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Dear Colleague:

The National Center for Victims of Crime is again honored to partner with the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime to present the *2017 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide*. The Resource Guide is intended to inspire and support your participation in National Crime Victims' Rights Week (April 2-8, 2017) and other awareness activities throughout the year.

This year's theme, ***Strength. Resilience. Justice.***, draws on an expansive understanding of justice. Widespread and fundamental justice in our communities must include victim-centered, trauma-informed, culturally competent services for all victims of crime.

Traditional responses to victimization have aided scores of victims in the aftermath of crime. But they have also left many victims behind. As families and whole communities experience the compounding effects of violence and trauma, we must unify our efforts to create accessible and appropriate systems that interrupt this cycle and allow communities to heal.

Collaboration is critical. By bringing together victim service providers, law enforcement, criminal justice professionals, and key community leaders, we can create cooperative environments and spur creative solutions to provide comprehensive, informed responses to victims of all types of crime. These multidisciplinary teams are best equipped to meet victims and their families where they are—with holistic, research-based services.

On behalf of the National Center for Victims of Crime, I want to thank you for your commitment to innovative practices and your steadfast support of all crime victims.

Sincerely,

Mai Fernandez
Executive Director
National Center for Victims of Crime