

## 2. MAXIMIZING COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS



crime victims' rights:  
**FAIRNESS.  
DIGNITY.  
RESPECT.**

**N**ational Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) casts an annual spotlight on victims' rights. Each year, we reflect on our history, savor our victories, and explore the next set of challenges. The 2010 NCVRW theme—*Crime*

*Victims' Rights: Fairness. Dignity. Respect.*—calls for a close look at our nation's progress in realizing these ideals.

"Maximizing Communication and Awareness," this section of your *2010 NCVRW Resource Guide*, includes tools to amplify this year's theme in your NCVRW outreach. The commemorative calendar and sample proclamation, quotations, and speech—as well as partnership and special events ideas—can help you plan your strategies and messages. This year's theme video (included on DVD in the mailed version of the Resource Guide) powerfully captures victims' quest for fairness, dignity, and respect.

### Commemorative Calendar

Throughout the year, organizations hold events to honor victims and raise awareness about their plight. Planners may designate a month, week, or day (e.g., National Stalking Awareness Month, National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Week, National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims) to focus on specific crimes. They may honor law enforcement agencies (e.g., National Police Week; National Probation, Parole, and Community Supervision Week) or focus on efforts to prevent crime (e.g., National Campus Safety Awareness Month, National Youth Court Month, National Mentoring Month). The commemorative calendar lists a sampling of these events and contact information for sponsor agencies. You can use this calendar to plan your events and identify partners for your outreach campaigns.

**OVC Events Calendar.** The Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, offers another useful listing of victim-related events, available at <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ovccalendar>. Visit this continually updated, month-by-month calendar to find national, state, and local victim-related events and links to further details about each observance. Use the calendar to plan your NCVRW

events and to locate educational opportunities every week of the year.

### Notable Quotables

"Fairness," said U.S. Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart, "is really what justice is." To victims, fairness includes participating in the criminal justice process—being present, consulted, heard, and informed. Victims want their health, safety, property, and well-being restored, and they want to be treated with dignity and respect. Quotations that capture these values help people identify with victims and understand why they seek *fairness, dignity, and respect*. You can use the quotations in this section to advance victims' rights and the progress inspired by these ideals.

### Sample Proclamation

NCVRW ceremonies often begin with proclamations from public officials—the President of the United States, the Attorney General, governors, mayors, state and local legislators, and other dignitaries. These formal pronouncements, sometimes delivered in person, stress the meaning and importance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Proclamations often cite the prevalence of crime, its impact on victims, and how the NCVRW theme relates to victims' rights. Officials sometimes invite the media and sponsoring organizations to public signings of these proclamations. If you want to include proclamations from local officials in your NCVRW observance, be sure to contact their offices **at least a month** before your event. You can share the sample proclamation with members of their staff.

### Sample Speech

National Crime Victims' Rights Week offers opportunities to share your passion for victims' rights. Schools or civic groups may invite you to speak at assemblies or events, and you can use the sample speech to prepare your remarks. Start by checking local newspapers and television station Web sites to identify local crime trends. Choose one or two cases that show the role of *fairness, dignity, and respect* in the exercise of victims' rights. Did a judge refuse to grant a protection order to a victim of domestic violence? Did an adult

## Maximizing Communication and Awareness

rebuff a teenager's attempt to report a crime? Did an official blame a sexual assault victim for being raped? You can describe the problem (failure to honor these ideals) and the solution (how fairness, dignity, and respect toward victims might have changed how the case proceeded). By centering your speech on an actual failure to honor these ideals, you can bring the 2010 NCVRW theme to life.

## Extend Your Reach through Partnerships

Partnerships with other organizations can dramatically boost the impact of your campaign. Partners can donate their skills, equipment, staff time, and office space to help plan and execute NCVRW outreach. By using the mailing lists and listservs of many organizations, you can broaden your reach. As you begin planning, contact local corporations and small businesses, civic and professional organizations, faith communities, or any other group that might share your interest in promoting victims' rights. Collaborations that begin with National Crime Victims' Rights Week may lead to further joint projects throughout the year.

## Ideas for Special Events

Communities and organizations observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week in a vast number of ways. They may honor victims through art or photography exhibits, memorial gardens or walks, drama, poetry, educational events, or candlelight ceremonies. They may display quilts, plant trees, or release butterflies during NCVRW ceremonies. Each year since 2006, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, has awarded grants for NCVRW community awareness projects throughout the country. Last year, OVC competitively selected 56 nonprofit programs, public agencies, community-based victim service organizations, faith-based organizations, and community coalitions to receive these grants. Some of these projects appear under "Ideas for Special Events" in this section of the Resource Guide.

## Tips for Using the DVD

The mailed version of the *2010 NCVRW Resource Guide* includes a DVD with two high-quality videos—a theme video and a 30-second television public service announcement (PSA) that includes an opportunity for adding a "tag" about your organization. Take a moment to review the DVD and consider ways the theme video and PSA could enhance your outreach efforts and special event activities. Some ideas include:

- Use either the 6-minute theme video or the 30-second PSA to open a news conference on victims' rights.
- Begin your candlelight vigil, educational event, reception, or other public awareness event by showing the 6-minute theme video.
- Ask your local television stations to air the PSA; one version of the PSA provides space onto which stations can add a local tag with your contact information (organizational name and phone number or Web site) before airing the PSA.
- Show the video to your contacts in the media to encourage coverage of your events during National Crime Victims' Rights Week.
- Encourage allied professionals to show the theme video or PSA at staff meetings and board retreats.
- Suggest that faith-based organizations use the video in their social justice outreach work.

Tips for holding your own screening:

- Choose a location where your audience will be comfortable watching the video. It should be quiet and dark, with seating if possible.
- You will need a DVD player, good speakers, and a large monitor or screen to properly show the video at an event. If you do not have your own equipment, you can rent these items from a professional media company. You can also choose a location with an in-house system. (Many hotels, schools, libraries, and conference facilities provide this service.)

Many crime victims never report or disclose what has happened to them—they never have their “day in court,” nor do they experience some semblance of justice. One way that victims of crime can feel supported and respected by their community is through memorial events. Whether it is just for one day or an entire month, these public recognitions can be powerful calls for victims to be treated with *fairness, dignity, and respect*.

