



**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001**

SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS AWARENESS MONTH

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, when a man, woman, or child is murdered, all citizens are affected regardless of age, race, gender, creed, education, profession, religion, culture, or ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, the murder of a loved one robs their family of a mother, father, sister, brother, son, daughter, husband, wife, partner, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or extended family member and their absence creates an overwhelming void; and

WHEREAS, the murder of an individual deprives the victim's friends of companionship, mentorship, and partnership; and creates a psychological impact on the survivors and the community; and

WHEREAS, the heightened incidents of youth violence in the United States take a heavy toll on our nation's emotional and physical health. Violence causes emotional and physical injuries, permanent disability and death, diminished quality of life, and consumption of enormous healthcare resources; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for concerted territory-wide efforts to provide adequate support services to survivors grieving the murder of a loved one and to educate the community about the needs of survivors, including specific and targeted crisis intervention; and

WHEREAS, survivors are working to establish long-term collaborations between families of murder victims, the state and local institutions serving families in the aftermath of murder; and

WHEREAS, the goals of these collaborations are to provide a platform where survivors can obtain information and voice their concerns; and

WHEREAS, these collaborations will inform, set protocols, and improve policies, services, education, and outreach initiatives in which the voices of survivors are a vital component; and

WHEREAS, throughout the year and particularly during the holidays, survivors experience overwhelming grief, isolation, despair; and

WHEREAS, survivors of homicide victims are using their painful understanding of violence to honor their loved ones by providing leadership to our society in its quest to prevent violence and promote peace by effecting policy changes on a local, state, territorial, and national level.

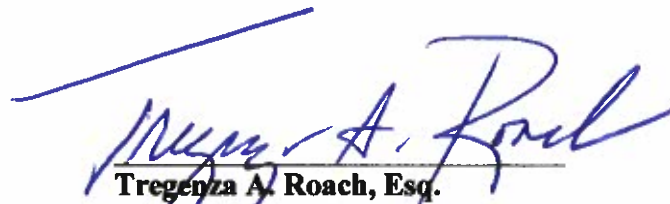
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Albert Bryan, Jr., Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, and V.I. Code do hereby **proclaim Sunday, November 20-Tuesday, December 20, 2022**, as “*Survivors of Homicide Victims Awareness Month*” I urge all citizens of the Territory to take cognizance of this awareness and participate in various events scheduled to commemorate its observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 25th day of October, A. D. 2022.




Albert Bryan, Jr.
Governor

Attest:


Tregenza A. Roach, Esq.
Lieutenant Governor