

# Letter to the Editor

Letters to the editor are often among the most-read sections of newspapers and news websites, making them a powerful way to raise awareness about NCVRW. A well-crafted letter can connect NCVRW or one of your organization's programs to a timely local, state, or national issue, helping readers understand why crime victims' rights and needs matter. Strengthen your message by citing a recent study, sharing key statistics, or highlighting the need for more research on crimes that often go unreported.

Consider collaborating with local law enforcement or other organizations or encourage them to write their own letters to shed light on crime victims' needs and how the community can help. Letters backed by multiple groups tend to draw more attention. When submitting your letter, be sure to include your contact information so the newspaper can reach you if it decides to publish it.

If your letter doesn't get published, don't let it remain unused. Share it in a local organization's newsletter, post it on your website, or spread the word on social media. You can also tweak it for different platforms from the start to make sure it reaches as many people as possible.

## Five Elements of an Attention-Grabbing Letter

- 1.** Respond to an article or commentary recently published. Begin your letter by citing this article.
- 2.** Keep it brief—no more than 200-400 words (if you're submitting to a news outlet, be sure to check their word-limit parameters).
- 3.** Include a call to action.
- 4.** Use verified facts and reference the original sources.
- 5.** Include information about where readers can learn more about the topic.

## Sample Letter to the Editor (171 words)

When someone is harmed by a crime, the impact can be immediate and long-lasting. Knowing where to turn for support can make a big difference in a survivor’s healing journey.

This year’s National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, observed April 6-12, focuses on the theme “Connecting <KINSHIP> Healing.” At its heart, kinship is about relationships — the connections that help survivors navigate their paths forward. Whether through advocacy, legal assistance, counseling, peer support, or health services, support begins with a simple yet powerful act: reaching out.

Local organizations play a critical role in making that first step easier. Through immediate crisis support or long-term assistance, local victim service providers offer survivors the help they need to move forward. When advocates, law enforcement, and community members come together, they create a stronger safety net — one that ensures no survivor has to face the aftermath of crime alone.

If you or someone you know needs support, help is available. Contact [agency name and contact information] to find local resources.

This National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, stand in kinship with survivors, create pathways to healing, and make sure no one is left to find help alone.

[Author’s name, title, and organization website, if allowed]