

**Crime Victim/Survivor Services and Allied Professionals' Support
for Ms. Kristen Clarke's Appointment to Serve as Assistant Attorney
General for the Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice**

February 19, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Schumer, Durbin, McConnell and Grassley:

We, the undersigned, include crime survivors, victim/survivor advocates, and allied criminal and juvenile justice professionals. Individually and collectively, we whole-heartedly support the appointment of Kristen Clarke to serve this Administration as its Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division, within the U.S. Department of Justice.

Ms. Clarke is well acquainted with the importance of crime survivors' rights and services, through her previous work in the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, where she personally led critical cases involving hate crimes and human trafficking. We appreciate her understanding of the often-devastating impact of crime on victims, particularly those who are marginalized and/or under-served.

Her career-long commitment to marginalized crime survivors and communities is evidenced by her leadership of the James Byrd, Jr. Center to Stop Hate at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. She has been a strong proponent for standing up for those who suffer from online harassment, online solicitation of violence, and accountability for social media platforms that do not adequately safeguard their platforms according to their terms of service.

Ms. Clarke is also a heralded and appreciated leader in promoting equity for LGBTQ+ victims and survivors, who are over-represented in crimes targeted against them due solely to their sexual orientation and who are traditionally under-represented when it comes to access to comprehensive, quality victim/survivor services. At Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, she has worked tirelessly to promote fair housing, economic justice, voting rights, and Title IX protections for women and girls of color.

A time-honored adage in the victim/survivor services profession is **"victims' rights are civil rights."**

We are confident that Kristen Clarke, if confirmed as the USDOJ Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division, understands the important needs and rights of crime survivors; and will respect and reflect the interests of crime survivors – and those who serve them – in her important leadership role.

We appreciate your consideration of our strong support for Kristen Clarke.

Respectfully,

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