



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

**CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK 2023**

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**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES**

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**A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, Crime Victims' 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**, the term "victim" is more than just a label and has legal standing and protections that go along with it; and

**WHEREAS**, crime victims' rights acts passed here in United States Virgin Islands and at the federal level guarantee victims the right to meaningfully participate and use their voice in the criminal justice process; and

**WHEREAS**, victim service providers, advocates, law enforcement officers, attorneys, and other allied professionals can help survivors find their justice by enforcing these rights; and

**WHEREAS**, survivors' lived experience can serve as a catalyst for implementing innovative programs, shifting existing programs in new directions, and changing policies or practices that prevent survivors from accessing services or pursuing justice; and

**WHEREAS**, nationally, the Office for Victims of Crime leads communities in observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The theme for 2023 – Survivor Voices: Elevate. Engage. Effect Change. – encourages communities to create an environment for victims of crime where survivors are heard, believed, and supported.

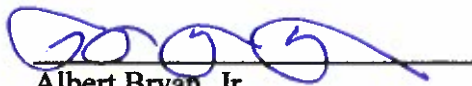
**WHEREAS**, here in the Territory, the Issachar K Tigre Chinnery Foundation-Victims United, Inc., is dedicated to amplifying the voices of survivors provide support through various outreach programs and services; and

**WHEREAS**, Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to recommit to listening to crime survivors in every space where decisions are made that could impact them.

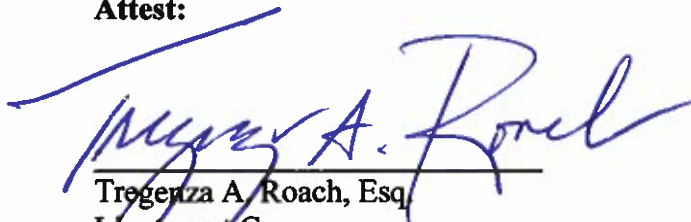
**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Albert Bryan, Jr., Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, do hereby proclaim the **week of April 23-29, 2023**, as "*Crime Victim's Rights Week*" in the Virgin Islands. I call upon 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 11<sup>th</sup> day of April, A. D. 2023.



  
Albert Bryan, Jr.  
Governor

Attest:

  
Tregenza A. Roach, Esq.  
Lieutenant Governor