

This year, hundreds of state and local officials and agencies will issue proclamations or resolutions that officially proclaim the week of April 9-15, 2000 to be “(State/local) Crime Victims’ Rights Week.” This sample proclamation can be offered to such officials and entities as a foundation upon which to draft an official proclamation that is specific to each jurisdiction’s needs. Data from the statistical overviews included in this Resource Guide and/or jurisdiction-specific data can be useful for tailoring the sample proclamation to an individual organization, jurisdiction or state. Victim advocates should request multiple copies of any proclamations issued that can be framed for the offices of the many organizations that co-sponsor 2000 NCVRW activities.



# Sample Proclamation

- Whereas,** year 2000 marks the twentieth anniversary of the commemoration of National Crime Victims' Rights Week; and
- Whereas,** the victims' rights discipline in America has, for nearly three decades, dared to dream of a nation that is free from violence and an America where crime victims are consistently provided supportive services to help them cope with the trauma of crime and victimization; and
- Whereas,** while the rate of most crimes continues to decrease, U.S. residents still experience nearly 31 million criminal victimizations, including nearly 8.1 million violent crimes; and
- Whereas,** over 30,000 federal and state laws have been passed that define and protect the rights of crime victims; 32 states have passed constitutional amendments that afford victims important participatory rights throughout the criminal and juvenile justice systems; and a federal constitutional amendment is currently pending in the U.S. Congress; and
- Whereas,** important partnerships have been formed among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, allied professionals, and victim services to ensure that crime victims are treated with dignity and respect; and
- Whereas,** our nation's commitment to victim assistance, crime prevention, and public safety has resulted in countless individuals and collaborative initiatives that truly do our community justice; and
- Whereas,** the new millennium affords us the opportunity to continue to dare to dream of a nation where liberty and justice *for all* includes each and every person who has been touched by crime; **therefore, be it**
- Resolved,** that [individual or entity] proclaims the week of April 9 to 15, 2000 to be [city/county/parish/state] Crime Victims' Week; **and be it further**
- Resolved,** that our individual and collective efforts reflect the dreams we dare to have of a nation where *no crime victim* goes unserved, and *every crime victim* is afforded rights and services, and fair treatment by the justice system and by society; **and be it further**
- Resolved,** that a suitably prepared copy of this proclamation be presented to [your organization].