

# 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 may hold public signings of these proclamations and invite sponsoring agencies and the local media to attend.

Increase the likelihood that officials will issue a proclamation by providing them with a sample; they will appreciate having an example to guide their own proclamations and public statements. Contact your officials well in advance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week to invite them to speak at your ceremony or to issue an NCVRW proclamation.

## National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 8-14, 2018

Whereas, Americans are the victims of 20 million crimes each year, affecting individuals and communities;<sup>1</sup>  
Whereas, years of investment in crime victims' rights and services have developed a system of victim response that can help victims recover from crime;  
Whereas, reaching and serving all victims of crime is essential to supporting thriving communities, because those who receive holistic services and support are more likely to remain invested in their communities;  
Whereas, dedicated victim service providers are working every day to meet the needs of crime victims, yet there are still too many victims without meaningful access to rights and services;  
Whereas, many victims face barriers—such as isolation, distrust of authorities, language limitations, lack of transportation, or cultural barriers—that keep them from accessing the services and criminal justice systems that can help them recover from crime;  
Whereas, we must make a dedicated effort to expand the circle of those prepared to respond to victims and link them to the resources that can help them recover;  
Whereas, engaging a broader array of healthcare providers, community leaders, faith organizations, educators, and businesses can provide new links between victims and services that improve their safety, healing, and access to justice;  
Whereas, National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to recommit to ensuring that all victims of crime—especially those who are challenging to reach or serve—are afforded their rights and receive a trauma-informed response; and  
Whereas, *[Your organization]* is hereby dedicated to strengthening victims and survivors in the aftermath of crime, building resilience in our communities and our victim responders, and working for justice for all victims and survivors.

Now, therefore, I, as *[Governor/County Executive/Mayor, Other Title]* of \_\_\_\_\_,  
do hereby proclaim the week of April 8-14, 2018, 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]*

1 NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool, 2015, (Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice), [www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=nvat](http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=nvat)

