to pass the Violence Against Women Act and currently chairs the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women. Through impact litigation, Legal Momentum has expanded the rights of domestic violence and sexual assault victims who face discrimination in employment and housing. In addition, by educating professionals who work with sexual assault victims—especially judges, attorneys, and other justice system professionals—Legal Momentum combats gender bias in the judicial system.

Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center

1001 Prince George's Boulevard, Suite 750
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774
Phone: 301-952-0063

TTY: 877-VICTIM-1 (877-842-8461)
Website: www.mdcrimevictims.org
E-mail: mcvrc@mdcrimevictims.org

The Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc., provides free, comprehensive (legal, victim, and social work) services to crime victims throughout the state of Maryland that include information and referrals, education about victims' rights, court accompaniment, direct legal representation in criminal court, limited legal services regarding identity theft and fraud, referral to pro bono lawyers for collateral matters upon financial qualification, individual and family counseling, peer grief support groups, and court preparation. Also, the Center advocates for crime victims' rights and laws.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving

511 E. John Carpenter Freeway, Suite 700
Irving, TX 75062
Phone: 877-MADD-HELP (877-623-3435)

Fax: 972-869-2206
Website: www.madd.org
E-mail: victims@madd.org

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) is an organization of victims/survivors and non-victims determined to make a difference in the lives of those victimized by substance-impaired driving crashes. MADD recognizes its fundamental responsibility as giving a voice to victims/survivors who have been affected by a substance-impaired driving crash. MADD's mission is to stop drunk driving, to support victims of this violent crime, and to prevent underage drinking. MADD offers victim services free of charge to victims/survivors, and provides emotional support, advocacy, information, and referrals.

National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards

PO Box 16003
Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703-780-3200

Fax: 703-780-3261
Website: www.nacvcb.org
E-mail: dan.eddy@nacvcb.org

The mission of the National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards is to provide leadership, professional development, and collaborative opportunities to our members to strengthen their capacity to improve services to crime victims and survivors. We share a vision of working together so that every victim compensation program is fully funded, optimally staffed, and functioning effectively to help victims cope with the costs of crime. We provide information to victims, advocates, and other individuals and groups about how to access victim compensation.

National Association of Victim Assistance in Corrections

(formerly the National Association of Victim Service Professionals in Corrections/NAVSPIC)

c/o Camie Borsdorf
Victim Services Liaison Supervisor
Kansas Department of Corrections
212 S. Market
Wichita, KS 67202

Phone: 651-361-7249
Website: www.navspic.org
E-mail: karin.ho@dys.ohio.gov

The National Association of Victim Service Professionals in Corrections is a national networking organization for anyone providing post-conviction services to crime victims. These services include—but are not limited to—victim notification, safety planning, and victim-offender dialogue.

National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators

5702 Old Sauk Road
Madison, WI 53705
Phone: 608-233-2245
Fax: 815-301-8721

Website: www.navaa.org
E-mail: navaa@navaa.org
cap@navaa.org

The National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators (NAVAA) represents the 56 state agencies designated to administer Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) victim assistance formula grants and advocates for improvement in the treatment of victims of all types of crimes. Under a cooperative agreement with OVC, NAVAA also administers the National Crime Victims' Rights Week Community Awareness Projects (<http://cap.navaa.org>).

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

699 Prince Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703-224-2150

Fax: 703-224-2122
Website: www.missingkids.org

Headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, NCMEC is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that helps find missing children, reduce child sexual exploitation, and prevent future victimization. NCMEC serves as the national clearinghouse for families, victims, private industry, law enforcement, and the public on information and programs relating to missing and exploited children issues. During the last 31 years, NCMEC's national toll-free hotline, 1-800-THE-LOST® (1-800-843-5678), has received more than 4 million calls. NCMEC has circulated billions of photos of missing children, assisted law enforcement in the recovery of more than 211,000 missing children, and facilitated training for more than 314,000 law enforcement, criminal/juvenile justice and healthcare professionals. NCMEC's Team HOPE volunteers have provided resources and emotional support to more than 53,000 families of missing and exploited children. NCMEC also operates the CyberTipline, the national mechanism for the public and internet industry to report child pornography, child sex trafficking, and other forms of child sexual exploitation. NCMEC also assists law enforcement in their efforts to identify and rescue child victims in sexually-abusive images, reviewing more than 147 million apparent child pornography images and videos.