---

**JANUARY****CRIME STOPPERS MONTH**

Crime Stoppers International  
800-850-7574  
[www.c-s-i.org](http://www.c-s-i.org)

**NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH**

MENTOR  
703-224-2200  
[www.mentoring.org](http://www.mentoring.org)

**NATIONAL STALKING  
AWARENESS MONTH**

National Center for Victims of Crime  
Stalking Resource Center  
202-467-8700  
[www.stalkingawarenessmonth.org](http://www.stalkingawarenessmonth.org)

---

**FEBRUARY****NATIONAL TEEN DATING  
VIOLENCE AWARENESS WEEK**

**February 4-8, 2010**  
Texas Advocacy Project  
Teen Justice Initiative  
512-225-9579  
[www.texasadvocacyproject.org](http://www.texasadvocacyproject.org)

---

**MARCH****NATIONAL YOUTH VIOLENCE  
PREVENTION WEEK**

**March 22-26, 2010**  
National Association of Students  
Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE)  
and GuidanceChannel.com  
800-999-6884, ext. 3037  
[www.violencepreventionweek.org](http://www.violencepreventionweek.org)

---

**APRIL****NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE  
PREVENTION MONTH**

Prevent Child Abuse America  
312-663-3520  
[www.preventchildabuse.org](http://www.preventchildabuse.org)

**NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT  
AWARENESS MONTH**

National Sexual Violence Resource  
Center  
717-909-0710, 717-909-0715 (TTY)  
[www.nsvrc.org](http://www.nsvrc.org)

**NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE DAYS  
April 23-25, 2010**

Youth Service America  
202-296-2992  
[www.ysa.org](http://www.ysa.org)

**NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS'  
RIGHTS WEEK  
April 18-24, 2010**

U.S. Department of Justice, Office for  
Victims of Crime  
800-851-3420  
[www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ncvrw/welcome.html](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ncvrw/welcome.html)

---

**MAY****OLDER AMERICANS MONTH**

Administration on Aging  
U.S. Department of Health and Human  
Services  
800-877-8339  
[www.aoa.gov](http://www.aoa.gov)

**NATIONAL LAW DAY**

**May 1, 2010**

American Bar Association  
800-285-2221  
[www.abanet.org](http://www.abanet.org)

**NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL  
OFFICERS' AND EMPLOYEES' WEEK**

**May 2-8, 2010**

American Correctional Association  
800-222-5646  
[www.aca.org](http://www.aca.org)

**NATIONAL POLICE WEEK**

**May 9-15, 2010**

Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc.  
573-346-4911  
[www.nationalcops.org](http://www.nationalcops.org)

**NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS'  
MEMORIAL DAY**

**May 15, 2010**

Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc.  
573-346-4911  
[www.nationalcops.org](http://www.nationalcops.org)

**NATIONAL MISSING  
CHILDREN'S DAY**

**May 25, 2010**

National Center for Missing and Ex-  
ploited Children  
800-843-5678  
[www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com)

## 2010 COMMEMORATIVE CALENDAR

### JULY

---

#### **NATIONAL PROBATION, PAROLE, AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION WEEK**

**July 18-24, 2010**

American Probation and Parole  
Association  
859-244-8203  
[www.appa-net.org](http://www.appa-net.org)

### AUGUST

---

#### **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**

**August 3, 2010**

National Association of Town Watch  
800-NITE-OUT  
[www.nationaltownwatch.org](http://www.nationaltownwatch.org)

### SEPTEMBER

---

#### **NATIONAL CAMPUS SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH**

Security On Campus, Inc.  
888-251-7959  
[www.securityoncampus.org](http://www.securityoncampus.org)

#### **NATIONAL YOUTH COURT MONTH**

National Association of Youth Courts  
410-528-0143  
[www.youthcourt.net](http://www.youthcourt.net)

#### **NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK**

**September 5-11, 2010**

American Association of Suicidology  
202-237-2280  
[www.suicidology.org](http://www.suicidology.org)

#### **NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR MURDER VICTIMS**

**September 25, 2010**

National Organization of Parents Of  
Murdered Children, Inc.  
888-818-POMC  
[www.pomc.org](http://www.pomc.org)

### OCTOBER

---

#### **NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION MONTH**

National Crime Prevention Council  
202-466-6272  
[www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org)

#### **NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**

National Coalition Against Domestic  
Violence  
303-839-1852  
[www.ncadv.org](http://www.ncadv.org)

#### **NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION AWARENESS WEEK**

**October 3-9, 2010**

PACER Center, National Coalition  
for Parent Involvement in Education,  
National Education Association, and  
National PTA  
952-838-9000, 952-838-0190 (TTY)  
[www.pacerkidsagainstbullying.org](http://www.pacerkidsagainstbullying.org)

#### **AMERICA'S SAFE SCHOOLS WEEK**

**October 17-23, 2010**

National School Safety Center  
805-373-9977  
[www.nssc1.org](http://www.nssc1.org)

### NOVEMBER

---

#### **TIE ONE ON FOR SAFETY**

Mothers Against Drunk Driving  
800-GET-MADD  
[www.madd.org](http://www.madd.org)

### DECEMBER

---

#### **NATIONAL DRUNK AND DRUGGED DRIVING PREVENTION MONTH**

Mothers Against Drunk Driving  
800-GET-MADD  
[www.madd.org](http://www.madd.org)



All victims of crime deserve to be treated fairly and respectfully, and in a way that preserves their dignity. Our nation’s victims’ rights laws, and the network of support services now available to victims, embody these ideals. This year’s NCVRW theme, “Crime Victims’ Rights: Fairness. Dignity. Respect.,” encourages us to raise awareness of these foundational principles and to continue working on behalf of crime victims who are still treated with a lack of *fairness*, *dignity*, and *respect*. Use the following quotations in speeches, interviews, and other outreach efforts to inspire your audiences during National Crime Victims’ Rights Week and throughout the year.

