

# 2026 Field-Generated National Crime Victims' Rights Week



[uniteforvictimsrights.org](http://uniteforvictimsrights.org)

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# How to Use the Guide



## Suggestions for Using the Contents of the Field-Generated NCVRW Resource Guide

This field-initiated National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) Resource Kit, created for the 2026 NCVRW commemoration, features six documents to support your victim/survivor outreach and public awareness activities during the week of April 19 – 25, 2026:

1. History of National Crime Victims' Rights Week
2. Sample Quotations About the CommUNITY Theme
3. Sample Proclamation
4. Sample Press Release
5. Sample Social Media Resources and Hashtags
6. National Toll-free Information & Referral Resources

### History of National Crime Victims' Rights Week

This brief historical overview of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, first proclaimed 45 years ago by President Ronald Reagan, demonstrates the nationwide community of crime victims/survivors and those who serve them in annually recognizing and honoring survivors.

### Sample Quotations About CommUNITY

Quotations about "community" and "unity" reflect the theme of 2026 NCVRW. They can be used in speeches and public presentations; in social media outreach and on agency/ organization websites; and as a component of email signatures leading up to and during NCVRW.

### Sample Proclamation

The sample proclamation is designed to be personalized to the state/tribe/county/city from which the proclamation is being sought, prior to being submitted for consideration. Official websites may have "proclamation guidelines" to follow. Your request for an official 2026 NCVRW proclamation should be submitted **at least 60 days** in advance of NCVRW (February 20, 2026); and in addition to the draft proclamation, should include your name, organization, contact information, the purpose of the proclamation, a brief history of NCVRW (see above), and the requested date. Once the proclamation is issued, work with the state/tribe/county/city officials or entity to promote it (e.g., a photograph of the presentation of the proclamation, social media promotion, and/or posting on agency/ organization websites).

# How to Use the Guide



## Suggestions for Using the Contents of the Field-Generated NCVRW Resource Guide

### Sample Press Release

The sample press release is also designed to be personalized with information and quotations specific to the submitting agency/organization, and the community's plans for observing 2026 NCVRW. Generally, the mornings of Tuesdays through Thursdays are the best time to email press releases to the news media, at least one week in advance of when you would like coverage. The press release can be sent to journalists with whom you have had previous contact or to reporters who cover the "crime beat" in your community (often, their email addresses or social media handles are included with their byline). You can include a personalized "subject line" on your email that highlights the content of your press release, for example:

"Crime Survivors and Advocates Unite to Observe  
2026 National Crime Victims' Rights Week"

"There is Unity in the CommUNITY of Crime Survivor Support and Services"

Resource: [How to Send a Press Release to Local Media and Newspapers](#)

PR Newswire

### Social Media

Leading up to and during 2026 NCVRW, these sample social media colors, logos and hashtags can be used to promote the week, and specific activities planned in the community.

#### Hashtags:

#UniteforVictimsRights #NCVRW2026 #CommUNITY #CommUNITYinMotion

### National Toll-free Information & Referral Resources

This matrix of national toll-free information and referral resources is helpful for crime victim/survivor outreach and awareness during 2026 NCVRW, and throughout the year.

# History of NCVRW



Forty-five years ago, on April 8, 1981, President Reagan proclaimed the first "Victims' Rights Week." His profound words from nearly four decades ago still resound today:

*"For too long, the victims of crime have been the forgotten persons of our criminal justice system. Rarely do we give victims the help they need or the attention they deserve. Yet the protection our citizens – to guard them from becoming victims – is the primary purpose of our penal laws. Thus, each new victim personally represents an instance in which our system has failed to prevent crime. Lack of concern of victims compounds that failure...We need a renewed emphasis on, and an enhanced sensitivity to, the rights of victims. These rights should be a central concern of those who participate in the criminal justice system, and it is time all of us paid great heed to the plight of victims."*

President Reagan's challenge for a "renewed emphasis" on victims' rights, issues and concerns was fully articulated in the work of his President's Task Force on Victims of Crime that he convened in 1982. Its Final Report, published in December 1982 with 68 recommendations for national action to improve the plight of victims, forged a path for victim assistance leaders and serves as an ongoing guide for justice professionals. Task Force Chairwoman Lois Haight explained, "The lessons of the victims run like a thread through and are the foundation of all the proposals that follow. Please take the time to learn, as we have, the depth and the human aspect of this grave social problem, then join in seeking and implementing the solutions."

