



Crime Victims' Rights Week
&
How You Can Support a Victim of Domestic Violence

Molly Conway, M.S - Community Outreach Coordinator

Every April, since 1981 the Office of the Victims of Crime leads communities across the United States in their observance of National Victims' Rights Week – this is a historic year as OVC celebrates 40 years of holding this weeklong commemoration. Each year comes with the opportunity to renew the commitments of serving all victims of crime without bias, acknowledging the achievements and progressive gains in the various sectors of victim services, to honor victim service providers and to remember those who are survivors/victims of violence.

In order to emphasize the importance of leveraging community support to help victims of crime, the OVC has dubbed this year's theme as:

"Support Victims. Build Trust. Engage Communities."

To learn more about Crime Victims' Rights Week, to view the CVRW Resource Guide and/or to register for the virtual CVRW Service Award Ceremony to be held on April 23rd please visit:

www.ojp.gov

Survivors and victims of domestic violence need to know that they are supported by their friends, family, loved ones, neighbors and community. It can be upsetting, emotional and frustrating when someone you care about reveals that they are being abused. Here are a few things that you can do to show that you support a survivor of domestic abuse:

- Acknowledge, honor and respect any feeling(s) that a survivor shares with you. Listen to them, provide the survivor with some unconditional, non-judgmental space and time to talk openly and honestly.
- PLEASE do not judge, criticize, or in any way make a survivor feel bad for the choice(s) they are making - PLEASE do not blame the victim.

- Offer to accompany or take the survivor to medical, law enforcement, legal and/or other service professionals for moral support.
- Research and provide the survivor with current, local and out of town professional resources and contact information (i.e. domestic abuse shelters, domestic abuse non-residential support services).
- Learn about what a **safety plan** is. Survivors who are receiving support services from domestic violence agencies typically have safety plans – you may be able to safely assist a survivor with some components of their safety plan.

Esperanza Shelter offers domestic violence support services to all victims of domestic abuse regardless of disability, race, ethnicity, immigration status, gender, sexual orientation or religion.

Our free, confidential residential and non-residential support services are accessible in all languages.

For more information, visit our website esperanzashelter.org.

24/7 Crisis Hotline
505.473.5200
800.473.5220

Support Center
Monday – Friday, 9 am – 5 pm
505.474.5536

For further information, please contact:
Marcos Zubia, Director of Development
Esperanza Shelter
505.309.1657
marcos@esperanzashelter.org