

A Nation Unites for Victims' Rights

**National
“Fulfill the Promise”
Campaign**

**Seeking
“Promises” From the Field**

SUBMISSION ENTRY PACKAGE

**Held In Conjunction With The
National Candlelight Observance
of
2003 National Crime Victims' Rights Week**

***Thursday, April 10, 2003
6:30 p.m.***

**National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial
Washington, D.C.**

***Sponsored by the
Office for Victims of Crime
U.S. Department of Justice***

“A Nation Unites for Victims’ Rights” National Observance

This year marks the 23rd commemoration of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, a longstanding observance that honors those who bring honor to victims, and pays tribute to millions of people in America who have been hurt by crime.

For the first time in the history of the crime victims’ movement, a national observance sponsored by the Office for Victims of Crime, and co-sponsored by national victim assistance and allied professional organizations to commemorate National Crime Victims’ Rights Week (NCVRW) will be held in Washington, D.C. “A Nation Unites for Victims’ Rights” hopes to bring together crime victims and those who serve them at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial on April 10th to observe this year’s NCVRW theme – Victims’ Rights: Fulfill the Promise – in an environment that:

- Offers support and honor to people who have been victimized by crime.
- Provides a place to respectfully honor crime victims, including homicide family survivors whose deceased loved ones have not been found, for a communal tribute to their loved ones’ lives and loss.
- Celebrates the 20-year anniversary of the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime, which has provided a strong vision and leadership to promote victims’ rights and services for the past two decades.
- Recognizes the significant accomplishments of the past 31 years of our nation’s victims’ rights movement.
- Addresses the challenges we face to ensure that *all* victims of crime receive the support and services, and implementation of their rights, that they need and deserve.

This special event will include a national commemoration and candlelight ceremony that features:

- “Fulfilling the Promise to Crime Victims” remarks by John Gillis, Director, Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice
- Recognition of the 2003 OVC Crime Victim Services Award recipients.
- Public recognition and displays of “promises to crime victims” from across the nation.
- Lighting of candles to commemorate and honor crime victims in America.
- Musical performances.
- Information about the many resources available from the Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice.

Fulfill the Promise — *In Action*

The visual for this year’s theme, “Victims’ Rights: Fulfill the Promise,” is a raised hand signifying a person taking an oath to fulfill his or her promise to crime victims. To truly put this year’s theme into action, the Office for Victims of Crime is sponsoring a nationwide campaign to promote consideration and public awareness of the promises we can *make* and *fulfill* to crime victims.

OVC is seeking “promises to victims” that are inspiring, and that show compassion for and a commitment to helping victims of crime. Ten people with promises from across America will be selected to share their promises to victims of crime at the National Candlelight Observance sponsored by the Office for Victims of Crime in Washington, D.C. on April 10th.

Professionals and volunteers who assist victims of crime are encouraged to submit entries (please see “Making Your Promise” below).

OVC will select ten of the most inspirational promises to be highlighted during the National Candlelight Observance of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week in Washington, D.C. on April 10, at 6:30 p.m. at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. The ten individuals will be brought to Washington, DC by OVC to participate in this historic event.

Who Should Submit Promises?

- Victims/Survivor
- Community-based Victim Service Providers
- System-based Victim Service Providers
- Law Enforcement
- Prosecutors/U.S. Attorneys
- Judge/Court Personnel
- Probation/Parole/ Institutional Corrections
- Mental Health and Medical Service Providers
- Legislator/Elected Officials
- Students
- Community Volunteers
- Representatives of inter-faith communities and clergy
- Allied Professionals

Three Promises — What is *Your* Promise?

This year’s National Crime Victims’ Rights Resource Guide, distributed by OVC, includes three posters illustrating promises to crime victims. The posters incorporate the visual of a crime victim raising his or her hand to claim a “promise.” Hopefully, these posters will inspire others as they make their promise to crime victims. To view the posters and the entire Resource Guide, please go to <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ncvrw/welcome.html>.

The text of the posters follows.

“I have the right to information.” — The right to information is just one of thousands of laws that protect and serve victims of crime. If you need to know about your rights as a victim, and about the services that can help you cope with the consequences of crime, put the system to work for you. IT’S YOUR RIGHT.

“I have the right to be heard at proceedings.” — The right to be heard at criminal and juvenile justice proceedings is just one of thousands of law that protect individuals who have been victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, or stalking. If you need help coping with the physical, financial, and emotional consequences of crime, put the system to work for you. IT’S YOUR RIGHT.

“I have the right to protection.” — The right to protection from offenders is just one of thousands of laws that protect and help children who have been abused or neglected. If you know any child victims who need support and assistance, help put the system to work for them. IT’S THEIR RIGHT.

Making Your Promise

How to Join the Campaign

To enter the National “Fulfill the Promise” Campaign, you will need to:

- Consider your “promise” to crime victims that can help them recover in the aftermath of crime; access supportive services in our community; or be assisted with the implementation of their rights.
- State your promise on the enclosed Submission Form.
- Fax your completed Submission Form (included in this Submission Entry Package) to:

Office for Victims of Crime
National “Fulfill the Promise” Campaign
Fax: 202-514-6383 or 202-305-2440

All entries must be received by **Friday, March 21**, to be considered for review. The Office for Victims of Crime will select and notify the ten winners by **Monday, March 30**.

Ten individuals will be brought to Washington, D.C. for the National Candlelight Observance of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, where their promises will be read aloud during the ceremony on April 10th.

Getting the Word Out

Recipients of this National “Fulfill the Promise” Campaign Submission Entry Package are encouraged to replicate it, and make it available to *any* professionals or volunteers who serve crime victims in your community. This Package is available in PDF format on the Office for Victims of Crime web site at: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/nationalcampaign

You can enhance your distribution of this document by attaching the OVC web page to e-mails. You can also make copies of this Package for dissemination to victims/survivors, allied professionals and volunteers.

For More Information

For additional information about the National Fulfill the Promise Campaign, or other National Crime Victims’ Rights Week activities sponsored by the Office for Victims of Crime, please contact:

OVC Resource Center
(800) 627-6872 (Toll-free Telephone)
(877) 712-9279 (TTY)
AskOVC@ojp.usdoj.gov (E-mail)

OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME
2003 National Crime Victims' Rights Week
National "Fulfill the Promise" Campaign
SUBMISSION FORM

Name: _____
First Middle Last

Title and Agency (if applicable): _____

Mailing Address: _____
Street Address or Post Office Box

_____ *City State Zip Code*

Social Security Number: _____

Area Code/Telephone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

My Promise to Crime Victims: _____

PLEASE CHECK YOUR AFFILIATION:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Victim/Survivor | <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional Corrections |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community-based victim services | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health & Medical Providers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> System-based victim services | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislator/Elected Official |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Law enforcement | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Volunteer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prosecutor/U.S. Attorney | <input type="checkbox"/> Inter-faith Community or Clergy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allied Professionals | <input type="checkbox"/> Student |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judge/Court Personnel | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Probation/Parole | |

Please return this Submission Form *No Later Than Friday, March 21*, to:
Office for Victims of Crime
Fax: 202-514-6383 or 202-305-2440

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS SPECIAL EVENT!