The following year, the Office for Victims of Crime was created within the U.S. Department of Justice to implement recommendations from the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime. One of the most significant events in the history of the victim/survivor assistance profession was the passage of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) in 1984, which created the Crime Victims Fund, made up of federal criminal fines, penalties, and bond forfeitures, to support state victim compensation and local victim service programs. The Fund has provided support for National Crime Victims' Rights Week activities nationwide since 1990. The field of victim/survivor services continues its ongoing efforts to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Fund.

This time-honored annual NCVRW observance unites crime survivors, victim assistance and justice professionals, allied professionals, and communities across America each April to pay tribute to crime victims; listen to and learn from the immense power of their personal stories; and celebrate the many accomplishments that have strengthened laws and created policies, programs, and partnerships that identify and prioritize the needs of victims first.

The goal of NCVRW is to annually publicize and promote the needs, issues, and concerns of crime victims and survivors; the many services available to support them in the aftermath of crime; and the challenges that remain to promote individual and community safety across our Nation.

# Sample Quotations about CommUNITY



Quotations about “community” and “unity” reflect the theme of 2026 NCVRW. They can be used in speeches and public presentations; in social media outreach and on agency/ organization websites; and as a component of email signatures leading up to and during NCVRW.

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## COMMUNITY QUOTES

“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.” – Coretta Scott King

“We don’t accomplish anything in this world alone...and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one’s life, and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another that creates something.” – Justice Sandra Day O’Connor

“Alone, we can do so little. Together, we can do so much.” – Helen Keller

“If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” – African Proverb

“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.” – Margaret J. Wheatley

“You can do what I cannot do. I can do what you cannot do. Together, we can do great things.” – Mother Teresa

“A community is like a ship. Everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm.” – Henrik Ibsen

“In every community, there is work to be done. In every nation, there are wounds to heal. In every heart, there is the power to do it.” - Marianne Williamson

“The sense of community is the most essential element in building a better world.” – Unknown

“Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community.” – Anthony D’Angelo

“We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” – Martin Luther King, Jr.



# Sample Quotations about CommUNITY



## COMMUNITY QUOTES

"Our country has been blessed with people who understand that whether or not their community will be the decent place they want, depends on them."

– President Ronald Reagan

"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community... our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own." – Cesar Chavez

"I think tolerance and acceptance and love are something that feeds every community."

– Lady Gaga

"...When you come together with a mission, and it's grounded with love and a sense of community, you can make the impossible possible." – John Lewis

## UNITY QUOTES

"Unity to be real must stand the severest strain without breaking." – Mahatma Gandhi

"Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean." – Ryunosuke Satoro

"Unity is strength. When there are teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved." – Mattie Stepanek

"All for one and one for all. United we stand, divided we fall." – Alexandre Dumas

"There are beauty and power in unity. We must be united in heart and mind. One world, one people." – Lailah Gifty Akita

"I truly believe that when we stand together, we stand a chance." – Korie Robertson

"There is unity in diversity, there is diversity in unity." – Henry Tullidge

"Alone we are strong, but together we are stronger." – African Proverb

"The best way to predict the future is to create it together." – Joe Echevarria

# Sample Proclamation



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Whereas, crime in America has a devastating impact on victims and survivors, and tears at the social fabric of our society as a whole; and

Whereas, no victim or survivor should have to endure the trauma of victimization and its impact – physical, financial, emotional, spiritual and social – alone; and

Whereas, the commUNITY of crime victims and survivors, those who serve them, and countless allies work together to ensure that victims' needs are identified and met with quality, collaborative and comprehensive services; and

Whereas, there are more than 12,000 system- and community-based victim services programs across the Nation that help crime survivors and promote community safety, and over 32,000 laws that define and protect victims' rights; and

Whereas, 2026 is the 45th anniversary of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, first proclaimed by President Ronald Reagan in 1981; and

Whereas, this time-honored tradition unites all who care about crime, victimization and survivors to acknowledge and honor survivors, their challenges and their strengths; and

Whereas, during 2026 National Crime Victims' Rights Week – April 19 to 25 – we recommit our efforts to promote and strengthen the extensive commUNITY that supports and serves victims and survivors of crime; therefore, be it

Resolved, that (entity) proclaims the week of April 19 to 25, 2026 as Crime Victims' Rights Week in (city/county/state/tribe), with this proclamation amplifying our commitment to ensure that crime victims' rights and services are not only recognized annually, but provided daily.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# Sample Press Release



The sample press release is also designed to be personalized with information and quotations specific to the submitting agency/organization, and the community's plans for observing 2026 NCVRW. Generally, the mornings of Tuesdays through Thursdays are the best time to email press releases to the news media, at least one week in advance of when you would like coverage. The press release can be sent to journalists with whom you have had previous contact or to reporters who cover the "crime beat" in your community (often, their email addresses or social media handles are included with their byline). You can include a personalized "subject line" on your email that highlights the content of your press release, for example:

