



## U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

*Office for Victims of Crime*

---

*Washington, D.C. 20531*

Dear Colleague,

I am pleased to present the *2018 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide*, developed by the Office for Victims of Crime of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, in partnership with the National Center for Victims of Crime. The materials in this year's Resource Guide are designed to support your efforts to raise awareness and build new partnerships in order to reach all victims during National Crime Victims' Rights Week (April 8–14, 2018) and throughout the year. Visit the NCVRW website, [www.ovc.gov/ncvrw](http://www.ovc.gov/ncvrw), for more information on this year's event and related materials.

Each April, we take time to celebrate our movement's many achievements and reflect on the work still ahead of us. As we all know, collaboration is critical to our efforts. Often, professionals in the crime victims' field excel at providing victims with specialized services, but continue to face challenges connecting them to or delivering seamless, holistic services that address all of their needs. This year's theme – ***Expand the Circle: Reach All Victims*** – reflects a vision to build partnerships between criminal justice and victim service professionals, businesses, researchers, healthcare providers, educators, policymakers, houses of worship, and a host of other social and civic groups. When we do this, we expand the opportunity for victims to disclose their victimization, get connected to services, and receive the support they need.

In recognition of National Crime Victims' Rights Week and all that we have yet to achieve, we invite you to join us in renewing your commitment to removing barriers faced by victims and to providing accessible, trauma-informed services to all who walk through your door.

On behalf of the Office for Victims of Crime, thank you for all your efforts and your unwavering commitment to victims of crime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darlene Hutchinson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Darlene Hutchinson  
Director  
Office for Victims of Crime