

ENDING GUN VIOLENCE PACKET

HARMONY CREEK CHURCH

DAYTON, OHIO

This guide is for those interested in sources and resources + information on gun legislation, websites of advocacy groups, books, articles and I. Please understand this is not exhaustive, but does give a broad look at what is available to educate yourself regarding gun control/violence and ways to get involved.

Organizations and Groups for Stopping Gun Violence

Everytown for Gun Safety

Gun violence touches every town in America. For too long, life-saving laws have been thwarted by the gun lobby and by leaders who refuse to take common-sense steps that will save lives. But something is changing. Nearly 10 million mayors, moms, teachers, survivors, gun owners, students, and everyday Americans have come together to make their own communities safer. Everytown starts with you, and it starts in your neighborhood. By introducing evidence-based solutions in every town, we can end gun violence.

Gun information specific for Ohio:

Ohio has some of the weakest gun laws in the country. Ohio has no law requiring background checks on unlicensed gun sales, and state law allows teachers to carry guns in elementary, middle, and high school classrooms. Ohio has no laws prohibiting domestic abusers from possessing guns.

In an average year, 1,702 people die by guns in Ohio.
Ohio ranks 33rd in the country for Gun Law Strength.

Glock is the top manufacturer of Crime Guns recovered in Dayton.

The Glock is the number one crime gun in cities surveyed, recovered 1.5 times more than any other crime gun; data shows significant spike in ghost guns recovered at crime scenes. This data was released by Mayor Jeffrey J. Mims, Jr. of Dayton, Ohio and 30 other mayors against illegal guns, a nonpartisan coalition of current and former mayors that is part of Everytown for Gun Safety.

Mayor Mims, Jr. stated, “Illegal guns continue to harm and threaten the safety of communities like Dayton. It’s vital that we address each element of our country’s gun violence crises and that includes holding gun manufacturers accountable for their role in the gun violence epidemic.”

Nick Suplina, Senior Vice-President of Law & Policy at Everytown for Gun Safety stated, “To stop gun crime, we cannot just focus on the criminals - we also need to shine a light on irresponsible gun makers who are turning a blind eye to their role in fueling America’s gun violence crisis.”

Moms Demand Action - a Subsidiary of Everytown For Gun Safety

Email media@momsdemandaction.org

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America was created in December 2012, in immediate response to the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School. As a leading force for gun violence prevention, the group supports the Second Amendment, but believes that common sense solutions are necessary in order to protect our children and loved ones. Moms Demand Action emphasizes that gun violence is an epidemic and fights for stronger gun laws and policies that would decrease this escalating epidemic. Though founded by mothers, the organization includes a large demographic, including men and students. With a chapter in every state, Moms Demand Action is recruiting and mobilizing supporters to take action in favor of stricter gun legislation that will ultimately save lives.

Students Demand Action - *A subsidiary of Everytown For Gun Safety*

We are high school and college students who are working toward a future free from gun violence. Since 2018, we've been organizing in our schools and communities to demand actions that will keep our communities safe. We've grown up in the midst of America's gun violence crisis. In fact, we've been called the "school shooting generation." Now we're rising up and organizing in our high schools, colleges, and communities across the country to demand action to end gun violence. With more than 600 groups across the country, Students Demand Action volunteers are showing up in every state to make our voices heard. We know that gun violence is preventable - and our lawmakers need to take action to treat it like the public health crisis that it is.

Pride Fund to End Gun Violence

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pridefund/

Twitter: twitter.com/Pride_Fund

Email info@pridefund.org to learn about volunteering opportunities

Pride Fund to End Gun Violence is a Political Action Committee (PAC) that supports candidates who will act on sensible gun policy reforms while championing LGBTQ+ safety and equality. The LGBTQ+ community suffers more hate crimes than any other protected group, which makes our voice critical in the fight to disarm hate. When a hate-filled individual can easily purchase a weapon of war without a background check, we are not safe. In order to disarm hate, Pride Fund is building a community's battle-after-battle wins for equality and turning our focus on the gun lobby by supporting candidates who are not afraid to reform our gun laws. Pride Fund is turning the frustration and anger of our community into action by focusing on achieving sensible gun reforms to make America safer for all.

