



# Department of Justice

## Acting United States Attorney Scott Erik Asphaug District of Oregon

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE JOINS IN RECOGNIZING 40th ANNUAL NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK, APRIL 18-24, 2021**

PORTRLAND, Ore.—Every April, the Justice Department's Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) leads communities across the country in observing National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) to honor crime victims, promote their rights and recognize victim advocates. This year's observance, the 40th annual commemoration, takes place April 18-24, 2021 with the theme: Support Victims | Build Trust | Engage Communities.

The U.S. Attorney's Office joins its federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement partners in taking this opportunity to highlight the importance of providing necessary services at the earliest possible stage of victimization and litigation. Early intervention helps prevent further victimization and encourages victim involvement in the criminal justice system, mitigating the cycle of violence and restoring hope for the future.

"Protecting victims' rights in all phases of the federal judicial process is a top priority for the U.S. Attorney's Office. National Crime Victims' Rights Week affords us the opportunity to reaffirm our ongoing commitment to crime victims," said Acting U.S. Attorney Scott Erik Asphaug. "The courage victims show every day in courtrooms across the country motivates all of us in law enforcement to continue vigorously advocating on their behalf."

During National Crime Victims' Rights Week, victim advocacy organizations, community groups and state, local, and tribal agencies traditionally host rallies, candlelight vigils, and other events to raise awareness of victims' rights and services. This year, many communities are organizing virtual gatherings and online public awareness campaigns.

OVC and the U.S. Attorney's Office encourages widespread participation in the week's virtual events and in other victim-related observances throughout the year. For additional information about this year's National Crime Victims' Rights Week and how to assist victims in your community, please visit OVC's website at [www.ovc.gov](http://www.ovc.gov). For ongoing updates from OVC and ideas throughout the year on how you can support victims, please subscribe to OVC's email notifications at <https://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw/subscribe/>.

If you or someone you know are in immediate danger, please call 911. If you believe you've been the target or victim of a crime, please contact your local law enforcement agency or

your nearest FBI field office immediately. The FBI Portland Field Office can be reached at (503) 224-4181 or by submitting tips online at [tips.fbi.gov](http://tips.fbi.gov).

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