



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

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 1988, the Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) was established within the Office of Justice Programs at the United States Department of Justice with the Congressional charge to administer the Crime Victims Fund which supports programs and services to help victims of violence rebuild their lives; and

WHEREAS, the federal Crime Victims' Rights Act of 2004, as well as U. S. Virgin Islands Code Title 34, Chapter 8, Sections 201-206, "Victims and Witnesses Bill of Rights", guarantee victims of crime certain rights and safeguards, including to meaningfully participate in the criminal justice process; to obtain the support of advocates, victim services providers, law enforcement personnel, allied professionals, attorneys and others throughout the criminal justice and social services systems, and the community, that can assist survivors to obtain justice and restore their lives; and

WHEREAS, in the U. S. Virgin Islands, resources and services for victims of crime are provided through various public and non-public organizations, including the U. S. Virgin Islands Law Enforcement Planning Commission (LEPC), the Virgin Islands Police Department, the Virgin Islands Departments of Justice, Human Service, Health, in addition to the Judiciary of the Virgin Islands, community-based victim services providers, such as Family Resource Center, Women's Coalition, Legal Services of the Virgin Islands, Men's Coalition, faith-based organizations, federal partners and others; and

WHEREAS, crime affects individuals, families and communities in profound and varied ways, often leaving lasting physical, emotional and social challenges regardless of age, national origin, race, religion, economic status or otherwise; and

WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week was established in 1981 and is held annually in April to provide the opportunity to recommit ensuring that all victims of crime are afforded their rights and receive a trauma-informed response; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 National Crime Victims' Rights Week is themed, "KINSHIP", and kinship is the foundation of victim advocacy, inspiring trauma-informed care that meets survivors where they are; and

WHEREAS, KINSHIP reminds us of the strength that comes from the connection, the importance of listening to every voice, and the power we must create lasting change when we work together.

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 6-12, 2025, as "National Crime Victims' Rights Week"** in the United States Virgin Islands. Let us reaffirm our dedication to building connections, standing in kinship with survivors, and creating a future where healing and hope are within reach for everyone.

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 2ND day of April A. D. 2025.



Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor

Attest:



Tregenza A. Roach, Esq.
Lieutenant Governor

