

harm to crime victims. So how do we redress those injuries? How do we achieve victim justice? Perhaps it is no more difficult than to give victims some of the rights and services that are accorded to the accused and the convicted offenders. Consider the following. When the person is arrested he has a right to be protected from harm, a right to be informed of his rights, a right to medical treatment if injured, and a right to counsel. Shouldn't a victim have parallel rights to protection, information, medical care and some form of counsel? When a defendant is put on trial he has a right to confront his accuser, a right to procedural fairness, a right to an impartial jury, a right to a speedy trial, a right to cross-examination, and a right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty. Should there be analogous opportunities for a victim to have his or her day in court? When a convicted offender is about to be sentenced to probation or prison, he has a right to be heard, and if sent to jail or prison he has a right to humane treatment. The victim also should have an opportunity to be heard, and surely it is not too much for society to offer victims humane and compassionate treatment, too. When an offender completes his probationary or parole, he is said to have paid his debt to society, but what about his debt to his victim? Surely the crime victimized not only the social order but also an individual. Surely balanced justice requires that the offender be held accountable for all of harm done, both to society and the victim. Those are the kind of issues and questions that we should be contemplating during this national week of rededication and commemoration, issues and questions that are not easily decided or answered. In a country whose national pledge is dedication to liberty and justice for all, we can no longer ignore the mounting devastation of crime and its aftermath. There is justice in providing fair and humane treatment to the victimizers among us, but full justice means providing fair and humane treatment to their victims as well. It means establishing victim justice as the balance to criminal justice in our law enforcement system. I urge that you adopt this resolution. And want to tell you that there is a long list of events that will be being held across the State of Nebraska in commemoration of victim rights week. We started April 14th with Governor Nelson signing a proclamation. Sunday, April 25th, there will be a candlelight vigil at Iron Horse Park, from seven-thirty to 8:00 p.m. On Sunday, April 25th, in Lincoln also, after the candlelight vigil, there will be a tribute to crime victims at the Lincoln Ensemble Theater, 701 P Street. And also on Sunday, in Omaha, there will be a tribute