

# Declaration

## **NATIONAL VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK** **April 21-27, 2024**

More than 26 million people become victims of crime each year, and these crimes also affect family members, friends, neighbors, and co-workers; and the Alameda County District Attorney's Victim/Witness Division is dedicated to ensuring the rights of crime victims and their families by providing services to aid in their recovery from the emotional, psychological, social and economic impact of crime as they reclaim their sense of safety, well – being and dignity. The DA's Victim/Witness staff assists victims of crime without regard to a person's race, gender, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, and gender identity or immigration status.

Victims are faced with many challenges as a result of crime; often times, victims enter systems that fail to meet their needs, provide appropriate services and fail to treat them with the dignity and respect they deserve; and involving survivors helps victim service providers and criminal justice professionals understand the culture, values, and expectations of underserved and unserved victims who seek assistance and justice.

In 1984, the Crime Victims Fund was established by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) to provide a permanent source of support for crime victim services and compensation. Alameda County District Attorney's Office Victim-Witness Assistance Division partners with survivors, community service providers, criminal justice professionals and victim advocates to enhance a criminal justice system response that is accessible, culturally competent and appropriate for all victims of crime.

Under DA Pamela Price's Administration, the DA's Victim/Witness Assistance Division has become more diverse and multilingual and better represents the lived experiences of our diverse community, while receiving a variety of culturally responsive and trauma informed trainings.

In 2023, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office served more than 22,500 survivors, provided over 60,000 services for victims and their families and paid more than \$750,000 in compensation and burial expenses; including but not limited to, child victims of violence and sexual abuse, stalking victims, survivors of homicide victims, human trafficking, crimes against elders and dependent adults, sexual assault, domestic violence, robbery and other crimes; and for victims of crime without independent financial means, the District Attorney's office facilitated financial support through the victim Compensation Program.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 21-27, 2024, provides an opportunity to celebrate the energy, creativity and commitment of advocates for victims' rights. The City of Alameda, County of Alameda, State of California hereby declares April 21-27, 2024, to be Victims' Rights Week in the City of Alameda, and reaffirms the commitment to respect and enforce victims' rights and addressing their needs during Victims' Rights Weeks and throughout the year; and express our appreciation for those victims and survivors of crime who have turned personal tragedy into a motivating force to improve the response to victims of crime and build a more just community.

