

SAMPLE PROCLAMATION

National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) ceremonies often include proclamations from public officials—governors, mayors, or county council presidents—to inspire the community, raise awareness of victims' rights, and address unmet needs. Officials may hold public signings of these proclamations and invite sponsoring agencies and the local media to attend. Increase the likelihood that officials will issue a proclamation by providing them with a sample; they will appreciate having an example to guide their own proclamations and public statements. Contact your officials well in advance of NCVRW to invite them to speak at your ceremony or to issue an NCVRW proclamation.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 19–25, 2020

- Whereas the victims' rights movement has resulted in the passage of laws at the local, state, and federal levels that established essential rights for victims;
- Whereas crime victims' rights acts passed here in *[state name]* and at the federal level have provided victims with ways to participate meaningfully throughout the criminal justice process;
- Whereas the rights of crime victims are best protected when all participants in the criminal justice process—not only victims—are appropriately educated about victims' rights;
- Whereas supporting victims of crime is crucial to the U.S. justice system because our support honors the experiences of victims and allows them to find autonomy and empowerment through achieving self-defined goals;
- Whereas we must help victims access the justice, assistance, and support they need to rebuild their lives;
- Whereas advocacy by and for victims of crime is itself a form of seeking justice, no less than justice sought in the courts;
- Whereas the accomplishments of the victims' rights movement—achieved through compassion and collaboration, and built on the courageous advocacy of individual victims and their families across the country—inspire in us hope for future progress and greater healing;
- Whereas we are determined to respond to crime and violence by helping victims find not only support, recovery, and justice, but also a sense of hope for their future;
- Whereas National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to recommit to ensuring that accessible, appropriate, and trauma-informed services are offered to all victims of crime; 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 service providers, and bringing hope and healing to all victims and survivors;

Now, therefore, I, as *[Governor/County Executive/Mayor, Other Title]* of _____
[City/County/Parish/Tribe/State], do hereby proclaim the week of April 19–25, 2020, as

Crime Victims' Rights Week

reaffirming this *[City/County/Parish/Tribe/State's]* commitment to creating a victim service and criminal justice response that assists all victims of crime during Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year; and expressing our sincere gratitude and appreciation for those community members, victim service providers, and criminal justice professionals who are committed to improving our response to all victims of crime so that they may find relevant assistance, support, justice, and peace.

_____ *[Signature]* _____ *[Date]*



Seek Justice | Ensure Victims' Rights | Inspire Hope