## Fairness, Dignity and Respect

---

“A ‘just’ society is measured by how its citizens are treated by the justice system. No one chooses to be a victim of crime, but when a crime occurs and a victim or victim’s family is thrust into the system, they trust and deserve to be treated by agents of the state with dignity, respect and fairness during all phases of the criminal justice process. When all else fails, that may be the only “justice” they receive...it is the closest thing to doing what is right.”

**Roberta Roper**

*Founder with husband, Vincent, of the Stephanie Roper Foundation  
(now called the Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center)  
in memory of their murdered daughter*

“The American crime victim’s plea for fairness, dignity and respect was forged in the fire of a fundamental human need—that the individual citizen, whose life had been most directly impacted by the criminal act, would be assured that they were not an outsider to the process, and treated not as if they were mere evidence of the offense—but that their misfortune and their voice was of value, that they would be heard, listened to and appreciated, and that they would be regarded as essential to the justice system that was charged with righting the wrong.”

**Jay Howell**

*Victims’ rights attorney,  
Former Executive Director  
National Center for Missing and Exploited Children*

“The concepts of ‘fairness, dignity and respect’ are highly intrinsic for crime victims and survivors. It means supporting them where they are in the aftermath of criminal victimization, and ensuring that they have voices and choices in their difficult recovery process, whether or not they choose to report the crime and engage in justice processes.”

**Anne Seymour**

*National Crime Victim Advocate*

## Fairness

---

“These men ask for just the same thing—fairness, and fairness only. This, so far as in my power, they, and all others, shall have.”

**Abraham Lincoln**

*(1809 – 1865)*

“You can’t be consistently fair, consistently generous, consistently just, or consistently merciful. You can be anything erratically, but to be that thing time after time after time, you have to have courage.”

**Maya Angelou**

*(1928 – )*

“The only stable state is the one in which all men are equal before the law.”

**Aristotle**

*(384 B.C.E. – 322 B.C.E.)*

## Dignity

---

“Human rights rest on human dignity. The dignity of man is an ideal worth fighting for and worth dying for.”

**Robert Maynard**

*(1937 – 1993)*

“When an individual is protesting society’s refusal to acknowledge his dignity as a human being, his very act of protest confers dignity on him.”

**Bayard Rustin**

*(1910 – 1987)*

“What should move us to action is human dignity: the inalienable dignity of the oppressed, but also the dignity of each of us. We lose dignity if we tolerate the intolerable.”

**Dominique de Menil**

*(1908 – 1997)*

## Maximizing Communication and Awareness

“And each of us can practice rights ourselves, treating each other without discrimination, respecting each other’s dignity and rights.”

**Carol Bellamy**  
(1942 – )

“The quest for freedom, dignity, and the rights of man will never end.”

**William J. Brennan**  
(1906 – 1997)

## Respect

---

“Every human being, of whatever origin, of whatever station, deserves respect. We must each respect others even as we respect ourselves.”

**U. Thant**  
(1907 – 1974)

“They cannot take away our self-respect if we do not give it to them.”

**Mahatma Gandhi**  
(1869 – 1948)

“Men are respectable only as they respect.”

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**  
(1803 – 1882)

“I’m not concerned with your liking or disliking me. All I ask is that you respect me as a human being.”

**Jackie Robinson**  
(1919 – 1972)

## Justice

---

“Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope.”

**Robert F. Kennedy**  
(1925 – 1968)

“If we do not maintain Justice, Justice will not maintain us.”

**Francis Bacon**  
(1561 – 1626)

“Justice cannot be for one side alone, but must be for both.”

**Eleanor Roosevelt**  
(1884 – 1962)

“Justice is conscience, not a personal conscience but the conscience of the whole of humanity. Those who clearly recognize the voice of their own conscience usually recognize also the voice of justice.”

**Alexander Solzhenitsyn**  
(1918 – 2008)

“There is no virtue so truly great and godlike as justice.”

**Joseph Addison**  
(1672 – 1719)

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

**Martin Luther King Jr.**  
(1929 – 1968)

“Justice consists not in being neutral between right and wrong, but in finding out the right and upholding it, wherever found, against the wrong.”

**Theodore Roosevelt**  
(1858 – 1919)

## Rights

---

“From the equality of rights springs identity of our highest interests; you cannot subvert your neighbor’s rights without striking a dangerous blow at your own.”

**Carl Schurz**  
(1829 – 1906)

“Give to every human being every right that you claim for yourself.”

**Robert G. Ingersoll**  
(1833 – 1899)

“In giving rights to others which belong to them, we give rights to ourselves and to our country.”

**John Fitzgerald Kennedy**  
(1917 – 1963)

## Kindness

---

“Kind words can be short and easy to speak,  
but their echoes are truly endless.”

**Mother Teresa**  
(1910 – 1997)

“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.”

**Aesop**  
(620 B.C.E. – 560 B.C.E.)

“Recompense injury with justice, and  
recompense kindness with kindness.”

**Confucius**  
(551 B.C.E. – 479 B.C.E.)

“There are only two ways of spreading light—to  
be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.”

**Edith Wharton**  
(1862 – 1937)



## SAMPLE PROCLAMATION

### National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 18-24, 2010

- Whereas,** 21 million Americans suffer the indignity of crime each year and may experience emotional, physical, psychological, and financial harm as a result of such crime;
- Whereas,** a just nation acknowledges crime's impact on individuals, families, and communities and ensures that victims are treated with fairness, dignity, and respect as they interact with the criminal justice system;
- Whereas,** 25 years ago, the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime drew attention to the poor treatment of victims in the criminal justice system, calling it "indifferent" to victims' needs;
- Whereas,** a decades-long struggle to balance the scales of justice resulted in victims' rights laws in every state and more than 32 state constitutional victims' rights amendments that enshrine the ideals of fairness, dignity, and respect for victims of crime;
- Whereas,** treating victims with dignity serves the public interest by engaging victims in the justice system, inspiring respect for public authorities and promoting confidence in public safety;
- Whereas,** there is more to be done to advance these ideals as too many victims are denied their right to attend trial, present an impact statement at sentencing, or receive notice of the release of an offender;
- Whereas,** we must work to ensure fair treatment of crime victims by providing protections for child and sexual assault victims, ordering and enforcing victim restitution from offenders, and notifying victims of their right to compensation and services, thereby giving hope to victims that the system and society will work to restore dignity and respect their needs and rights;
- Whereas,** National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 18-24, 2010, provides an opportunity for us to raise awareness of the foundation of victims' rights—fairness, dignity, and respect—and to recommit to honoring those values by ensuring that all victims are afforded their legal rights and provided with assistance as they face the financial, physical, and psychological impact of crime; and
- Whereas,** (*Your organization*) is joining forces with victim service programs, criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens throughout (*your City/County/Parish/State/Tribe*) and America to raise awareness of victims' rights and observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week;

**Now, therefore, I,** \_\_\_\_\_, as (*Governor/County Executive/Mayor/Other Title*) of \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby proclaim the week of April 18-24, 2010, as

#### **Crime Victims' Rights Week**

And reaffirm this (*City/County/Parish/State/Tribe's*) commitment to respect and enforce victims' rights and address their needs during *Crime Victims' Rights Week* and throughout the year; and

Express our appreciation for those victims and crime survivors who have turned personal tragedy into a motivating force to improve our response to victims of crime and build a more just community.

\_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

\_\_\_\_\_ (date)



## FAIRNESS, DIGNITY, AND RESPECT FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

As we begin National Crime Victims' Rights Week, we should consider what it's like to be a victim of crime. Let's imagine that as you approach your home one evening, three men rob you, beat you, and leave you unconscious in the street. Your neighbors call an ambulance and the police. You survive but spend months in the hospital, then lose your job and can't pay your medical bills. Your attackers are arrested but released on bail, and for more than a year, you get no information about your case. Then the prosecutor accepts a plea bargain without notifying you, and the judge bans you from the hearing where he sentenced your attackers to just one year to prison.

Would you feel that you had been treated with *fairness, dignity, and respect* by the criminal justice system—that your voice had been heard?

For most of our nation's history, vast numbers of victims have told stories not unlike the one I just shared. In 1986, Lois Haight Harrington, who led the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime, described the treatment of crime victims in America as "a national disgrace." Victims had been "ignored, mistreated, or blamed," she reported, and "handled like photographs or fingerprints—mere evidence to be manipulated at the criminal justice system's convenience." Such insensitivity toward victims, she said, was "not only unjust but unwise" because "without their help, the system cannot hold offenders accountable and stem the tide of future crime."<sup>1</sup>

Yet an era of hope for victims began with the Task Force's landmark report. The Task Force issued 68 recommendations to improve treatment of victims by law enforcement and prosecutors, judges and parole boards, lawmakers and businessmen, and other agencies to respond to victims' needs. Within four years of the report, 75 percent of these recommendations had been enacted, and 31 states had passed victims' rights laws.<sup>2</sup> Across our nation, victims gained the right to apply for compensation, to be present in court, to be heard at sentencing and

parole hearings, and to receive information about their rights, criminal proceedings, the release or escape of the offenders, and available services.

After President Reagan launched National Crime Victims' Rights Week in 1981, victims' rights advocates throughout the nation used the annual observance to build public awareness about the realities of crime victimization and to mobilize support for expanding reforms that brought more crime victims into the criminal justice system.

In response to urging from victims and advocates, states began to amend their state constitutions to enshrine victims' rights in a meaningful way. In 1980, Wisconsin passed the first Victims' Bill of Rights, which committed the state to fairness, dignity, and respect for victims of crime.<sup>3</sup>

As we gather today, every state has passed victims' rights laws, and more than 27,000 statutes across our land empower crime victims with hard-won legal protections.<sup>4</sup> Thirty-two states have constitutional victims' rights amendments, all grounded in the ideals of *fairness, dignity, and respect* for victims of crime. Every state has a victim compensation program, and more than 10,000 victim assistance programs have been established to meet victims' needs in communities throughout the country.<sup>5</sup>

So why do we still need National Crime Victims' Rights Week? Despite all the progress I've mentioned, there is still much more work to do. Some states grant few rights to victims, and victims' rights are not always enforced. Right now, every day in every state, some victims are not exercising their rights because they don't know they have them. Victims may be denied access to courtrooms and sentencing hearings, protection from offenders, or the right to confer with prosecutors—even in states where that right exists. Too few victims receive compensation and court-ordered restitution, and only a fraction of victims receive needed

1 Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, "Four Years Later: A Report on the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime," (Washington, DC: GPO, 1986).

2 Ibid.

3 The Wisconsin statute begins: "This state shall treat crime victims, as defined by law, with fairness, dignity and respect for their privacy."

4 International Association of Chiefs of Police, *What Do Victims Want? Effective Strategies to Achieve Justice for Victims of Crime*, (Washington, DC: Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 2000), i.

5 Ibid.

## SAMPLE SPEECH

victim assistance services that will help them rebuild their lives. These failures deny victims the *fairness*, *dignity*, and *respect* our movement's founders envisioned.

Yet how can we prevent such failures? How can we ensure *fairness*, *dignity*, and *respect* for all victims of crime?

First, we can promote *fairness* by knowing our state's victims' rights and supporting victims who assert them. In all states, victims have the right to apply for compensation and to present a victim impact statement at sentencing. Most states notify victims about their rights, about criminal proceedings, and about the escape or release of prisoners. Most victims have the right to be present in court, with specific exceptions for witnesses. Depending on the state, victims may have the right to protection from threats, intimidation, and retaliation from offenders and to receive court-ordered restitution from offenders for crime-related expenses. Some states now have given courts the legal authority to limit frustrating postponements in criminal justice proceedings—particularly in cases that involve vulnerable victims, such as children and the elderly—or require law enforcement to quickly return victims' property. [Or list the specific rights in your state.] We must insist that officials enforce these rights, and we must hold them accountable when they neglect such crucial priorities.

We can also insist that these rights apply to every victim, every time. Our nation's youth, who are more frequently victimized than any other age group, must receive the full protection of the law and the services to help them recover from violence, sexual assaults, and other crimes. Those who commit crimes against children must be prosecuted, and children—like adults—should have access to information about the progress of their cases. Children should have the right to have parents, guardians, or trusted adults present while they are testifying, and state laws should be expanded to allow children to testify on videotape. Victims with disabilities, the elderly, and victims with language limitations should know and not be afraid to fully exercise their rights.

