



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 19-25, 2026

### **Crime Victims' Rights Week**

Crime has a lasting impact on all people and communities touched by it, causing physical, emotional, and social harm. Each year, California and the nation observe Crime Victims' Rights Week to reaffirm our support for victims, survivors, and their families and to recognize their right to be supported, heard, and treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.

This week, we honor the resilience and perseverance that launched the victims' rights movement, inspired its progress, and continues to benefit victims and survivors. Too many victims walk away from the legal system feeling unheard and unsupported. California is working to change that by supporting and empowering victims through trauma-informed services, and building bridges between and among survivors and communities.

California has been a national leader in victim services since 1965, when our state established the first victim compensation program in the nation. Since its inception, the program has provided more than \$2.8 billion to assist victims of violent crime.

In 1988, the Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services (OVSR) was created to help victims and their families exercise their rights. OVSR works directly with victims and survivors and plays a key role in collecting restitution and helping victims participate and be heard in hearings or other processes.

California is committed to supporting and empowering victims of crime. I thank all the victim advocates in organizations across the state for their tireless work to help victims and survivors find hope and pathways to healing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom", written over a horizontal line.

Gavin Newsom