

Aswad Thomas, MSW**Vice President, Just Safe | National Director, Crime Survivors Speak**

Aswad Thomas is Vice President of Just Safe and National Director of Crime Survivors Speak, a national network of more than 200,000 crime victims working to advance policies that promote healing, victim support, rehabilitation, and public safety.

A former basketball player and the first in his family to graduate from college, Aswad, became a victim advocate after being shot twice in the back. His personal experience as a victim of a violent crime informs his leadership in expanding access to victim services and elevating survivor voices in public policy.

He works with victims, community organizations, and policymakers across the country to strengthen victim compensation, expand trauma recovery services, and advance rehabilitation programs. His advocacy emphasizes addressing trauma, preventing future harm, and investing in approaches that help people successfully return to their communities.

For the Arkansas House and Senate Judiciary Committees' consideration of earned credit reforms, he brings a victim-centered perspective on how incentives for participation in education, treatment, and rehabilitative programming can support accountability, reduce reliance on incarceration, protect victims, and strengthen community safety.

He received the U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime's 2024 Survivor Voices Award in recognition of his victim advocacy and leadership. He holds a Master of Social Work from the University of Connecticut and a B.A. in Business Management from Elms College.