We can promote *dignity* by insisting on the fullest possible protections for victims. We can ask whether our state's protection order statutes are helping to keep stalking and domestic violence victims safe.

We can advocate for address protection programs for victims who move, employment protection programs, strong witness intimidation laws, and other means to keep victim's personal information out of the public record. We can organize court watches to publicly support victims and to ensure that judges respect their rights. We can volunteer to help sexual assault or domestic violence victims or community organizations that serve the homeless, who are particularly vulnerable to crime. We can write letters or e-mails to newspaper or television reporters who minimize the trauma victims suffer or treat them disrespectfully. During these tough financial times, we can donate resources to keep victim service providers open and available to victims.

Finally, we can promote *respect* simply by listening to victims and treating them as participants—not spectators—in the criminal justice system. Jurisdictions can train all law enforcement and judicial personnel about victims' needs and how to address them. They can organize coordinated community responses for specific crimes, such as trafficking and identity theft. Under this approach, trained, multidisciplinary teams anticipate and carefully meet victims' needs, coordinate their services, and guide victims through the criminal justice process. Victim service providers, in particular, can ask victims what they need, present options, and support the choices that victims make. Victims who feel they have been heard and respected are more likely to view the criminal justice process as fair, even though they have little control over the outcome of their cases.<sup>6</sup>

The 2010 National Crime Victims' Rights Week reignites the passion for *fairness*, *dignity*, and *respect* that launched the victims' rights movement and inspired decades-long progress for victims of crime. By heeding its message, we chart a course for stronger rights and better services in the decades ahead.

---

6 Jo-Anne Wemmers and Katie Cyr, "What Fairness Means to Crime Victims: A Social Psychological Perspective on Victim-Offender Mediation," *Applied Psychology in Criminal Justice* 2, no.2 (2006):5.

Many civic organizations promote public safety. They may support police and firefighter organizations, mentor young people, teach crime prevention to students, or advocate for better equipment for law enforcement. Such groups are natural allies for promoting victims' rights. Before planning your own NCVRW events, try to identify at least three or four local organizations to join you in planning the week's observance. Such partnerships help share the work and produce more successful, better-attended events. The following list includes the kinds of organizations that can help you plan 2010 National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

### **Allied Professionals**

Professionals in criminal justice, social services, and health care share your commitment to victims' rights. They understand victims' crucial role in the criminal justice system and the importance of meeting their needs. They know that treating victims with fairness, dignity, and respect is both the right thing to do and often the most effective way to involve victims in bringing offenders to justice. By forming coalitions with allied professionals, you can plan better and more far-reaching NCVRW campaigns.

#### ***Law Enforcement Professionals, Prosecutors, and Corrections and Probation Officers***

Criminal justice professionals witness the pain, shock, and devastation that affect many victims of crime. They see that crime can overwhelm and incapacitate victims, and they often want to share available resources to help them. National Crime Victims' Rights Week offers great opportunities to renew ties with law enforcement, share the latest resources for victims, and collaborate on NCVRW events. Some police departments have open houses and educational events during the week; some send officers to speak at NCVRW ceremonies and forums. As you plan your NCVRW activities, partner with criminal justice professionals to plan your events, share resources, and show why fairness, dignity, and respect for victims should matter to everyone.

#### ***Healthcare Professionals***

Healthcare providers know that fair, respectful, dignified treatment of victims aids their recovery from crime. SANEs (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners), for example, learn the most respectful ways to collect evidence from a sexual assault. Many primary care physicians routinely screen patients for signs of domestic violence and learn how to support victimized patients. Physicians and nurses often support programs that help restore victims' lives. Contact your local medical and dental society, nurses' association, and physical and occupational therapists to suggest a team effort on NCVRW event planning to educate the public about victims'

rights and needs. Propose that local hospitals host information fairs and professional forums, display NCVRW publicity, and encourage their board members to support National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

#### ***Mental Health Professionals***

Mental health professionals know that crime victims' emotional scars may last a lifetime and that victims' needs are often poorly understood. They want the public to understand victims' challenges, and they want to know about community resources for their clients who have been victimized. As you prepare for National Crime Victims' Rights Week, you can distribute information on safety planning, victim compensation, and other victim services with community health associations. You can include these professionals in planning your NCVRW events, and invite them to support your outreach through their professional publications and communications networks.

### **Businesses and Corporations**

Businesses have a powerful stake in public safety; they seek to prevent harm to their customers and their communities. Many businesses regularly support police departments and officers' associations and their community outreach to young people. Look for business partners with a strong interest in such efforts, and invite them to help plan your local NCVRW events. Encourage them to provide financial support and publicize National Crime Victims' Rights Week along with their products and services.

#### ***Chambers of Commerce***

Ask to speak with your local Chamber of Commerce to build interest in victims' rights and engage Chamber of Commerce members in an NCVRW partnership. Work with members that have a strong interest in public safety, and brainstorm new ways to involve the business community in the 2010 events. Choose a spokesperson to share the stage at lead events.

## EXTEND YOUR REACH THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

### ***Small Businesses***

Many small businesses are disproportionately affected by crime. Taxi drivers, food delivery workers, and convenience store workers, for example, are often assaulted, robbed, or even murdered. Owners and workers in such businesses have a strong interest in preventing victimization and supporting crime victims. Contact the associations that represent such businesses in your community, and ask them to join you in planning and promoting National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Because taxis and food delivery workers go everywhere, they are uniquely positioned to publicize National Crime Victims' Rights Week in their advertising and on their vehicles.

### ***Visitors' and Convention Bureaus***

Visitors' and convention bureaus want to protect visitors to their communities and the businesses that serve them. Form or reestablish partnerships with these agencies to promote National Crime Victims' Rights Week and inform their members about the value of supporting victims' rights. Invite local visitors' bureaus to distribute public education materials for victims, such as palm cards with crime prevention and victim assistance tips, and share helpful resources, such as the National Center for Victims of Crime's National Crime Victim Helpline (1-800-FYI-CALL) and Web site, [www.ncvc.org](http://www.ncvc.org), or the Office for Victims of Crime Web site, [www.ovc.gov](http://www.ovc.gov), that can help travelers protect themselves and find help during or after an emergency. Also invite these bureaus to join your NCVRW planning committee, and publicly honor their members for their contributions to victims throughout the year.

