



**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001**

CRIME VICTIM'S RIGHTS WEEK 2022

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Crime Victim's Rights Week is dedicated to learning about victimization, the effect victimization has on individuals, families, friends, and the community, and to promoting laws, policies, and programs to help victims of crime; and

WHEREAS every year, thousands of communities across the nation honor the dedication of those before us that established victim rights and renew commitment to guarantee that all victims have the rights and services they need to recover from crime; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime envisioned a national commitment to a more equitable and supportive response to victims; and

WHEREAS, this commemorative week celebrates the energy, perseverance, and commitment that launched the victims' rights movement, inspired its progress, and continues to advance the cause of justice for crime victims; and

WHEREAS, crime can leave a lasting impact on any person, regardless of age, national origin, race, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, immigration, or economic status; and

WHEREAS, incorporating the guidance of communities' experts and trusted sources of support into efforts to fully serve survivors will develop a criminal justice system response that is truly accessible and appropriate for all victims of crime; and

WHEREAS, with the unwavering support of their communities and service providers survivors will be empowered to face their grief, loss, fear, anger, and hope without fear of judgment, and will feel understood, heard, and respected; and

WHEREAS, serving victims and rebuilding their trust restores hope to victims and survivors, as well as supports prosperous communities; and

WHEREAS, engaging a broader array of healthcare providers, community leaders, faith organizations, educators and businesses can provide new links between victims and services that improve their safety, healing, and access to justice; and


WHEREAS, honoring the rights of victims, including the right to be heard and to be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect, and working to meet the needs of victims rebuilds their trust in the criminal justice and social service systems; and

WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to recommit to ensuring that all victims of crime – especially those who are challenging to reach or serve – are offered culturally and linguistically accessible appropriate services in the aftermath of crime.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Albert Bryan, Jr., Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, do hereby proclaim the week of **April 24- 30, 2022**, as "*Crime Victims' Rights Week*" in the Virgin Islands. I call upon the people of the Virgin Islands to join me in the commitment to creating a victim service and criminal justice response that assists all victims of crime during Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year; and to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for those community members, victim service providers, and criminal justice professionals who are committed to improving our response to all victims of crime so that they may find relevant assistance, support, justice, and peace.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this **24th** day of March, A. D. 2022.




Albert Bryan, Jr.
Governor

Attest:


Tregenza A. Roach, Esq.
Lieutenant Governor