Introduction
The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), within the Office of Justice Programs at the U.S. Department of Justice, is pleased to present the 2005 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week Resource Guide.

This valuable victim and public education and outreach package was developed by Justice Solutions as a component of OVC’s National Public Awareness and Education Campaign. The goal of the Campaign is to increase awareness among crime victims and survivors about the rights and services available to assist them, and to educate the public about the impact of crime on victims and survivors, victims’ rights, and crime victim services.

This Resource Guide is designed to help victim assistance, criminal and juvenile justice, and allied professional agencies successfully plan for victim and public awareness activities during 2005 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week (NCVRW) and throughout the year.

In 1981, President Ronald W. Reagan declared the first “National Crime Victims’ Rights Week.” As such, 2005 NCVRW – scheduled for April 10th to 16th – is the Silver Anniversary of this cherished national commemorative week. This 25th anniversary observance is dedicated to the memory of President Reagan, whose vision addressed the plight of crime victims for the first time on a national level, and whose leadership and actions resulted in the creation of many policies and programs that promoted crime victims’ rights and services. A special “Tribute to President Ronald W. Reagan” highlights the many landmark achievements of his Administration that promoted victims’ rights and services, including the creation of the Office for Victims of Crime and the establishment of the Crime Victims Fund. It includes personal observations about President Reagan from members of his President’s Task Force on Victims of Crime.

The Mission of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week
The mission of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week is to provide a time of nationwide remembrance, reflection and re-commitment for crime victims and survivors and those who serve them in order to raise individual and public awareness about the rights and needs of crime victims, the challenges that victims face in seeking help and hope in the aftermath of crime, and the positive impact that individuals and communities can have by providing services and support to victims and survivors of crime.

The Third Annual National Candlelight Observance of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week
The Third Annual National Candlelight Observance to commemorate NCVRW and pay tribute to victims and survivors is scheduled for the evening of Thursday, April 7, 2005, in Washington, D.C. Additional information about the National Observance (including time and location) will be available at OVC’s Web site: www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2005/welcome.html.

2005 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week Theme and Theme Colors
The theme for 2005 NCVRW is “Justice Isn’t Served Until Crime Victims Are” which was developed as a result of the National Crime Victim and Public Awareness Strategy Development Conference sponsored by OVC in 2003. All the documents and graphic artwork included in this Resource Guide reflect this insightful theme, which serves as a reminder of the value and importance of crime victim services as a core component of justice in America – services that offer victims help and hope in the aftermath of criminal victimization.

This year’s theme colors are Blue (Pantone #308) and Silver (Pantone #877), which together reflect the unique and special nature of our Silver Anniversary.