"Crime Survivors and Advocates Unite to Observe  
2026 National Crime Victims' Rights Week"

"There is Unity in the CommUNITY of Crime Survivor Support and Services"

Resource: [How to Send a Press Release to Local Media and Newspapers](#)  
PR Newswire

# Sample Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
Date

CONTACT: Name/Title  
A/C Telephone Number  
Email address

## **2026 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Promotes CommUNITY in Victim/Survivor Services**

(City/State)—The week of April 19 to 25, 2026 marks the 45th anniversary of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW), first proclaimed by President Ronald Reagan in 1981. NCVRW is a time-honored tradition that recognizes the plight of victims and survivors, and elevates their voices so that when they speak, America can listen and learn.

The 2026 NCVRW theme, CommUNITY, emphasizes the "unity in the community" of countless people who support crime survivors – from victim service organizations to criminal justice and mental/behavioral health professionals, to multi-Faith institutions and leaders, and to family members and friends of survivors, among others. No crime survivor should have to endure the burden of victimization alone; there is a strong community of caring and concerned people nationwide who want to help them.

Today, there are over 12,000 community- and system-based organizations and agencies that assist survivors of crime; and over 32,000 laws that define and protect victims' rights. Crime survivors lead efforts to ensure support and services for fellow survivors, and to be treated with the dignity and respect they deserve.

However, many challenges threaten this broad commUNITY nationwide. Ongoing cutbacks to federal funding for victim/survivor services have resulted in significant reductions to greatly needed survivor services. Volunteers are needed to staff hotlines and strengthen efforts to support survivors. And sadly, too often crime survivors are still blamed and shamed for the crime that was committed against them.

Here in (your community), there is strong unity in the commUNITY of crime survivor support (describe partnerships, multidisciplinary teams, collaborations, and survivor-led initiatives, etc.).

"(Quotation from spokesperson that addresses the 2026 NCVRW theme; and any specific needs of the community/organization/agency)," (spokesperson) said.

Local events to commemorate 2026 NCVRW include (list/provide URL link to events).

For more information about 2026 National Crime Victims' Rights Week and its commemorative activities here in (community), please contact (name/title/organization) at (email address).

# Social Media



Leading up to and during 2026 NCVRW, these sample resources and social media hashtags can be used to promote the week, and specific activities planned in the community.

Leading up to and during 2026 NCVRW, these sample social media hashtags can be used to promote the week, and specific activities planned in the community.

**Social Media Templates:** [Link to Social Media Templates](#)

## Hashtags:

#UniteforVictimsRights #NCVRW2026 #CommUNITY #CommUNITYinMotion

[Link to Logos](#)



[Link to Color Theme](#)

THE 2026 FIELD GENERATED  
NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK  
THEME COLOR GUIDE

DARK BLUE	STRONG ORANGE	LIGHT ORANGE	DARK AZURE
C: 100 M: 50 Y: 0 K: 60	C: 0 M: 23 Y: 88 K: 16	C: 0 M: 2 Y: 8 K: 5	C: 83 M: 10 Y: 0 K: 53
HEX #003366 R: 0 G: 51 B: 102	HEX #D6A419 R: 214 G: 164 B: 25	HEX #F3EDE0 R: 243 G: 237 B: 224	HEX #146C78 R: 20 G: 108 B: 120

# Referral Resources



This matrix of national toll-free information and referral resources is helpful for crime victim/survivor outreach and awareness during 2026 NCVRW, and throughout the year.

AGENCY	TOLL-FREE NUMBER AND TTY	HOURS OF OPERATION	WEBSITE
Caregiver Action Network Help Desk	855-227-3640	Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 7:00 pm EST	<a href="https://www.caregiveraction.org/helpdesk/">https://www.caregiveraction.org/helpdesk/</a>
Childhelp USA National Child Abuse Hotline	800-4-A-CHILD 800-422-4453	24/7/365	<a href="http://www.childhelp.org">www.childhelp.org</a>
The Compassionate Friends	877-969-0010	Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm CST	<a href="https://www.compassionatefriends.org/">https://www.compassionatefriends.org/</a>
Cyber Civil Rights Initiative Image Abuse Helpline	844-878-2274	24/7/365	<a href="https://trynova.org/resources/cyber-civil-rights-initiative-crisis-helpline/">https://trynova.org/resources/cyber-civil-rights-initiative-crisis-helpline/</a>
Courage First Athlete Hotline	888-279-1026	24/7/365	<a href="https://www.athletehelpline.org/">https://www.athletehelpline.org/</a>
Defined Monetary Assistance Victims Reserve, USDOJ	844-487-2282	Monday - Friday 8:30 am to 5:30 pm EST	<a href="https://www.justice.gov/dmavr">https://www.justice.gov/dmavr</a>
Disaster Distress Helpline/ HHS	800-985-5990	24/7/365	<a href="http://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline">www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline</a>
DoD Safe Helpline	877-995-5247	24/7/365	<a href="https://safehelpline.org/">https://safehelpline.org/</a>
Identity Theft Hotline, Federal Trade Commission	877-ID-THEFT 877-438-4338	24/7/365	<a href="http://www.identitytheft.gov">www.identitytheft.gov</a>

