



A Message From the District Attorney



Dear Friends:

Later this month, we commemorate National Crime Victims' Rights Week. It is an important time as we in the criminal legal system reflect on how we can better support crime survivors.

This year's theme is "Rights, Access, Equity, for all victims." Helping crime victims heal requires us to honor and respect victims' rights, expand access to services and ensure equity and inclusion for all.

In recent weeks, I have taken action to expand my office's efforts to assist survivors of unsolved crimes and ensure that more people are reached and provided support. The fact that cases have not resulted in criminal charges doesn't mean these survivors do not need the same financial, medical and emotional support afforded to other victims. You may read more [here](#).

My decision to expand services is informed by listening to survivors. I have found this is the best way to appreciate their needs and improve services to them.

We also are in the process of hiring more victim services representatives countywide, thereby, increasing access to services for more people. In addition, I will soon introduce our new Director of the Bureau of Victim Services, a person who has a background in clinical psychology and will employ victim-centered, trauma-informed practices.

But we will not stop there. We are a learning organization and remain open to new ideas. That is why I created the office's first Crime Victims Advisory Board, which has direct access to my administrators so they may share their concerns and provide input on improving services.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week is an important time for reflection and recommitment. But every single day it is vital that we remain committed to restoring crime victims.

If you are a victim of crime, I urge you to contact the Bureau of Victim Services at (800) 380-3811.

With respect and gratitude,

George Gascón
District Attorney