



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New Yorkers share a vision for a better world and are committed to making our communities safer places to live, learn, work, and visit; our State stands in support of the victims' rights movement and continuously strives to ensure fairness and equality for crime victims in our legal and court systems and their dignity, respect, and compassion in the aftermath of a crime; and

Whereas, the New York State Office of Victim Services (OVS) has been an integral part of this commitment, providing a critical safety net for the needs of persons impacted by crimes and their families for more than a half-century; and

Whereas, victims of crime often face psychological, social, legal and cultural obstacles that prevent them from seeking the assistance they need to recover and, in 2021, OVS provided more than \$18 million to victims and their families to help pay for medical bills, counseling, and moving expenses, among other crime-related costs; and reimbursed medical providers for the cost of forensic sexual assault exams to assist investigations and ensure privacy for all victims; and

Whereas, in 2021, OVS provided more than \$133 million to 228 victim assistance programs that deliver critical services to victims and survivors of crime, awarding another \$13.5 million to assist providers with meeting the challenges of the pandemic; and

Whereas, in 2022, New York State continues to expand outreach to victims of hate crimes, domestic violence, sexual assault and gun violence, allowing these individuals to apply for reimbursement of certain costs and expenses, expanding mobile advocacy, improving hotline access and providing safe housing for families affected by domestic violence; and

Whereas, OVS strives to better address the needs of vulnerable populations, and in the past two years has trained more than 8,000 professionals to help victim advocates and service providers throughout New York State meet the needs of victims of crime by enhancing and expanding operations and connecting with traditionally underserved members of society; and

Whereas, by embracing this year's national theme of "Rights, Access, Equity For All Victims," New York State reaffirms its dedication to the national mission of helping crime victims find their justice and confront and remove barriers to achieving justice for all victims of crime; and

Whereas, all New Yorkers join in the observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week and its goals to focus greater attention to justice, inclusion and equity, while supporting the courageous individuals who are willing to speak about their experiences to educate and empower others, and remember those whose lives have been forever altered by crime;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim April 24 - 30, 2022 as

CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-first day of April in the year two thousand twenty-two.

Kathy Hochul
Governor

[Signature]

Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh