

# National Vigils & Events to **#EndGunViolence**

## December 2019

Join one of the hundreds of vigils and events nationwide on the 7th anniversary of the Sandy Hook shooting tragedy and help **#EndGunViolence** now.

For information on National Vigils to **#EndGunViolence** go to  
[www.newtownfoundation.org](http://www.newtownfoundation.org)

The Newtown Foundation • Newtown Action Alliance • Alliance for Gun Responsibility • American Association of Suicidology • American Gun Safety Association • Amnesty International USA • Bishops United Against Gun Violence • Blessed Ministries & Blessed Devotions • Brady • Brady Campaign Stanislaus County California • Campaign to Unload • Ceasefire Oregon • CeaseFirePA • Center for American Progress • Coalition Against Gun Violence-A Santa Barbara County Coalition • Coalition to Stop Gun Violence • Community Justice Action Fund • Community of Sant'Egidio • Concerned Citizens Against Gun Violence • CT Against Gun Violence • Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence • Episcopal Peace Fellowship • Equality California • Everytown Survivor Network • Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence • Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence • Franciscan Action Network • Gays Against Guns • Generation Progress • Georgians for Gun Safety • Giffords • Gun Safety Alliance • Gun Violence Prevention Action Committee • Gun Violence Prevention Center of Utah • Gun Violence Prevention PAC • GUNSENSE Vermont • Healing 4 Our Families & Our Nation • Herndon Reston Citizens Against Gun Violence • Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence • Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence • International Health & Epidemiology Research Center • Jewish Women International • Journey 4ward • Jr Newtown Action Alliance • Maine Gun Safety Coalition • March for Our Lives • March For Our Lives DC, March For Our Lives Virginia • Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence • Micah Leadership Council • Million Hoodies Movement for Justice • Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America • National Council of Jewish Women • National Equality Action Team (NEAT) • #NoRA • North Carolinians Against Gun Violence • Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence • On Earth Peace • Pax Christi Metro DC-Baltimore • Protect Minnesota • Psychiatrists for Gun Violence Prevention • Purpose Over Pain • Rabbinical Assembly • Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association • Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence • San Diegans for Gun Violence Prevention • Sandy Hook Promise • Silver State Equality-Nevada • Sisters of St. Francis Justice • Peace and Care for Creation Committee • Srs. of St. Joseph of Carondelet • St. Marks Episcopal Church Capitol Hill DC • States United to Prevent Gun Violence • Stop Handgun Violence • Survivors Empowered • Survivors Lead • Temple Micah • The Campaign to Keep Guns Off Campus • The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence • The ENOUGH Campaign • This Is Our Lane • Urban Word NYC • Vision Quilt • Washington National Cathedral • WAVE Educational Fund • Women's March and Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice

## **2019 GUIDE TO HOLDING A LOCAL VIGIL & OTHER REMEMBRANCE EVENTS**

The Sandy Hook massacre of 20 innocent children and six educators shattered millions of hearts in America, and around the world. The gun violence prevention movement was reignited and millions across America joined the fight to #EndGunViolence. Since then, mass shooting incidents have skyrocketed, the gun death rate has increased to 40,000 in 2017, and hundreds of thousands of Americans have been injured by guns since Sandy Hook.