We are working with other gun reform organizations to mobilize the LGBTQ community and our allies, raise funds to counter the robust financial power of the NRA and gun manufacturers, and elect candidates who will champion these issues.

CSGV: Coalition to Stop Gun Violence

CSGV's guiding principle is simple: we believe that all Americans have a right to live in their own communities.

Headquartered in Washington, DC

Phone: (202) 408-0061

Email: csgv@csgv.org

Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence

Mailing address: Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence, P.O. Box 302, Perrysburg, OH 43552

OCAGV and the Ohio Council of Churches have joined together to change the culture of gun violence in Ohio.

Media, requests for speakers and interviews should be addressed to:

Ohio Council of Churches

125 East Broad Street

Columbus, OH 43215

Phone: 614-372-8010

website: info@ohcouncilchs.org

The Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, working to prevent gun violence through education, advocacy and public awareness. The Coalition works with other organizations and individuals to facilitate community solutions to support public health recognition of the gun violence problem.

OCAGV has been advocating against gun violence since 1995, and for common-sense policies designed to reduce gun violence.

Gun violence is a critical public health issue. It's time we started treating it like one.

Ohio must stop gun sales to criminals:

- Close loop-holes that allow 40% of guns purchased in Ohio to be from unlicensed dealers, without the instant background checks required by the Brand Law
- Pass a one-gun-a-month law to prevent the illegal practice of secondary gun sales to criminals
- Mandate a registration of all handguns: handguns are used in 75% of firearm deaths and the public overwhelmingly supports handgun licensing and registration

Ohio must start protecting its citizens:

- Keep guns out of the hands of children with a juvenile protection law

- Ban Assault Weapons useful for criminals, including “cop killer” bullets and high capacity clips
- Encourage safe storage of guns, including a child-proof gun law
- Regulate the unpopular “concealed carry” law that allows Ohioans to carry loaded, hidden guns

Ohio does NOT have these safety laws:

- Juvenile possession law
- Child access prevention (CAP) law
- Record of sale law
- Registration law
- Licensing/permit to purchase law
- State ban on assault weapons
- One-a-month gun law
- Mandatory waiting period to purchase
- Ballistics law
- Childproof gun law
- Background checks on private sales

Reference Books & Ebooks

Gun Control in the United States: A reference Handbook

by Gregg Lee Carter, Mildred Vasan Editor

ISBN: 97818551097654

There are as many guns in the United States as there are adults. This book presents the issue with both sides of the debate on all the issues and, thus, the tools to make an informed decision. It breaks the debate into topics like history, effectiveness, legislation, and court cases, individuals and organizations, and reliable further resources.

Encyclopedia of Activism and Social Justice

by Gary L. Anderson (editor); Kathryn G. Herr (editor)

ISBN: 9781412918121

This encyclopedia is designed to give understanding to the topics, concepts, and ideas which have motivated and shaped the fields of activism, civil engagement and social justice as well as offering short biographies of all the major thinkers and leaders who have influenced, and continue to influence, the study of activism. With anti-globalization rallies and acts of civil disobedience increasing in the western world, activism and social justice are topics of general public debate in the media. This encyclopedia looks into putting into context 20th and 21st century political and social activism and further the debate on social justice.

Guns, Violence, and Criminal Behavior: The Offender's Perspective

by Mark R. Pogrebin; Paul B. Stretesky; N. Prabha Unnithan

ISBN: 9781588268433

How are guns used and viewed by criminals? Where do criminals obtain guns? And how do laws make firearms more or less accessible? Confronting these contentious questions, Guns, Violence and Criminal Behavior offers a comprehensive exploration of the social processes surrounding illegal firearm use and criminal behavior. The authors draw on in-depth interviews with felons convicted of gun-related crimes and previous quantitative studies to offer a fresh look at the key issues of gun violence. Highlighting the overload symbolic influence of guns in criminal situations, their findings underscore the power of social and cultural forces in affecting gun use.

