## Empowering the voices of Mississippi Women



A Message from Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch

**E**arlier this month, Mississippi and the nation celebrated National Crime Victims' Rights Week. It is a time when we all take a moment to remember that behind every crime statistic is a real person whose life has been marked forever by someone else's criminal act. This is something my office endeavors to remember year-round, and we take this special awareness week to recognize the organizations and individuals who have gone that extra mile to help victims of crime regain their trust, peace of mind, and sense of security.

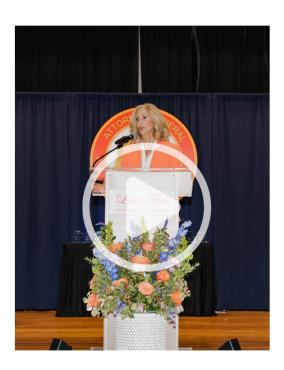
April is also National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Child-victims need our special attention, especially when they are abused by the very people they depend upon for their safety and care. I announced this month Mississippi's first Statewide Protocol for Child Abuse Response, a collaborative effort with the Children's Advocacy Centers of Mississippi, as well as prosecutors, courts, and law enforcement. This new Protocol will help to ensure that the way we investigate and prosecute child abuse cases, as well as how we care for the mental, emotional, and physical needs of the young victim will be uniform best practices for every child in every county. You can learn more about this and our other work to end child abuse here.

Walking alongside victims of crime is a priority for my office. In fact, I instituted the Attorney General's Office first Special Victims Unit to investigate and prosecute crimes against vulnerable populations, such as children, the elderly, adults with special needs, as well as victims of sexual assault, human trafficking, and domestic violence. It is for all of us to make sure crime victims know they are never alone to pick up the pieces.

# May God Bless You,

Lynn Siden

**PS**- Don't forget to <u>register</u> for the Second Annual Mississippi Women's Summit, September 8-9 at The Refuge Hotel and Conference Center in Flowood, Mississippi. Our room block with a special nightly rate of \$169 is open, too. You can click <u>here</u> to make your reservation or call 601-936-4550 and use the mini code: **WS9**. Space is limited so register today!



Click the video above to watch clips from our Crime Victims' Rights Week Ceremony, celebrating the heroes who help!

### AG Fitch in the News

#### <u>Supertalk- Madison man sentenced for possessing child</u> <u>pornography</u>

"My office will continue to hold those who exploit and prey on Mississippi's children accountable," **Attorney General Lynn Fitch said**. "Together, we can make Mississippi a safer place for everyone. But we need your help. If you suspect a child is being exploited or abused, please report it to my office. Your tip could save a life."

### WLBT- Man sentenced to 48 years for human trafficking

A man who was accused of human trafficking has been sentenced. **The Mississippi Attorney General's Office** announced on Tuesday that Lonnie Coleman of Memphis was found guilty of two counts of human trafficking and one count of possession with intent to transfer fentanyl.

#### <u>Darkhorse Press- AG Lynn Fitch Leads Bipartisan Multistate</u> <u>Letter Seeking Better Federal-State Cooperation to End Human</u> <u>Trafficking</u>

"Local law enforcement needs third-party tips to end trafficking and help its victims," **said Attorney General Lynn Fitch**. "Polaris' refusal to share this

vital intelligence has severely impacted the value of the National Hotline for victims of human trafficking. As the Hotline award comes up for review, we need the Department of Health and Human Services to be our partner in restoring this function of the Hotline so we do not lose one more person due to this gap in reporting."





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