

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
Victims of Crime

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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 *2016 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide*. Produced in both English and Spanish, the Resource Guide is designed to give victim service providers and allied professionals customizable materials and information to plan 2016 National Crime Victims' Rights Week observances, April 10–16, and other campaigns throughout the year.

This year's theme—*Serving Victims. Building Trust. Restoring Hope.*—reminds us of the significant progress we have made in recognizing victims' rights and at the same time emphasizes the need to expand our reach to marginalized, isolated, and other victims who are less likely to seek services on their own. We know that early intervention—addressing victimization when it occurs—is critical and can improve victim recovery and prevent future victimization.

To help stop the cycle of violence, we challenge all of you, advocates and allies, to identify who we are missing and how to increase our understanding of ways to better serve these populations. To do this, we must intentionally expand our networks to collaborate with non-traditional service providers, building trust and expanding our ability to reach victims where they are. We must be open to different perspectives and approaches so that we are inclusive in our responses.

Please use the resources provided during National Crime Victims' Rights Week and beyond to increase public awareness about the scope and impact of victimization and our collective responsibility to respond in the aftermath.

On behalf of the National Center for Victims of Crime, thank you for all that you do and the difference you are making in your communities. Together, we will continue to elevate victims' voices and strengthen victims' rights and services throughout the country, restoring hope for all.

Sincerely,



Mai Fernandez
Executive Director
National Center for Victims of Crime