



April 10, 2025

## **Division of Victims Services hosts Candlelight Vigil for National Crime Victims' Rights Week**

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JACKSON – The impact of crime on victims was at the forefront of those attending a candlelight vigil Thursday evening through honoring survivors and remembering loved ones.

The vigil of “Connecting and Healing” was held as part of the Mississippi Department of Corrections Division of Victims Services observance of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week. About 30 people gathered in Smith Park adjacent to Amite, West, and Congress streets in downtown Jackson on April 10 for the program.

Participants lighted candles in memory and honor of victims, their families, and survivors. Speakers included MDOC Commissioner Burl Cain, Corrections Investigative Division Director Steven Maxwell, and Victims Services Director Pearlean Campbell. MDOC Constituent Services Director Grace Fisher also spoke of the work that MDOC does for victims and their families in its commitment to the services provided.

“What you should know about your Mississippi Department of Corrections is that, although we have in our custody, care, supervision, and control thousands of individuals who have committed crimes – those who are incarcerated and those who are in our community corrections programs – Commissioner Cain is committed to preserving victims’ rights,” Maxwell said. “As we come together tonight to honor our victims, we continue to reach out to victims across the state and make sure they remain connected and know the resources available to them to help overcome the trauma they have experienced.”

Shelia Duffy spoke about the Victim-Offender Dialogue program, which is among the services the Division of Victims Services offers. Duffy described how the program helped her to meet the offender before his release and tell him about the impact of his actions on her and her family. The program concluded with a benediction prayer offered by Senior Pastor Jennifer Biard of the Jackson Revival Center Church.

*For more information about the programs available, contact the MDOC Division of Victims Services at 601-359-5628.*



