

Survivor Voices

A graphic featuring silhouettes of four people's heads in profile, facing each other. Overlaid on the silhouettes are colorful sound waves in red, purple, and green. The text is centered over this graphic.

NATIONAL CRIME
VICTIMS'
RIGHTS WEEK
(April 23-29, 2023)

Elevate. Engage.
Effect Change.



United States Attorney's Office
Southern District of West Virginia



MESSAGE FROM THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY



William S. Thompson
United States Attorney, SDWV

Every year, millions of lives are changed forever by crime. Many suffer life-altering mental or physical injuries requiring ongoing care and support. These people are our family, neighbors, friends, and colleagues.

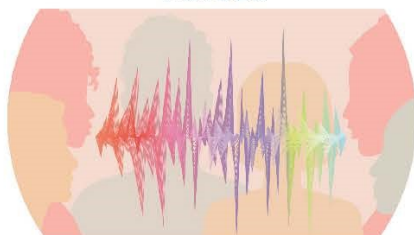
While prosecuting criminals, holding offenders accountable and seeking justice for victims is essential to maintaining a civilized society, it has only been within the past 40 years that crime victims have been given: rights to be notified of court proceedings and speak at sentencing, access to crime victim compensation, and access to services to help rebuild their lives. Through decades of advocacy and hard work, we have come a long way.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 23-29, 2023, provides an opportunity to not only reflect on great strides in victims' rights, but also remind us that many challenges remain. During this week, I encourage you to raise awareness in your community of the impact of crime on victims, highlight the importance of victims' rights, and celebrate and honor survivors and those who serve them. This toolkit provides useful information and ideas to promote awareness in your agencies, organizations and communities.

Whether you are managing shelters, operating crisis centers, serving victims in homes or hospitals, or helping victims navigate the criminal justice system, — thank you for your service and commitment. Thank you for helping victims find their voice and strength, and move from victim to survivor.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Will S. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Survivor Voices



Elevate. Engage.
Effect Change.

Operation Reach Out is sponsored
by the U.S. Attorney's Office,
SDWV, in partnership with the
Operation Reach Out Committee

Special thanks to:

Branches Domestic Violence Program
Charleston Police Department
Counseling Connection
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Kanawha County Prosecutor's Office
Kanawha County Sheriff's Office
Mothers Against Drunk Driving
Putnam County Prosecutor's Office
Putnam County Sheriff's Office
REACH (Rape, Education, Counseling & Healing)
West Virginia Center for Children's Justice
West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence
WV Crime Victims Compensation Fund
West Virginia Division of Administrative Services— Justice & Community Services

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

You are cordially invited to the 2023 Annual
Victim Assistance Awards Ceremony

WHAT: Ceremony

WHEN: Tuesday, May 9, 2023
10:00 a.m.

WHERE: West Virginia Capitol Complex, steps at
Kanawha Boulevard
(Upper Rotunda, Senate-side, if rain or
inclement weather)

Awards Recipients:

- * Branches Domestic Violence Program
- * Sharon Hemmann, Federal Bureau of Investigation
- * Detective Wayne Long, Raleigh County Sheriff's Office
- * Special Agent Brian Morris, U.S. Homeland Security Investigations
- * West Virginia Foundation for Rape, Information & Services

RAISE AWARENESS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

- * Recognize survivors, advocates, prosecutors, law enforcement and court personnel for their distinguished efforts to support crime victims.**
- * Coordinate with your local newspaper or other media outlets to help survivors share their stories and to share information about state and local victim advocacy programs and services.**
- * Host a candlelight vigil.**
- * Sponsor an event to provide crime victim information on resources, services and support to your community.**
- * Collaborate with the faith community to educate members about resources, services and ways to support crime victims.**
- * Host a flag raising ceremony.**
- * Plan a Walk/Run in your community park or at a local school.**
- * Host a workshop or “lunch and learn” for your agency or community partners.**
- * Collaborate with local schools to sponsor a poster contest and art walk.**

ABOUT NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

Since 1981, National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) has challenged the Nation to confront and remove barriers to achieving justice for all victims of crime. During NCVRW, we celebrate the accomplishments of the victims' rights movement and reflect on how far we have come.

Every April, the United States Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime, leads communities throughout the country in their observance of NCVRW.

The 2023 theme—***Survivor Voices: Elevate. Engage. Effect Change.***—calls upon communities to amplify the voices of survivors and commit to creating an environment where survivors have confidence that they will be heard, believed, and supported.

