



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Office for Victims of Crime

Washington, D.C. 20531

Dear Colleague,

It is my pleasure to present the 2021 National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) Resource Guide, developed by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. This resource guide is designed to help you raise awareness and build partnerships in order to reach all victims during NCVRW (April 18–24, 2021) and throughout the year.

The last year has undoubtedly been challenging. Victims were often isolated from family, friends, and support systems, and victim service providers grappled with strained resources and formidable barriers to victim outreach and care. So I am particularly proud to once again celebrate the accomplishments of the victims' rights movement, and to honor the strength and resiliency of victims and service providers.

This year's theme—Support Victims. Build Trust. Engage Communities.—emphasizes the importance of leveraging community support to help victims of crime. Criminal justice and victim service professionals, businesses, healthcare providers, educators, policymakers, houses of worship, and a host of other social and civic groups can work together to ensure that survivors of crime receive the holistic services and support they need. This not only helps the individual heal, but it also improves community safety and wellbeing.

In recognition of NCVRW, we invite you to join us in renewing your commitment 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. You may visit the NCVRW website, www.ovc.ojp.gov/ncvrw, for more information on this year's event and related materials, including professional artwork, landmarks in victim services, and commemoration ideas.

On behalf of the Office for Victims of Crime, thank you for your efforts in serving all victims of crime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katherine Darke Schmitt".

Katherine Darke Schmitt
Acting Director
Office for Victims of Crime