### **Civic Organizations**

Civic organizations play a crucial role in shaping their communities' priorities and can lend support, prestige, and enthusiastic contributors to National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Invite your local Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs, United Way, Lions Clubs, Veterans of Foreign Wars, professional organizations, retirees' groups, neighborhood associations, city and county advisory commissions, and other community organizations to help plan and host events, distribute materials, and volunteer their members' help on NCVRW projects. Be sure to include groups representing underserved communities (e.g., ethnic minorities, victims with disabilities) that are disproportionately affected by crime. These groups can often provide volunteers, translators (if appropriate), and guid-

ance on how to involve their communities in National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

### **Community Development Agencies**

Community development agencies, which have ties to a wide range of local businesses and organizations, can save you time in identifying NCVRW partners through their contacts with city and county planners, builders, retailers, community neighborhood associations and ethnic groups, banks, media, healthcare organizations, and government agencies. Reach out to your community development agency, and ask the director to suggest potential NCVRW partners.

### **Youth-Serving Organizations**

Because young people are more likely than any other age group to be victimized by crime, youth-serving agencies have a powerful stake in National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Such organizations include the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of America, the YMCA, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, the Boy Scouts of America, Junior Achievement, Police Athletic Leagues, DeMolay International, Camp Fire USA, the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, and faith-based groups in thousands of communities. Parent-teacher-student organizations, athletic coaches' associations, mentoring organizations, and other such groups offer great resources for NCVRW planning. School-associated groups, in particular, can mobilize youth leadership and school outreach programs to raise awareness among students, parents, and local neighborhoods.

### **Faith Communities**

Faith communities have strong commitments to preventing victimization and supporting victims. Identify your local faith communities, invite them to help plan your outreach campaigns, and ask them to launch NCVRW events in their churches, synagogues, mosques, schools, and community centers. Find out how they can publicize NCVRW events through their communications networks, especially if they have bilingual staff or their own newsletters. Be sure to include and honor their representatives at NCVRW ceremonies.

### **Public Agencies**

Libraries, community advisory commissions, art councils, regional centers, senior agencies, and ethnic community liaison agencies can help educate the public about the importance of advancing victims' rights. Many communities have anti-violence programs and agencies for families and children that would make strong NCVRW partners. Invite some of the following local agencies to join your NCVRW planning.

#### ***Libraries***

Public libraries can help you conduct research on victimization and outreach campaign strategies, display posters and brochures, offer information on victims' rights and services, host forums and exhibits, and offer meeting space to plan local NCVRW events.

#### ***Minority Liaison Offices***

Many cities, counties, and other jurisdictions have liaison offices that work with political leaders and civic organizations in ethnic and minority communities. Such offices can help alert their communities about victims' rights and services. Invite minority liaison officials to guide your team in reaching out to their communities. With their help, you can build greater awareness about how your agency can help crime victims.

#### ***Senior Agencies***

Particularly in times of economic stress, seniors can benefit from information about victims' rights and services. In planning National Crime Victims' Rights Week, you can work with senior centers, adult protective services, area agencies on aging, and consumer protection agencies in your city, county, or state to alert seniors about crime trends, educate them about rights and services, and engage them in NCVRW events.

### **Public Officials**

Public officials provide visibility, authority, and prestige to National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Seek the endorsement, advice, and support of your mayor, city council members, or state and federal legislators, and ask them to speak or serve as masters of ceremony at NCVRW events. Publicly honor their contributions, and be sure to thank them for their support.



## IDEAS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

Every year, National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) generates a coast-to-coast burst of creativity as communities plan their events. Participants design unique ceremonies, festivals and outings, arts and crafts displays and contests, information fairs, or athletic events to raise awareness about the impact of crime and the rights and needs of victims. To support such efforts, the Community Awareness Project initiative of the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), in collaboration with the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators, competitively selects jurisdictions throughout the United States to receive partial funding for their NCVRW activities. OVC bases these awards on proposed collaboration, innovation, community impact, media involvement, and experience with victims' issues. Descriptions of some of these projects are included in the following list of NCVRW events ideas, which you can use to inspire your own activities.

### National Crime Victims' Rights Week Special Events

- Art Exhibits
- Butterfly Release
- Candlelight Vigils/Observances
- Clothesline Projects
- Commemorative Displays
  - › Commemorative Quilts
  - › Empty Place at the Table
  - › Empty Shoes Display
  - › Memorial Bench
  - › Memorial Walkways
  - › Memorial Walls
  - › Silhouette Displays
- Concerts
- Dramatic Presentations
- Educational Forums
- Flag Displays
- Grocery Bag Campaigns
- Information Expos/Fairs
- Media Outreach
- Motorcycle Rallies
- Sign Waving
- Sports Tournaments
- Tree and Flower Plantings
- Walk/Run for Victims' Rights
- Youth Events
  - › Art, Poetry, and Essay Contests
  - › Education for Youthful Offenders

## **Art Exhibits**

Through the powerful medium of art, victims can convey the pain and upheaval caused by crime. Universities, community centers, libraries, and government agencies often host exhibits of paintings, sculptures, murals, or other works by local artists, students, advocates, or victims to reflect this year's theme. In Bartow, Florida, the Peace River Center Victim Services held a survivor art fair showcasing art, poetry, and short stories, and in Boston, Massachusetts, the state Office of Victim Assistance hosted its third annual "Violence Transformed" exhibit of visual and performing arts in the State House to celebrate the power of art to confront, mediate, and challenge the prevalence of violence in contemporary society. In St. Paul, Minnesota, the state's Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs and the Minnesota Board of Arts held its sixth annual, month-long Art of Recovery exhibit, presenting art and literary works by victims or survivors of crime. In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, youth, sponsored by Project Ujima, created a mural that was displayed at the Wisconsin State Capitol, Children's Hospital, in Milwaukee and at its NCVRW event.