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AGENCY	TOLL-FREE NUMBER AND TTY	HOURS OF OPERATION	WEBSITE
International Terrorism Victim Expense Reimbursement Program (ITVERP) Resource Center	800-363-0441	8:30 am to 5 pm EST	<a href="https://www.ovc.gov/itverp/">https://www.ovc.gov/itverp/</a>
Mothers Against Drunk Driving	877-MADD-HELP 877-623-3435	24/7/365	<a href="http://www.madd.org">www.madd.org</a>
National Center for Missing and Exploited Children	800-843-5678	24/7/365	<a href="http://www.missingkids.com">www.missingkids.com</a>
National Center for Victims of Crime, VictimConnect	855-4VICTIM 855-484-2846	24/7/365	<a href="https://victimconnect.org/">https://victimconnect.org/</a>
National Crime Victim Bar Association (civil justice referrals)			<a href="https://victimbar.org/">https://victimbar.org/</a>
National Center for School Crisis & Bereavement	877-53-NCSCB 877-536-2722	Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm PST	<a href="https://www.schoolcrisiscenter.org/">https://www.schoolcrisiscenter.org/</a>
National Children's Alliance	800-239-9950	Monday – Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm EST	<a href="http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org">www.nationalchildrensalliance.org</a>
National Dating Abuse Helpline	866-331-9474 TTY 866-331-8453	24/7/365	<a href="http://www.loveisrespect.org">www.loveisrespect.org</a>

# Referral Resources



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AGENCY	TOLL-FREE NUMBER AND TTY	HOURS OF OPERATION	WEBSITE
National Domestic Violence Hotline	800-799-7233 TTY Hotline 800- 787-3224	24/7/365	<a href="http://www.thehotline.org/">http://www.thehotline.org/</a>
National Elder Fraud Hotline	833-372-8311	Monday - Friday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm EST	<a href="https://stopelderfraud.ovc.ojp.gov/">https://stopelderfraud.ovc.ojp.gov/</a>
National Human Trafficking Hotline	888-373-7888	24/7/365	<a href="http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org">www.traffickingresourcecenter.org</a>
National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.	888-818-POMC	Monday – Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm EST	<a href="http://www.pomc.com">www.pomc.com</a>
National Runaway Safeline	800-RUNAWAY 800-786-2929	24/7/365	<a href="http://www.1800runaway.org">www.1800runaway.org</a>
Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network	800-656-HOPE 800-656-4673	24/7/365	<a href="http://www.rainn.org">www.rainn.org</a>
State Elder Abuse Hotlines			<a href="https://www.preventfamilyviolence.org/adult-protective-services-numbers">https://www.preventfamilyviolence.org/adult-protective-services-numbers</a>
StrongHearts Native Helpline (domestic violence & dating violence support)	844-7NATIVE 844-762-8483	24/7/365	<a href="http://www.strongheartshelp line.org">www.strongheartshelp line.org</a>



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AGENCY	TOLL-FREE NUMBER AND TTY	HOURS OF OPERATION	WEBSITE
Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration/HHS	Treatment Referral Routing Service: 800-662-4357 Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800-273-8255 Veterans Crisis Line 800-273-8255	24/7/365	<a href="https://www.samhsa.gov/">https://www.samhsa.gov/</a> <a href="https://988lifeline.org/">https://988lifeline.org/</a> <a href="http://www.veteranscrisisline.net">www.veteranscrisisline.net</a>
Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (call, text and/or chat)	988	24/7/365	<a href="https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988">https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988</a>
The Trevor Project (crisis intervention/suicide prevention for LGBTQ youth)	Trevor Lifeline 866-488-7386	24/7/365	<a href="http://www.thetrevorproject.org">http://www.thetrevorproject.org</a>
The Trevor Project (crisis intervention/suicide prevention for LGBTQ youth)	Trevor Lifeline 866-488-7386	24/7/365	<a href="http://www.thetrevorproject.org">http://www.thetrevorproject.org</a>