Use the 2023 NCVRW theme artwork and sample proclamation to help your organization raise awareness about victims' rights and services.

**For additional information and resources regarding
National Crime Victims' Rights Week, click here:**

<https://ovc.ojp.gov/ncvrw2023/overview>

SOCIAL MEDIA

You may use social media platforms to promote your message and events. Social media graphics can be found at <https://ovc.ojp.gov/ncvrw2023/ncvrw-artwork/social-media-artwork>.

Suggested Captions:

There are no victimless crimes. This week, during National Crime Victims' Rights Week, @USAttorneys (your agency) remembers those who are the most impacted by crimes. Please reach out: <https://OVC.gov/Help>.

Join us throughout the week as we raise awareness about victims' rights and services. Learn how you and your community can get involved: <https://ovc.ojp.gov/ncvrw2023/overview> (add links to your community programs).

Support is available for victims of crime. Call 855-4-VICTIM to learn about victims' rights and options, confidentially and compassionately. <https://victimconnect.org>.

Suggested hashtags:

#NCVRW2023

#VictimsRights

#SurvivorsVoices

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** the term “victim” is more than just a label and has legal standing and protections that go along with it; and
- Whereas,** crime victims’ rights acts passed here in West Virginia and at the federal level guarantee victims the right to meaningfully participate and use their voice in the criminal justice process; and
- Whereas,** victim service providers, advocates, law enforcement officers, attorneys, and other allied professionals can help survivors find their justice by enforcing these rights; and
- Whereas,** the right to provide an impact statement ensures that victims’ voices are considered in court during the sentencing and, when applicable, restitution processes; and
- Whereas,** including and elevating the voices of survivors makes certain they are heard and seen and creates a path to forging and sustaining community trust; and
- Whereas,** engaging survivors creates responses and services that are credible, meaningful, and centered on individual needs; and
- Whereas,** survivors’ lived experience can serve as a catalyst for implementing innovative programs, shifting existing programs in new directions, and changing policies or practices that prevent survivors from accessing services or pursuing justice; and
- Whereas,** *National Crime Victims’ Rights Week* provides an opportunity to recommit to listening to crime survivors in every space where decisions are made that could impact them; and
- Whereas,** the Great State of West Virginia is hereby dedicated to amplifying the voices of survivors and creating an environment where survivors have the confidence that they will be heard, believed, and supported.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *April 23-29, 2023* as:


Crime Victims’ Rights Week

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.


In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Thirtieth day of March, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three, and in the One Hundred Sixtieth year of the State.




Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:


Mac Warner
Secretary of State

CRIME VICTIM RESOURCES

Behavioral Health Services

West Virginia Department of Health & Human Resources

Bureau for Behavioral Health

<https://dhhr.wv.gov/bbh/Pages/default.aspx> ,
304.558.0627

Child Advocacy Centers/Child Forensic Interview

West Virginia Child Advocacy Network

<https://wvcan.org/>, 304.414.4455

Child Protective Services/Social Services

West Virginia Department and Health & Human Resources

Bureau for Children and Families

<https://dhhr.wv.gov/bcf/Pages/default.aspx> ,
800.352.6513

Domestic Violence Programs and Shelters

West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence

<https://wvcadv.org> , 304.965.3552

Faith Organizations

West Virginia Council of Churches

<https://wvcc.org/>, 304.344.3141

Rape Crisis Centers/SANE & SART Programs

West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information & Services

<https://www.fris.org>, 304.366.9500

West Virginia Fusion Center

<https://fusioncenter.wv.gov/Pages/default.aspx>,
304.558.3841

State Prosecutor's Offices

West Virginia Prosecuting Attorney's Institute,

<https://pai.wv.gov/Pages/default.aspx>,
304.558.3348

State Missing Persons/Child Clearinghouse

West Virginia State Police, 304.746.2158

Substance Abuse Treatment

<https://www.help4wv.com>, 844.435.7498

West Virginia Children's Justice Task Force

<http://handlewithcarewv.org>

<https://www.wv.gov/services/HelpMeWV>

<https://www.wvhelpers.org>

West Virginia Crime Victim Compensation

<https://www.wvlegislature.gov/joint/victims.cfm>,
304.347.4850

West Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force

<https://stophumantraffickingwv.org/>

(Online) <https://go.wv.gov/TipsHT>

(Email) wvfusion@wv.gov

(Call) 888-373-7888

(Text) "Be Free" or 233733