## **Butterfly Release**

Butterflies released to the heavens evoke both awe and hope of transformation and recovery. "There is a legend that says for a wish to come true, you must catch a butterfly, whisper your wish to it and set it free," said Oklahoma Attorney General Drew Edmondson, beginning the 2009 NCVRW butterfly release and flower planting sponsored by his office in Oklahoma City. "Our wish today is for victims of crime to find peace, strength and support, and for those of us in the criminal justice system to find the courage and compassion to provide these things to those who suffer." Also in Georgia, the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit Court's NCVRW events included a butterfly release at the Riverwalk Homicide Victims' Memorial, sponsored by the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia.

## **Candlelight Vigils/Observances**

Many NCVRW ceremonies begin with candlelight vigils to honor and commemorate victims and to transform the darkness caused by crime. In Washington, DC, NCVRW events began on April 23, 2009, at the moving National Observance and Candlelight Ceremony, where Attorney General Eric

Holder and other officials shared their reflections on the meaning of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. You can invite local officials, artists, choirs, victims, advocates, service groups, and the public to participate in your local ceremonies. You might also invite the media to cover the event, and send photos to your community newspapers and organization newsletters.

## **Clothesline Projects**

NCVRW observances often include clothesline projects, displays of T-shirts painted by domestic violence victims, to show and combat the nationwide epidemic of domestic violence. Last year in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the Pillsbury United Communities, Brian Coyle Community Center, and 36 participating organizations presented a clothesline project. The Bronx District Attorney's Office in New York City and Our House, Inc., in Greenville, Mississippi, presented similar displays.

## **Commemorative Displays**

Commemorative quilts, memorial walls, and other visual tributes honor victims and remind communities of the devastating impact of crime.

### ***Commemorative Quilts***

Intricate, artistic quilts are a distinctively American mode of story telling. During National Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year, many communities honor and remember victims by displaying quilts made by victims or supporters to portray the impact of crime. For their NCVRW events, groups may exhibit completed quilts or add new squares to existing quilts. The County of Tulare, District Attorney's Office in Visalia, California; the Reno, Nevada Crisis Call Center; and The Crime Victims' Center of Chester County, Inc., West Chester, PA, were among the organizations that displayed quilts as part of their NCVRW observances.

### ***Empty Place at the Table***

In Bloomington, Illinois, a coalition of victim service agencies held an Empty Place at the Table exhibit of place settings and short stories representing victims who had lost their lives to homicide, drunk driving, elder abuse, child abuse, domestic violence, and sexual assault.

## IDEAS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

### ***Empty Shoes Display***

In Buffalo, New York, the New York State Crime Victims Board and the Erie County District Attorney's Office presented a display of empty shoes designed to show "the steps that crime victims take on their path to justice and the strides made by law enforcement, victim assistance professionals, and state and local officials to assist victims, protect their rights, and ensure their voices are heard in the criminal justice system." In Florida, a candlelight vigil ceremony held by the Palm Beach County Victims' Rights Coalition included an empty shoe display in honor of victims.

### ***Memorial Bench***

In Florence, Arizona, the Pinal County Attorney's Office's NCVRW events began with the dedication of a stone crime victim memorial bench engraved with the 2009 theme, "25 Years of Rebuilding Lives: Celebrating the Victims of Crime Act." The bench was placed near the Superior Court Complex.

### ***Memorial Walkways***

Each year in Albany, New York, new bricks bearing the names of recent victims are added to the walkway at the New York State Crime Victims' Memorial in the Empire State Plaza, which honors all victims of crime in New York State. At the annual Memorial Brick Dedication Ceremony, held during National Crime Victims' Rights Week, the names on each new brick are read out loud as the state pays tribute to crime victims and the advocates who serve them.

### ***Memorial Walls***

In Pine Bluff, Arkansas, at two annual homicide survivor memorial services, the names of deceased crime victims were placed onto a memorial wall. NCVRW memorial wall ceremonies were also held in Riverside, California; Binghamton, New York; and Jacksonville, Florida. Photographs on the Memorial Wall of Murder Victims in Glynn County, Florida, commemorated the 166 victims of murder in that county since 1972.

### ***Silhouette Displays***

Silhouette displays bear silent witness to lives forever changed by crime. In Alamogordo, New Mexico, a display of plywood cutout silhouettes of violent crimes was placed in the front lobby of the Otero County 12th Judicial District Courthouse to remember victims of violent crime.

## **Concerts**

Peace River Center Victim Services in Bartow, Florida, hosted an awareness concert at Florida Southern College, featuring speakers from the state's Office of the Attorney General and a member of a campus anti-violence group. In Succasunna, New Jersey, the New Jersey Crime Victims' Law Center sponsored a concert, coinciding with National Crime Victims' Rights Week, to benefit the family of a permanently brain-damaged, 11-month-old victim of shaken baby syndrome. The concert was held in memory of the Center director's son, a murder victim.

## **Dramatic Presentations**

NCVRW observances at the Southwest Center for Law and Policy in Tucson, Arizona, included a dramatic presentation of a Native victim's healing journey for an audience of high school students, faculty, and community members. In Greenville, Mississippi, Our House, Inc., hosted a teen summit that included skits on such topics as drunk driving, Internet safety, dating violence, and sexual assault.

## **Educational Forums**

At NCVRW forums and conferences throughout the nation, experts analyze and educate the public about the impact of victimization. The governor of Kansas conducted the state's twelfth annual crime Victims' Rights Conference in Topeka. Also, in Rhode Island, the Crime Victims Compensation Fund of the Rhode Island Office of General Treasurer ended its week's events with a conference, open to the public, that included a panel of victim service agencies addressing the impact of Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding. Utah held its 21<sup>st</sup> annual crime victims' conference in Salt Lake City, and the Anderson, South Carolina Foothills Alliance held a free community conference that focused on the impact of violence on victims of all ages, genders, races and backgrounds.

## **Flag Displays**

NCVRW events in Tucson, Arizona, began with the mother of a homicide victim raising the "Flag of Victim Justice" outside the downtown public library. In Albany, Georgia, the Dougherty County Victim Witness Assistance decorated the front of the courthouse with 285



white flags, representing the average number of victims served in one month in the county.