We invite you to join *the Newtown Foundation, Newtown Action Alliance, Alliance for Gun Responsibility, American Association of Suicidology, American Gun Safety Association, Amnesty International USA, Bishops United Against Gun Violence, Blessed Ministries & Blessed Devotions, Brady, Brady Campaign Stanislaus County California, Campaign to Unload, Ceasefire Oregon, CeaseFirePA, Center for American Progress, Coalition Against Gun Violence- A Santa Barbara County Coalition, Coalition to Stop Gun Violence Community Justice Action Fund, Community of Sant'Egidio, Concerned Citizens Against Gun Violence, CT Against Gun Violence, Delaware Coalition against gun violence, Episcopal Peace Fellowship, Equality California, Everytown Survivor Network, Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence, Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, Franciscan Action Network, Georgians for Gun Safety, Giffords, Gun Safety Alliance, Gun Violence Prevention Action Committee, Gun Violence Prevention Center of Utah, Gun Violence Prevention PAC, GunsenseVermont, Healing 4 Our Families & Our Nation, Herndon Reston Citizens Against Gun Violence, Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence, Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence, International Health & Epidemiology Research Center, Jewish Women International, Journey 4ward, Jr Newtown Action Alliance, Maine Gun Safety Coalition, March for Our Lives, March For Our Lives DC, March For Our Lives Virginia, Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence, Micah Leadership Council, Million Hoodies Movement for Justice, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, National Council of Jewish Women, National Equality Action Team (NEAT), #NoRA, North Carolinians Against Gun Violence, Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence, On Earth Peace, Pax Christi Metro DC-Baltimore, Protect Minnesota, Psychiatrists for Gun Violence Prevention, Purpose Over Pain, Rabbinical Assembly, Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence, San Diegans for Gun Violence Prevention, Sandy Hook Promise, Silver State Equality-Nevada, Sisters of St. Francis Justice Peace and Care for Creation Committee, Srs. of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Marks Episcopal Church Capitol Hill DC, States United to Prevent Gun Violence, Stop Handgun Violence, Survivors Empowered, Survivors Lead, Temple Micah, The Campaign to Keep Guns Off Campus, The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence, The ENOUGH Campaign, This Is Our Lane, Urban Word NYC, Vision Quilt, Washington National Cathedral, WAVE Educational Fund, Women's March and Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice*, to commemorate the seven year mark of the Sandy Hook tragedy.

Together, we will honor **ALL** victims and survivors of gun violence, shine a light on the epidemic of devastating gun violence in our nation and call for common sense measures to reduce gun deaths and injuries.

### **OVERVIEW:**

In 2018, remembrance activities included a National Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence at St. Marks Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C., while around the country our friends and allies came together to host nearly 200 local vigils and events in 32 states, Washington, D.C. and Mexico. Efforts like these are critical to curbing gun violence in America, where each year over 100,000 Americans are killed or injured by guns. Since the Sandy Hook tragedy in 2012, over 700,000 Americans have been killed or injured by guns. Help us honor their lives by hosting a local vigil or other remembrance event. Your efforts will help to transform empathy into meaningful actions to reduce gun violence in our nation.

Our goal is to hold over 500 vigils and events in every Congressional District in **ALL** 50 states!

There are many gun violence prevention organizations in the nation. We encourage you to work together in collaboration with all local, state and national partners in your community. If you have not done so yet, please register your vigil or remembrance event on the Newtown Foundation website: <https://www.newtownfoundation.org/nationwide-vigils/>

### **HONORING THROUGH A LOCAL VIGIL OR OTHER REMEMBRANCE EVENT:**

We encourage you to hold a local vigil or other remembrance event in your community in December, during the anniversary month of the Sandy Hook tragedy. The month of December will mark a nationwide effort to #EndGunViolence and will be a time for powerful and collaborative efforts to educate our communities on the growing tragedy of gun violence in America. Through a local vigil or a remembrance event, you can collaborate with the allies in the gun violence prevention movement, engage more Americans and encourage them to join our efforts to reduce gun violence in communities near and far. Some remembrance event ideas include marches, rallies, meet & greets, house parties, concerts, educational forums, or distribution of education materials. Please feel free to be creative!

### **TRIBUTE VIDEO:**

Every year, we collect photos of victims & survivors of gun violence and update the Tribute Videos that are shown at the national vigil service. We will share these files with you so that you can incorporate them into your remembrance program. Please encourage the families and survivors directly impacted by gun violence to submit the photos of their loved ones taken by gun violence here: <https://www.newtownfoundation.org/victims-photo-upload/>

## **FAMILY/SURVIVORS PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL VIGIL FOR ALL VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE:**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual National Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence will be held on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 from 7-9pm at St Marks Episcopal Church in Washington D.C.

