



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

June 7, 2024

UNITING TO END GUN VIOLENCE

Above all else, strive to be faithful to Christ's vision of the peaceable Kingdom of God on earth. Courageously challenge cultural, political, and religious trends that are contrary to the reconciling and restoring purposes of God. Pursue peace.

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:3b

Gun violence is an alarming epidemic in the United States. Gun deaths by suicide and homicide claim thousands of lives each year causing immeasurable suffering for families and communities. Community of Christ advocates for peace, justice, and the well-being of all people. As a people who seek to embody the Enduring Principle Pursuit of Peace, it is imperative that we raise awareness of gun violence and work together to address its root causes while providing support to those affected.

World Conference Resolution 1270 states that the church encourage its members toward "...a thoughtful and reflective stewardship regarding the use of firearms for professional or for sports purposes; and that the church encourage its membership to renounce the personal use of firearms for all other purposes as a response to the call to recognize the worth of all persons" (Personal Use of Firearms, adopted in 2000).

As followers of Jesus, the peaceful One, we have a moral obligation to confront the scourge of gun violence with compassion, courage, and collective action. By raising awareness, providing support, and advocating for change, we can contribute to building a more just and peaceful nation and world where all people live free from fear of gun violence. Let us create a future of collective wholeness where every life is valued and protected.

LEARN MORE:

- <https://www.bradyunited.org/key-statistics>
- <https://nationalcouncilofchurches.us/ncc-reaffirms-its-2010-resolution-on-gun-violence/>
- <https://everytownresearch.org/report/how-can-we-prevent-gun-violence-in-schools/>
- <https://momsdemandaction.org/>

DO SOMETHING:

- Education and Information:
 - Organize seminars, workshops, and forums within local congregations and communities to educate people about the impact of gun violence.

- Distribute informational materials, including statistics, stories of survivors, and resources for prevention and intervention.
- Social Media Campaigns:
 - Utilize social media platforms to share facts, testimonials, and calls to action related to gun violence prevention.
 - Encourage members to share their own reflections and experiences, fostering dialogue and empathy.
- Collaborative Efforts:
 - Partner with local organizations, advocacy groups, and government agencies to amplify our message and reach a wider audience.
 - Participate in national campaigns and events dedicated to ending gun violence, such as advocacy days and awareness months.
- Community Outreach:
 - Engage in community outreach programs to address underlying issues contributing to gun violence, such as poverty, mental health, and systemic inequality.
 - Promote conflict resolution strategies and nonviolent communication skills to prevent escalation and resolve disputes peacefully.
- Legislative Advocacy:
 - Advocate for common-sense gun laws that prioritize public safety while respecting constitutional rights.
 - Support initiatives for universal background checks, restrictions on assault weapons, and funding for gun violence research and prevention programs.

CHURCH STATEMENTS/ACTIONS:

- World Conference Resolution 1270, Personal Use of Firearms, adopted in 2000.
- World Conference Resolution 1319, Nonviolence, adopted in 2019.
- With the National Council of Churches: 2023 NCC Resolution on Rampant Gun Violence and Mass Shootings, <https://nationalcouncilofchurches.us/common-witness-ncc/ncc-resolution-on-rampant-gun-violence-and-mass-shootings/> reaffirming NCC Action: Ending Gun Violence: A Resolution and Call to Action by the National Council of Churches of Christ, U.S.A. 2010.

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