



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

December 2009

Dear Colleague:

It is my privilege to present the *2010 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide*, developed by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) and the National Center for Victims of Crime. This unique collection of resources will inform and inspire your observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 18–24, 2010.

This year's theme—Crime Victims' Rights: Fairness. Dignity. Respect.—evokes powerful memories of a time when victim compensation and support services were not available to those harmed by crime. In the not so distant past, victims were being routinely excluded from courtrooms and blamed for their victimization, realities that unfortunately still exist for far too many victims. Victims and advocates demanded *fairness, dignity, and respect*, and the time has come to acknowledge the progress made toward realizing these ideals.

While there has been tremendous progress, challenges do remain. The current epidemic of violence against children in the streets, in their homes, and even in schools victimizes and isolates too many of our young people. They need adults to protect them, to listen to their stories, and to provide caring support. The well-being of our children, and the future of our Nation, depends on all of us standing up for these young victims. **You can spread this critical message by partnering with your local television stations to air the new “Be The One” television public service announcement (PSA)**, which is included on the enclosed DVD and downloadable at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ncvrw/welcome.html. This PSA may be tagged with your organization's local contact information.

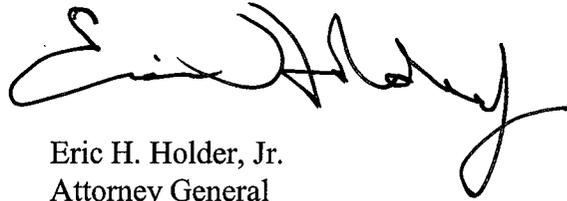
In addition, there are too many discouraging stories about adult victims—failed notification systems, denials of compensation, violent offenders released on bail, and in these trying financial times, stories of victim assistance programs forced to sharply curtail the services they offer. Some states have weak victims' rights legislation and little enforcement of these rights. Too many victims do not know they have rights or where to turn for assistance. National Crime Victims' Rights Week serves as a call for action—an urgent summons for *fairness, dignity, and respect* for all victims of crime.

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I hope that National Crime Victims' Rights Week reignites our Nation's resolve to ensure full rights and services for all victims of crime. Please take full advantage of the great resources on OVC's Web site at www.ovc.gov. Above all, thank you for the privilege of working with you during National Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Holder", written in a cursive style.

Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General