We are looking for one or two family members or survivors directly impacted by gun violence from each state to join us to participate in the national vigil service. Please share this registration form

(<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfZYNBlopEj4LnXNJYBk3BfNCGcnBq8AfUkl0cbZtN-eV8evg/viewform>) with them.

The Newtown Foundation will provide a travel stipend up to \$300 and offer lodging and meals to those who participate in the vigil and related events.

### **VIGIL/EVENT THEME:**

The unifying theme for the local vigils and remembrance events being held across the country is #EndGunViolence. In this way, we are reinforcing the fact that gun violence affects people regardless of age, income, location, religion, and race. We encourage you to carry this theme in all your communications, such as banners displayed at the vigil, your web site, social media, posters to announce the vigil, and all communications sent to the press.

### **TIPS ON HOW TO ORGANIZE:**

A vigil is quite simple for you and your group to set up and organize. You can take similar approaches to plan other types of remembrance events. No matter which type of an event you host, the main goal is to get the word out so that you'll enjoy a large turnout. There are, however, several things to consider first.

#### **Step 1: Choose a Location, Date, and Time**

First, decide on a location for the event. Commonly, vigils are held in local places of worship or outdoors on public property, like a neighborhood park or right in front of your Congress Member's local office. However, events that are not vigils can also be held in these types of locations. Consider the following things when choosing your location:

- The place should be easy to find for participants from all over town.
- Also, think about accessibility. Can you find a location that is accessible for individuals with ambulatory restrictions? How about a place that is accessible by public transportation?

- Ideally, you should have an indoor option available in case of bad weather. Indoor vigils can be held in churches, faith and community centers, auditoriums, or legion halls.
- If your vigil or remembrance event will be in a public space, please contact your Parks and Recreation department or your local city hall to see if you need a permit for the event. We encourage you to look into this as soon as possible.

***The place where your vigil or other remembrance event will take place will be***  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Second, once you've selected a location, choose the date and time. Vigils and remembrance events held on December 14<sup>th</sup> - the date of the Sandy Hook tragedy – is ideal but if you are not able to schedule something for that date, we encourage you to hold it during the month of December. Consider the following things when selecting the time of your vigil or remembrance event:

- If it will take place outdoors and if you will incorporate candles, be sure it will be dark enough for the candles to create an impact/create as a powerful image.
- Don't make your event so late however, that participants of all ages would have trouble attending.

***The date and time of your vigil or other remembrance event will be***  
\_\_\_\_\_.

### **Step 2: Designate a Master of Ceremonies for the event**

To keep things running smoothly, designate a primary speaker or a master of ceremonies. This person will address the crowd and should be someone from your organization that is very comfortable speaking in front of crowds.

***The person who will be responsible for heading the ceremonies will be***  
\_\_\_\_\_.

### **Step 3: Inviting family members directly impacted by gun violence victims or survivors of gun violence**

We encourage you to invite family members directly impacted by gun violence and/or gun violence survivors to attend your vigil or event. Also consider inviting them to speak. Not all persons impacted by gun violence however, will want to share their story – that's okay! For those that do, if more than one person will speak, be sure to let them know how much time they will have. Tips for having this conversation:

- Sketch out your agenda with time(s) assigned to each section of your vigil or event. For example, Welcome: 5 minutes.
- On this agenda, assign a block of time for Guest Speakers then assign specific time(s) to your speakers. For example, Guest Speakers: 10 minutes/Mayor: 5 minutes, Survivor 1: 5 minutes, Survivor 2: 5 minutes.

**Step 4: Event Logistics**

We strongly encourage you to work with local gun violence prevention groups or chapters and families/survivors directly impacted by gun violence to plan the vigil or the remembrance event.

If your event will be a vigil, you'll have to have a supply of candles (and matches or lighter) on hand for participants to light. Order these in advance but also be prepared to order more if it looks like you'll end up with a very large turnout.

