

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

**Whereas** All citizens, including victims, witnesses and their families who suffer in the wake of crime, deserve to be treated with dignity, respect, compassion and justice; and

**Whereas** Each life lost or touched by a senseless act of violence is one too many, and the victims, families and communities affected must be healed; and

**Whereas** Certain types of crime, such as domestic violence, rape, hate crimes, and child sexual abuse, too often remain unreported because victims are intimidated, stigmatized, and met with skepticism; and

**Whereas** Violent crime claims its victims from across all gender, racial, ethnic, generational, economic, religious and sexual orientation lines; and

**Whereas** The individual stories of crime victims give voice to the personal anguish that so many endure, the victims' experiences must be told and retold until greater empathy and understanding are achieved in society; and

**Whereas** Our shared goal is to advance meaningful and accessible rights and services for crime victims statewide, and to work together in a coordinated, collaborative manner is paramount; and

**Whereas** The Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance, along with victim service providers statewide, will lead the victim rights movement, where the compassionate, just and equal treatment of crime victims will become the standard throughout the Commonwealth,

**Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick**, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim April 2008, to be,

## CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS MONTH

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this twenty-fifth day of March, in the year two thousand and eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-first.

By His Excellency

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval L. Patrick".

DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Francis Galvin".

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH



God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts