

For Immediate Release

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**VOCAL, Victims of Crime and Leniency celebrates
National Crime Victims' Rights Week April 21-27, 2024.**

Montgomery, Alabama — National Crime Victims' Rights Week is April 21-27, 2024. VOCAL is commemorating this important awareness week by hosting a Community Partnership Event and Candlelight Vigil and to encourage members of the community to learn how to help survivors.

The event will be held on **April 26, 2024**, at the Alabama Attorney General's Office in Montgomery at the corner of Dexter Avenue and Bainbridge Street in the front lawn area where the memorial crosses are located. We will begin at 6:00 pm with the opportunity to meet some of our area community partners. The program will begin at 7:00 pm. with Blount County District Attorney Pamela Casey serving as the keynote speaker.

In 2022, there were nearly 20 million crime victimizations in the United States. More than 6.6 million were the result of violent crimes, including rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Of that 6.6 million, only about 42% were reported to police.

According to crime.alabama.gov there were 82,937 total crime occurrences in Alabama in 2022. That total includes 13,848 total violent crimes of which 416 were homicides, 605 Rapes, 11,337 Assaults, 11,131 Burglary, and 1490 Robbery. Each of those numbers represents a crime victim. (Hudnall, M., Lewis, D., Parton, J, (2024, Apr 17). Crime In Alabama. Retrieved from <https://crime.alabama.gov>)

Wanda Miller, Executive Director of Victims of Crimes and Leniency offers, "This week serves as a poignant reminder of our collective journey and the path that still lies ahead. It brings together communities across Alabama, united in remembrance of crime victims, standing in solidarity for those who no longer have a voice, and offering support to those who face life irrevocably altered."

This year's National Crime Victims' Rights Week theme is "How would you help? Options, services, and hope for crime survivors." We must create an environment in which victims and survivors feel safe talking about what happened to them. The theme aims to ensure that everyone in a community knows where and how crime victims and survivors can find help — including friends, family members, colleagues, neighbors, service providers, or other trusted members of the community. We must all be prepared to offer support.

Victims of Crime and Leniency is proud to join the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) and communities throughout the United States during National Crime Victims' Rights Week in raising awareness of victims' rights and honoring crime victims and their advocates.

Members of the media are invited to cover the April 26th event. Interviews can also be arranged ahead of time by contacting VOCAL using the information provided.

For additional information about this year's National Crime Victims' Rights Week, please contact VOCAL at (334) 262-7197 or visit vocalonline.org. To learn more about how to support all victims of crime, visit the Office for Victims of Crime's website at ovc.ojp.gov.

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