National Center on Elder Abuse Administration on Aging

University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine Phone: 855-500-3537
 Department of Family Medicine and Geriatrics Fax: 626-457-4090
 1000 S. Fremont Avenue, Unit 22 Bld. A-6 Website: www.ncea.aoa.gov
 Alhambra, CA 91803 E-mail: ncea@med.usc.edu

The National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA), directed by the U.S. Administration on Aging, is dedicated to increasing identification and reporting of elder abuse. Our goal is to improve the national response to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and to disseminate useful, state-of-the-art information.

National Children’s Alliance

516 C Street, NE Fax: 202-548-0099
 Washington, DC 20002 Website: www.nationalchildrensalliance.org
 Phone: 202-548-0090 E-mail: kday@nca-online.org

National Children’s Alliance (NCA), dedicated to empowering local communities to serve child victims of abuse, is the national association and accrediting body for nearly 800 Children’s Advocacy Centers nationwide. Children’s Advocacy Centers are child-focused, facility-based programs in which representatives from many disciplines, including law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, mental health, medical and victim advocacy, and child advocacy work together to investigate abuse, help children heal from abuse, and hold offenders accountable. NCA provides support, technical assistance, public policy advocacy, quality assurance, and national leadership to local children’s and child advocacy centers and communities responding to reports of child abuse and neglect.

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

One Broadway, Suite 210-B Fax: 303-831-9251
 Denver, CO 80203 Website: www.ncadv.org
 Phone: 303-839-1852 E-mail: mainoffice@ncadv.org
 TTY/TDD: 303-839-1681

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) serves as a national information and referral center on domestic violence for victims and survivors, general public, the media, and other organizations. NCADV is a membership organization that provides resources and tools to members. NCADV also holds conferences and other events to educate, raise awareness, and provide support to those who work in the field of domestic violence. In addition, NCADV works to affect public policy and legislation that impacts victims, families, and communities. NCADV’s mission is to be the voice of victims and ensure abusers are held accountable. NCADV’s main office is located in Denver, Colorado, and its public policy office is located in Washington, DC.

National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs

116 Nassau Street, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10038
Phone: 212-714-1184
212-714-1141 (24-hour hotline)

Fax: 212-714-2627
Website: www.avp.org/about-avp/national-coalition-of-anti-violence-programs
E-mail: cjindasurat@avp.org

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) works to prevent, respond to, and end all forms of violence against and within lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and HIV-affected (LGBTQH) communities. NCAVP is a national coalition of local member programs, affiliate organizations, and individuals who create systemic and social change. We strive to increase power, safety, and resources through data analysis, policy advocacy, education, and technical assistance.

National Crime Prevention Council

1201 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202-466-6272

Fax: 202-296-1356
Website: www.ncpc.org
E-mail: ncpc@ncpc.org

The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) is a private, nonprofit, tax-exempt organization whose primary mission is to be the nation's leader in helping people keep themselves, their families, and their communities safe from crime. NCPC's strategic plan is centered on four goals for the next five years: (1) promote crime prevention; (2) partner with government, law enforcement, the private sector, and communities to prevent crime; (3) protect children, youth, and other vulnerable populations; and (4) anticipate and respond to emerging crime trends.

National Crime Victim Law Institute

310 SW Fourth Avenue, Suite 540
Portland, OR 97204
Phone: 503-768-6819

Fax: 866-301-8794
Website: www.ncvli.org
E-mail: ncvli@lclark.edu

The National Crime Victim Law Institute (NCVLI) actively promotes balance and fairness in the justice system through crime victim-centered legal advocacy, education, and resource-sharing. The only national organization dedicated to advancing victims' rights through legal assertion and enforcement in criminal courts, NCVLI is a nationally recognized repository of victims' rights law and analysis, and provider of substantive technical assistance to attorneys, victim advocates, courts, and others. NCVLI trains lawyers, victim advocates, and other criminal justice system professionals regarding enforcement of victims' rights, and also participates in amicus curiae (friend of the court) briefs in cases nationwide.

National Criminal Justice Association

720 Seventh Street, NW, 3rd Floor
Washington DC, 20001
Phone: 202-628-8550

Fax: 202-448-1723
Website: www.ncja.org
E-mail: info@ncja.org

The National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) represents state, tribal, and local governments on crime prevention and crime control issues. Its members represent all facets of the criminal and juvenile justice community, from law enforcement, corrections, prosecution, defense courts, victim-witness services, and educational institutions to federal, state, and local elected officials. As the representative of state, tribal, and local criminal and juvenile justice practitioners, the NCJA works to promote a balanced approach to communities' complex public safety and criminal and juvenile justice system problems.

National District Attorneys Association

99 Canal, Suite 330
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703-549-9222

Fax: 703-836-3195
Website: www.ndaa.org
E-mail: ncpca@ndaa.org

The National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse and the National Center for the Prosecution of Violence Against Women—programs of the National District Attorneys Association—serve prosecutors and allied professionals who address crimes of child abuse, child exploitation, human trafficking, domestic and sexual violence, stalking, and dating violence. The two centers provide training and support, including trial support, to those working to serve the survivors of these crimes and to bring offenders to justice. They also provide on-site training specifically tailored to the needs of allied organizations or groups.

National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, Inc.

PO Box 99
515 Lame Deer Avenue
Lame Deer, MT 59043

Phone: 406-477-3896
Fax: 406-477-3898
Website: www.niwrc.org

The National Indigenous Women's Resource Center is dedicated to strengthening the grassroots movement to end violence against Native women and restoring tribal sovereignty to increase the safety of Native women.

National Network to End Domestic Violence

1400 16th Street, NW, Suite 330
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202-543-5566

Fax: 202-543-5626
Website: www.nnedv.org
E-mail: nnedv@nnedv.org

The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) is the leading voice for domestic violence victims and their advocates. As a membership and advocacy organization of state domestic violence coalitions, allied organizations, and supportive individuals, NNEDV works closely with its members to understand the ongoing and emerging needs of domestic violence victims and advocacy programs. Then, NNEDV makes sure those needs are heard and understood by policymakers at the national level. NNEDV offers a range of programs and initiatives to address the complex causes and far-reaching consequences of domestic violence. Through cross-sector collaborations and corporate partnerships, NNEDV offers support to victims of domestic violence who are escaping abusive relationships—and empowers survivors to build new lives.

National Organization for Victim Assistance

510 King Street, Suite 424
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703-535-6682

Fax: 703-535-5500
Website: www.trynova.org
E-mail: Use contact page on the website

Founded in 1975, the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) is a 501(c)(3) membership organization of victim/witness assistance programs and practitioners, crisis responders, criminal justice agencies and professionals, mental health professionals, researchers, former victims and survivors, and others committed to the recognition and implementation of victim rights and services. NOVA's mission is to promote rights and services for victims of crime and crisis. NOVA is the oldest national group of its kind in the victims' rights movement.

National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.

4960 Ridge Avenue, Suite 2
Cincinnati, OH 45209
Satellite Office
PO Box 625
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Phone: 888-818-POMC (888-818-7662)
480-946-3422 (satellite office)
Fax: 513-345-4489
Website: www.pomc.org
E-mail: natlpomc@pomc.org

The National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc., (POMC) is the only national self-help organization dedicated solely to the aftermath and prevention of murder. POMC makes a difference through ongoing emotional support, education, prevention, advocacy, and awareness. POMC provides emotional support, information, and advocacy for any survivor of homicide, assists in keeping murderers in prison, assists in unsolved cases, and conducts prevention and awareness programs.

National Sexual Violence Resource Center

123 N. Enola Drive
Enola, PA 17025
Phone: 717-909-0710
TTY/TTD: 717-909-0715

Fax: 717-909-0714
Website: www.nsvrc.org
E-mail: resources@nsvrc.org

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center's (NSVRC) mission is to provide leadership in preventing and responding to sexual violence through collaboration, sharing and creating resources, and promoting research.

National Sheriffs' Association

1450 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703-838-5317

Fax: 703-683-6541
Website: www.sheriffs.org
E-mail: twoods@sheriffs.org

The National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) is a nonprofit organization with approximately 20,000 members that represents the more than 3,000 Sheriffs' Offices across the United States as well as the interests of all law enforcement and public safety professionals. Founded in 1940, NSA has been providing law enforcement training and technical assistance for 75 years in fulfillment of its mission to support and enhance the professionalism of those whose job it is to serve and protect.

Police Executive Research Forum

1120 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 930
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202-454-8320

Fax: 202-466-7826
Website: www.policeforum.org
E-mail: sschnitzer@policeforum.org

Founded in 1976 as a nonprofit organization, the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) is a police research organization and a provider of management services, technical assistance, and executive-level education to support law enforcement agencies. PERF helps to improve the delivery of police services through the exercise of strong national leadership, public debate of police and criminal justice issues, and research and policy development.

Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network

National Sexual Assault Hotline
1220 L Street, NW, Suite 505
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202-544-1034

Fax: 202-544-3556
Website: www.rainn.org
E-mail: jenw@rainn.org

The Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network is the nation's largest anti-sexual assault organization. RAINN operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE and the National Sexual Assault Online Hotline at www.rainn.org, and publicizes the hotline's free, confidential services; educates the public about sexual assault; and leads national efforts to prevent sexual assault and improve services to victims.

Southwest Center for Law and Policy

475 S. Stone Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85701
Phone: 520-623-8192

Fax: 520-623-8246
Website: www.swclap.org
E-mail: info@swclap.org

The Southwest Center for Law and Policy (SWCLAP) is a legal training and technical assistance provider for the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, on issues related to domestic and sexual violence, stalking, abuse of persons with disabilities, elder abuse, protection orders, and federal firearms violations in Indian Country. SWCLAP is the parent organization of the National Tribal Trial College (providing free litigation skills training for Indian Country prosecutors, law enforcement, courts, and advocates), SAFESTAR (Sexual Assault Forensic Examinations, Services, Training, Access, and Resources), and the National Indian Country Clearinghouse on Sexual Assault (NICCSA). SWCLAP delivers customized training and technical assistance on-site to American Indian/Alaska Native communities at low or no cost.

Tribal Law and Policy Institute

161 E. Marie Avenue
West St. Paul, MN 55118
Phone: 651-644-1145

Fax: 651-644-1157
Website: www.tlpi.org
E-mail: bonnie@tlpi.org

The Tribal Law and Policy Institute is a Native American-owned and -operated nonprofit corporation organized to design and deliver education, research, training, and technical assistance programs that promote the enhancement of justice in Indian Country and the health, well-being, and culture of Native peoples. Our mission is to enhance and strengthen tribal sovereignty and justice while honoring community values, protecting rights, and promoting well-being.

Unified Solutions Tribal Community Development Group, Inc.

1445 E. Guadalupe Road, Suite 105-A
Tempe, AZ 85283
Phone: 877-216-9914
Fax: 480-966-3599
Website: www.unified-solutions.org

Twitter: www.twitter.com/USTCDGI
Facebook: www.facebook.com/UnifiedSolutions
E-mail: training@unified-solutions.org
contact@unified-solutions.org

Unified Solutions is dedicated to providing training, technical assistance, and human services. In doing so, we advance justice, advocate for victims of crime, and ensure strategies that address challenges experienced by culturally diverse individuals, communities, and organizations. *

Office for Victims of Crime **Gallery**

The Office for Victims of Crime's **ONLINE GALLERY**, a collection of public awareness posters, promotional materials, and images from National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW), is available at www.ovc.gov/gallery.

Packed with materials from previous years' NCVRW Resource Guides and OVC events, the site offers **free materials** for you to download and use in your outreach efforts throughout the year.

Highlights include:

- * **Posters** from the 2003 – 2015 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guides
- * **Photos** of NCVRW and other special events
- * NCVRW **theme videos** from 2005 – 2015
- * **Photos** and **bios** of award recipients
- * Promotional **web banners**

And more!

Stop blaming. Start **believing**.



runaway youth
people who are homeless
deaf or hard of hearing
people with mental illness
immigrants
people with disabilities
religious minorities
young men and women of color
older adults
lesbian gay bisexual transgender people
ethnic minorities . . .

Victims of crime from underserved populations are less likely to report violence and abuse or to seek help in the aftermath of a crime.

Listen. Learn. Support.

If you or someone you know is a victim, find help in your area by visiting <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/FindVictimServices>.

Deja de culpar. Empieza a **creer**.



El sesenta por ciento de niños son expuestos a violencia en sus hogares, escuelas y comunidades, afectando dramáticamente su bienestar ahora y mientras crecen.

Todos los niños tienen el potencial de ser felices y saludables.
Créelos. Apóyalos. La responsabilidad es de todos nosotros.
Encuentra la tuya visitando www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS
OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME
www.VictimsofCrime.org

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runaway youth
people who are homeless
deaf or hard of hearing
people with mental illness
immigrants
people with disabilities
religious minorities
young men and women of color
older adults
lesbian gay bisexual transgender people
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS
OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME
www.VictimsofCrime.org

Explore today! For more visit www.ovc.gov/gallery