

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 24–30, 2022

- Whereas the term “victim” is more than just a label and has legal standing and protections that go along with it;
- Whereas crime victims' rights acts passed here in *[state name]* and at the federal level guarantee victims the right to meaningfully participate in the criminal justice process;
- Whereas victim service providers, advocates, law enforcement officers, attorneys, and other allied professionals can help survivors find their justice by enforcing these rights;
- Whereas victim service providers and allied professionals can reach more victims through innovative, trauma-informed programs, such as telehealth services and multidisciplinary teams;
- Whereas victim service providers and allied professionals can increase access to victim services and compensation in areas that have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by inequality by implementing culturally responsive services;
- Whereas equity and inclusion are fundamental prerequisites to survivor care, and survivor-led services that provide victims with opportunities to share their experiences are essential blueprints for support;
- 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 helping crime survivors find their justice by enforcing victims' rights, expanding access to services, and ensuring equity and inclusion for all.

Now, therefore, I, as *[Governor/County Executive/Mayor, Other Title]* of _____
[City/County/Parish/Tribe/State], do hereby proclaim the week of April 24–30, 2022, 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]*

RIGHTS, ACCESS, EQUITY, FOR ALL VICTIMS



RIGHTS, ACCESS, EQUITY, for all victims
Help crime survivors find their justice.