You may also want to put together a program or short information sheets about your event for your attendees but you can also make copies to distribute to passersby.

***Groups involved in the planning include***

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***Families and or survivors involved in the planning include***

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***The person responsible for providing candles for the event is***

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***The person responsible for creating the program or information sheets is***

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***The person responsible for making copies of the program & information sheets is***

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***The person responsible for creating the Facebook event page and sharing it with the community members is***

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***The person responsible for sharing information on social media (Facebook, Twitter &, Instagram) before, during and after the event is***

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***The person responsible for bringing a clipboard to collect names & e-mail addresses of people interested in helping to advocate for gun violence prevention is***

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***The person responsible for taking photos (and videos) of the event is***

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### **Step 5: Getting the Word Out**

Now you're ready to start spreading the word! There are several ways to advertise a vigil or other remembrance event. We encourage you to use more than one approach to reach out to community. Some outreach options include:

- Create a poster of your event using the editable poster we provided in the e-mail. Please submit your personalized poster to Newtown Foundation on our website: <https://www.newtownfoundation.org/submit-postersphotos-for-vigilsevents> . It will be shared on social media.
- Change your poster to a PDF file then turn the PDF file to a JPEG file (or take a screenshot of the poster with your phone or computer) and create a Facebook Event Page and invite all your Facebook friends. Ask your support network to share the event widely. Post the photo of the poster on Twitter and Instagram pages as well. Please make sure to tag @TheNewtownFdn and @NewtownAction on Twitter so that we can share your tweets.
- Post printed fliers in neighborhoods, stores, and public bulletin boards in your community. If your place of worship has a process for sharing community announcements, try that too.
- Contact local media with details of the event (a sample press advisory and press release is part of this document at the end). Local newspapers in your area can be found here: <https://www.50states.com/news/>
- Contact relevant community and religious groups. Be ready to share your event poster with them so that they can share it with the communities they serve.
- Word of mouth is also an important and valuable source of contact. Tell as many people as you can about the upcoming vigil or remembrance event, and ask them to tell anyone they know who might be interested in attending.
- Brainstorm a list of ways that you will advertise and groups that you can do outreach to in order to make your vigil well attended.
- Assign the responsibility of contacting potential attendees to one person. You can however, assign various categories of potential attendees to different people. For example, you can make one person in charge of contacting local groups who may be

interested in attending, another in charge of contacting survivors, and another still, in charge of contacting VIPs (if you will have any).

**List of Potential Attendees (Family members of victims of gun violence, survivor of gun violence, groups, community leaders, congregations, elected officials, media outlets etc.)**

1.

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2.

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3.

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4.

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5.

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**SUGGESTED AGENDA FOR A LOCAL VIGIL:**

**You can find many faith resources for holding a Vigil/Prayer (or simply focusing upon the issue of gun violence in a regularly scheduled worship service) at the Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence Gun Violence Sabbath website: <http://marchsabbath.org/>**

I. Introduction (5 minutes)

II. Host gives remarks about Vigil (5 minutes) (see below)

III. If possible we ask that you incorporate 50 candles (real or battery operated tea candles) into your vigil. These will represent all the 50 US states that are affected by gun violence. The candles can be lit before the vigil begins or as part of the gathering. If every person gathered will also have a candle, then the host can light the first candle and have volunteers go out to light other candles (or have people hold up flashlights) in support of bringing light and change into the dark shadow of gun violence in America.

IV. Recognize families of victims and survivors of gun violence in attendance – you can do this by asking them to raise their hand or identify the families and survivors wearing orange buttons that say “survivor” on them.