Out of Range: Why the Constitution Can't End the Battle Over Guns

by Mark V. Tushnet

ISBN: 9780195304244

Publication date: 2007

Few constitutional disputes maintain as powerful a grip on the public mind as the battle over the Second Amendment. In *Out of Range*, one of the nation's leading scholars takes a calm, objective look at this bitter debate. Tushnet breaks down the different positions on the Second Amendment showing that it is a mistake to stereotype them. Along the way, he examines various experiments in public policy, from both sides, and finds little clear evidence for the practical effectiveness of any approach to gun safety and prosecution. Of course, he notes, most advocates of the right to keep and bear arms agree that it should be subject to reasonable regulation. Ultimately, Tushnet argues, our view of the Second Amendment reflects the sense of ourselves as a people. This compact, incisive examination offers an honest and thoughtful guide to both sides of the argument, pointing the way to solutions that could calm, if not settle, this bitter dispute.

RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS

Gun Rights vs. Gun Control (OpenSecrets.org)

Open Secrets, a resource for federal campaign contributions, lobbying data and analysis, is powered by the *Center for Responsible Politics*, which is a research group that tracks money in U.S. politics and its effect on elections and public policy. This website provides their analysis of the politics behind the gun control debate.

U.S. Government Agencies

Federal Bureau of Investigation: Uniform Crime Reporting Program

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program was conceived in 1929 by the International Association of Chiefs of Police to meet the need for reliable, uniform crime statistics for the nation. In 1930, the FBI was tasked with collecting, publishing, and archiving those statistics. Today, several annual statistical publications, such as Crime in the United States, are produced from data provided by nearly 17,000 law enforcement agencies across the United States.

The Bureau of Alcohol , Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

ATF is a law enforcement agency in the United States Department of Justice that protects United States citizens from violent criminals, criminal organizations, the illegal use and storage of explosives, acts of arson and bombings, acts of terrorism, and the illegal diversion of alcohol and tobacco products.

Charities and Organizations working on ending Gun Violence and Victim Support

In the wake of many mass shootings, Americans are searching for ways to prevent gun violence from occurring in the future. Regardless of one's position on gun control and the Second Amendment, all can agree that the senseless killing of the innocent needs to end. *Charity Navigator's* analysts have taken a non-partisan approach to identify highly rated charities committing to ending gun violence, promoting mental health, and supporting victims. You can learn more about each organization by going online. You can learn more about them, and if so inclined, to make a donation, especially if they align with your values.

Please note: Many organizations working to make changes to laws and policies are registered as 501(c)(4) nonprofits, which are tax-exempt as social welfare organizations that can advocate for causes and propositions. Charity Navigator only rates 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, including public charities and private foundations. As such, there may be other organizations you're familiar with that aren't included on this list.

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
New York, New York
(large-size)
96%

Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund
New York, New York
(large sized, public affairs)
85%

OUR HOUSE Grief Support Center
Los Angeles, CA
(large sized, Support Groups)
92%

NAMI
Arlington, VA
(large-sized, human rights)
93%

Sandy Hook Promise Foundation
Newtown, CT
(large-sized, Public affairs)
100%

Alliance For Gun Safety
Seattle, WA
(medium-sized, Public fairs)
100%

Gifford Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence
San Francisco, CA
(large-sized, human rights)
100%

Brady
Washington, DC
(large-sized, education)
84%

STOP ARMING TEACHERS

To prevent tragedies, we must implement strong school safety sanctions, but arming teachers is not one of them. School shootings are chaotic and in these moments of chaos, we cannot ask teachers to stop a shooter, potentially a former student. Having access to a gun in the classroom increases the likelihood that a student will access a gun and that someone will be shot outside of an active shooter incident. Schools are places for books and backpacks, not weapons. Instead, we need proven solutions that are backed by data, and that intervene before violence occurs.

VIOLENCE POLICY CENTER

Research, Investigation, Analysis & Advocacy for a Safe America

5 Things You Can Do Now to Stop Gun Violence

Since 1988, the Violence Policy Center has worked to stop gun death and injury through research, education, advocacy, and collaboration. The VPC inform the public about the impact of gun violence on their daily lives, exposes the profit-driven marketing and lobbying activities of the firearms industry and gun lobby, offers unique technical expertise to policymakers, organizations, and advocates on the federal, state, and local levels, and works for policy changes that save lives.

The VPC has a long and proven record of policy successes on the federal, state, and local levels, leading the National Rifle Association to acknowledge the Center as “the most effective ... anti-gun rabble rouser in Washington.”

Here are five things you can do right now to help stop gun violence.

1. Contact your elected representatives and demand that they support and advocate for effective gun violence prevention legislation. Call your U.S. Senators and Representative via the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 and tell them that you SUPPORT a federal ban on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines.
2. Make a line-item tax-deductible contribution to the Violence Policy Center. Or engage your friends to take a stand against gun violence. Encourage family and friends to support the VPC by setting up your own fundraiser on Facebook: click “Support nonprofit” and search “Violence Policy Center”.
3. Join a local gun violence organization. Visit States United to Prevent Gun Violence, the national umbrella organization for state gun violence prevention organizations to find a group where you live.
4. Write a letter to the editor to your local paper in support of gun violence prevention. Or use social media to support the Violence Policy Center’s efforts to stop gun violence. Visit the Center’s Twitter feed or our Facebook page for tweets and postings detailing the facts about gun violence, as well as effective solutions.
5. Host your very own evening of information and action to educate your friends and community about gun violence, while helping support the Violence Policy Center, for an easy how-to-guide, simply look at our website for details.

GUNS TO GARDENS - An idea used in a Boulder United Church of Christ

A Boulder, CO congregation is moving beyond thoughts and prayers to address gun violence. Community United Church of Christ is transforming trauma by getting guns off the streets. Community UCC hosted a gun donation program that gave owners a safe way to surrender their firearms. The church collected dozens of weapons in three hours. Then, in partnership with Raw Tools, an area nonprofit, it had blacksmiths immediately turn parts of those guns into gardening tools. “This is a whole community, whole cosmos kind of thing,” said the Rev. Nicole Lamarche, church pastor. “In other words, it is a dream so big that we can only do it with the wind of the Spirit and the work of the whole community.”

Guns to Gardens, a concrete response to the mass shootings, has been supported by the Boulder Police Department, the Colorado Attorney General’s Office, Colorado Faith Communities United to End Gun Violence, other churches and social justice organizations. They all came together to support the secure surrender of weapons - and a safe way to gather in the community afterward.

Here’s how the process worked:

- From 1 to 4PM, trained volunteers collected and disabled weapons. Gun owners drove onto the church campus and the firearms were removed from their vehicles.
- The weapons were disabled on site, and immediately taken to six chop-saw stations that Raw Tools positioned around the property. Each piece went into a foundry to create gardening tools.
- Gun donors were given thank-you cards in varying amounts, based on the type of firearm surrendered. Individuals collected \$100 for pistols and long guns, \$200 for semi-automatic handguns and rifles, and \$300 for assault weapons.

All of this took place under the watchful eye of 50 faith community volunteers trained in activism, who ringed the property. The church was awarded a \$3,000 Solidarity Grant from UCC Global H.O.P.E. to fund the on-site security, training and other fixed expenses, so all money raised for the project could be used to buy thank-you gifts.

With initial donations, Community UCC purchased \$20,000 in gift cards, 150 of which could be used at a grocery store. An anonymous donor gave \$10,000 within minutes after the event was announced. The other \$10,000 was from a church member’s gift earmarked for social justice work.

“While we are not expecting these activities to end mass shootings, they do offer a glimmer of hope to the community to see action, to be able to witness and participate in the transformational process of turning guns into gardening tools from the surrendered weapons.” *Guns to Gardens* had several goals - all healing-, safety-, education-, and advocacy-oriented. The church took on this project during June, Gun Violence Awareness Month, to let people know that gun violence is more than mass shootings.