### **Grocery Bag Campaigns**

NCVRW organizers often use ads (often in several languages) on grocery bags and inserts, as well as in store windows and on grocery carts, to alert many different communities about NCVRW messages and activities. In Des Moines, Iowa, the Monsoon United Asian Women of Iowa distributed 2,000 reusable, environmentally friendly grocery bags, printed with the NCVRW theme and agency information, to 10 local Asian stores. The text was translated to Vietnamese, Tai-Dam, Laotian, Cambodian, Hindi, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Urdu, Tagalog, Nepali, and Burmese. NCVRW grocery bags were also available at a resource fair held by the Neighborhood Place of Puna, Hawaii.

### **Information Expos/Fairs**

Information “expos” and fairs offer both fun and useful information about victimization. The Detroit, Michigan, Police Department Victims Assistant Center held a community awareness fair including all VOCA-supported agencies; the Center also presented informational sessions at local public schools, community organizations, police district community meetings, and area hospital and health centers. In Minneapolis, Minnesota, the Pillsbury United Communities, Brian Coyle Community Center, and 36 participating organizations held a Community Resource Fair that included speakers from United Way First Call for Help, Hennepin County Domestic Abuser Service Center, Minnesota CASA, and a technology safety organization.

### **Media Outreach**

NCVRW media campaigns take many forms. A comprehensive NCVRW media campaign by the Korean Community Center of East Bay in Oakland, California, included ads in the two main Korean language newspapers and on the local Korean radio station. The Center also distributed multilingual, wallet-sized resource guides and conducted a half-day community forum to promote the week and provide resource information to the elderly Korean population in San Francisco. The Salt Lake City, Utah, Council on Crime Victims produced 30-second and 60-second public service announcements (PSAs) featuring a well-known public figure

to inform residents about VOCA services and victims’ rights, broadcast in both rural and urban areas throughout the state. An awareness campaign by the Summit County Domestic Violence Coalition in Akron, Ohio, used six electronic billboards spotlighting local agencies that receive VOCA funding, and featuring a logo, tagline, and photographs for each agency.

### **Motorcycle Rallies**

In Providence, Rhode Island, the Crime Victim Compensation Program of the Rhode Island Office of the General Treasurer kicked off National Crime Victims’ Rights Week with a motorcycle rally led by the Rhode Island Chapter of Blue Knights Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club. The 200 attendees included the state’s attorney general, treasury personnel, crime victims, and their families. In Mount Pleasant, Texas, the Shelter Agencies for Families in East Texas, Inc., held a one-day “Ride 4 Life” event, which included a motorcycle parade, motorcycle fun run, bike games, bike show, and a live radio broadcast. In Washington, DC, the DC Homicide Coalition, in partnership with Survivors of Homicide, Inc., the Metropolitan Police Department, the U.S. Department of Justice, and local organizations, held a Motorcycle Ride for Peace in memory of homicide victims in the District of Columbia.

### **Sign Waving**

Sign waving is an inexpensive and highly visible way to generate support for National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, especially in areas that prohibit billboards. In Pahoia, Hawaii, the Neighborhood Place of Puna conducted two sign-waving events along the roadside, encouraging motorists to honk and wave to show support for Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month and National Crime Victims’ Rights Week.

### **Sports Tournaments**

Sports tournaments attract attention and funding for National Crime Victims’ Rights Week events. In Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, in 2008, the Corrections Corporation of America, the Arizona Department of Corrections, and the Oklahoma Department of Corrections held the Governor’s Cup Golf Tournament for Crime Victims’ Rights to benefit the Oklahoma Crime Victims’ Assistance Fund and the Oklahoma Correctional Employees Memorial. In New Orleans, Louisi-

## IDEAS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

ana, the Crescent House Healing and Empowerment Center in collaboration with New Orleans-based organizations (Total Community Action Plan, Family Services of Greater New Orleans and The Baptist Friendship House), promoted NCVRW by hosting a 3-on-3 basketball tournament in which all participants signed a non-violence pledge and information on victimization was distributed.

### Tree and Flower Plantings

Tree- and flower-planting ceremonies honor victims and suggest renewed life for victims and communities. In Tennessee, trees were planted in nine locations throughout the state in observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week; each year in Oswego County, New York, a different community is chosen to host a tree-planting ceremony in honor of victims of crime. In Malone, New York, Comlinks Community Action Agency distributed 1,000 red pine "peace tree" seedlings, wrapped in plastic bags containing information about National Crime Victims' Rights Week and planting instructions, and planted a small spruce "peace tree" at the closing ceremony.

### Walk/Run for Victims' Rights

Opening and closing NCVRW ceremonies often include a 5K walk/run for justice. Among the communities holding such events were Galena, Illinois; Los Angeles, California; and George Mason University in Virginia. Norfolk, Virginia, held a walk against violence, and Carson City, Nevada, held a "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" event in honor of victims of crime.

### Youth Events

#### *Art, Poetry, and Essay Contests*

NCVRW art, poetry, and essay contests help students identify with victims and raise awareness about the impact of crime. In Kew Gardens, New York, the Office of the Queens County District Attorney held a poster contest with children from the local elementary schools, with the theme, "What is the most important victim right?" The winning poster was displayed at the courthouse event. The Queens, New York, District Attorney's office held an elementary school poster contest on "how to help victims heal." Winners of a youth essay and art contest on victimization in Charlotte, North Carolina, received their awards at an NCVRW ceremony for murder victims.

#### *Education for Youthful Offenders*

A Texas Youth Commission (TYC) treatment program for young offenders focused specifically on victims during National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Youth at Giddings State School, Crockett State School, Corsicana Residential Treatment Center and McFadden Ranch in Roanoke, Texas, participated in victim impact panels, where victims and surviving family members of violent crime described their experiences and explained the continuing impact of crime on their lives. TYC's McLennan County State Juvenile Correctional Facility in Mart sponsored a shoe drive and displayed a pair of shoes for each victim of the TYC youth at the facility. The shoes were then donated to a family abuse center in Waco, benefiting victims of abuse and crime. TYC facilities also held flower plantings, weeklong empathy lessons, and prose and poetry competitions in which youth put themselves in their victims' places and express how the crime has affected them.

