



CRIME SURVIVORS FOR  
SAFETY AND JUSTICE



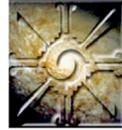
CALIFORNIANS  
FOR SAFETY AND JUSTICE

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CALIFORNIA  
PARTNERSHIP TO END  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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INTEGRAL  
COMMUNITY  
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INSTITUTE



March 17, 2021

Governor Gavin Newsom  
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **RE: California Crime Victims Agenda**

Dear Governor Newsom,

We are a coalition of organizations, stakeholders, leaders, and advocates representing thousands of crime victims and survivors from across California. Our state has taken important steps in recent years to improve the delivery of services to crime victims and survivors, and to begin to advance a new public safety agenda rooted in healing. But at this moment, many CA crime victims are in crisis. The impact of COVID-19, rise in certain types of crime, and lack of access to support and resources have exacerbated issues many survivors were already facing. It is imperative that we increase funding for victims services, end discriminatory barriers to services, and provide real help for crime victims and survivors.

**The attached California Victims Agenda outlines the top priorities of California survivors to better meet our needs and align with our policy preferences. Our coalition is also requesting at least \$115 million in general fund dollars to the California Victim Compensation Board to permanently stabilize victim compensation funding and end CalVCB's reliance on fines and fees.**

Despite substantial increases in criminal justice expenditures over the last three decades, the majority of crime survivors do not receive support to recover from harm. As efforts to reform the criminal justice system grow statewide, it has never

been more important to vision approaches to safety and justice that reach all victims and meet the safety needs of those communities most harmed and least helped. A 2019 survey of California crime survivors, for example, found that only 14 percent of victims felt “very supported” by the criminal justice system after they experienced crime.<sup>1</sup>

The unprecedented COVID-19 health crisis, and the national outcry over racist violence and police killings, have laid bare the need for changes in our criminal justice and public safety priorities. And, amidst challenging economic times, we are seeing deadly violence begin to rise in our cities. Black and Brown communities have been most harmed by these compounded public health crises, most targeted by incarceration, and historically least supported. It is especially critical now that California shifts the way it leverages resources to prioritize supporting initiatives rooted in communities of color that have been most harmed. More than ever, we need to prioritize stabilizing community-driven safety solutions that center prevention and healing.

Our Coalition would like to thank you for your commitment to supporting safety solutions rooted in prevention and healing, and centering the needs of all crime victims and survivors. We look forward to partnering with the administration.

Sincerely,

Californians for Safety and Justice  
California Partnership to End Domestic Violence  
Futures without Violence  
Peace Over Violence  
Black Women Revolt  
Take A Stand Committee  
Integral Community Solutions Institute

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<sup>1</sup> Californians for Safety and Justice (2019). California Crime Survivors Speak: A Statewide Survey of California Victims' Views on Safety and Justice.