



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Office for Victims of Crime

Washington, D.C. 20531

Dear Colleague,

I am pleased to present the *2017 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide*, developed by the Office for Victims of Crime of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, in partnership with the National Center for Victims of Crime. The materials in this year's Resource Guide are designed to support your efforts to raise awareness, build new partnerships, and reach additional victims during National Crime Victims' Rights Week (April 2–8, 2017) and throughout the year.

Each April we pause to celebrate our movement's many achievements: the expanded inclusion of victims in the criminal justice system, increasingly visible services, and recognized rights for all victims and survivors. We also seek out those victims who have fallen through our communal cracks, and those communities for whom justice is still out of reach. These victims require our best selves, working together across disciplines and divisions to provide inclusive, trauma-informed services specific to their culture, experiences, and victimization.

This year's theme—***Strength. Resilience. Justice.***—reflects this vision of the future. One in which all victims are strengthened by the response they receive, organizations are resilient to face challenges, and communities are able to seek collective justice and healing. The theme highlights the need for multiple avenues of victim support. It also acknowledges two truths: that justice reaches outside the courtroom, and that the strength and resilience of our communities depend on confidence in our justice system.

We can support healthy individuals, capable service providers, and productive communities throughout the Nation by working together to address the needs of vulnerable populations and to normalize the provision of specialized services to reach them.

On behalf of the Office for Victims of Crime, thank you for all of your efforts and your unwavering commitment to all victims of crime. Sign up for the NCVRW Mailing List at www.ovc.gov/ncvrw/mailling to receive email notification when the 2017 Resource Guide is available for download. Stay tuned to the NCVRW website, www.ovc.gov/ncvrw, for more information on this year's event and related materials.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marilyn M. Roberts".

Marilyn McCoy Roberts
Acting Director
Office for Victims of Crime