V. Message (30 minutes)



If you have a main speaker, he or she can offer words or reflections - or you can have different faith leaders offer prayers for those affected by gun violence. If you are willing then please make sure to include the following points:

- 1) We gather today (this weekend) with others across the country in EVERY state to call attention to the impact of gun violence upon all of our communities.
- 2) We pledge ourselves to make a difference by remembering those who have been lost and committing ourselves to helping our local community promote gun safety.
- 3) We call upon our local, state and national leaders to promote policies and legislation that will reduce the impact of gun violence upon all of our communities.
- 4) We urge unqualified support of expanded background checks, essential legislation endorsed by an overwhelming majority of Americans.
- 5) We need to remember that gun violence affects all of us- urban, suburban, rural, rich, poor, young, and old.
- 6) We need you to reflect on the fact that since the Newtown massacre, there have been 600,000 shooting deaths and injuries in this country.

VI. Host leads the ringing of a bell for 1 minute – to remember all who have been affected by gun violence – those who have been killed, those who have been wounded and those who are grieving and those who have been witnesses – as well as entire communities traumatized by gun violence.

VII. Closing Remarks or Prayer

**SAMPLE MEDIA ADVISORY:**

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**For Immediate Release**

DATE  
NAME  
EMAIL ADDRESS  
PHONE

**(YOUR ORGANIZATION) JOINS NATIONWIDE VIGILS AND REMEMBRANCE EVENTS ON DECEMBER XX  
TO #EndGunViolence**

**(VIGIL OR EVENT) TIMED FOR SEVEN YEAR MARK OF THE SANDY HOOK TRAGEDY**

WHO: Your Organization, List of VIP Attendees

WHAT: Will (i.e. stage a candlelight vigil) to #EndGunViolence in remembrance of the seven year mark of the Sandy Hook Elementary school tragedy, as well as well as the 700,000 American victims and survivors of gun violence since December 2012.

The [name the event] will be part of a nationwide tribute in partnership with *the Newtown Foundation, Newtown Action Alliance, Alliance for Gun Responsibility, American Association of Suicidology, American Gun Safety Association, Amnesty International USA, Bishops United Against Gun Violence, Blessed Ministries & Blessed Devotions, Brady, Brady Campaign Stanislaus County California, Campaign to Unload, Ceasefire Oregon, CeaseFirePA, Center for American Progress, Coalition Against Gun Violence-A Santa Barbara County Coalition, Coalition to Stop Gun Violence Community Justice Action Fund, Community of Sant'Egidio, Concerned Citizens Against Gun Violence, CT Against Gun Violence, Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence, Episcopal Peace Fellowship, Equality California, Everytown Survivor Network, Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence, Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, Franciscan Action Network, Gays Against Guns, Generation Progress, Georgians for Gun Safety, Giffords, Gun Safety Alliance, Gun Violence Prevention Action Committee, Gun Violence Prevention Center of Utah, Gun Violence Prevention PAC, GunsenseVermont, Healing 4 Our Families & Our Nation, Herndon Reston Citizens Against Gun Violence, Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence, Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence, International Health & Epidemiology Research Center, Jewish Women International, Journey 4ward, Jr Newtown Action Alliance, Maine Gun Safety Coalition, March for Our Lives, March For Our Lives DC, March For Our Lives Virginia, Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence, Micah Leadership Council, Million Hoodies Movement for Justice, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, National Council of Jewish Women, National Equality Action Team (NEAT), #NoRA, North Carolinians Against Gun Violence, Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence, On Earth Peace, Pax Christi Metro DC-Baltimore, Protect Minnesota, Psychiatrists for Gun Violence Prevention, Purpose Over Pain, Rabbinical Assembly, Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence, San Diegans for Gun Violence Prevention, Sandy Hook Promise, Silver State Equality-Nevada, Sisters of St. Francis Justice, Peace and Care for Creation Committee, Srs. of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Marks Episcopal Church Capitol Hill DC, States United to Prevent Gun Violence, Stop Handgun Violence, Survivors Empowered, Survivors Lead, Temple Micah, The Campaign to Keep Guns Off Campus, The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence, The ENOUGH Campaign, This Is Our Lane, Urban Word NYC, Vision Quilt, Washington National Cathedral, WAVE Educational Fund, Women's March and Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice.*

(ADD CUSTOMIZED DETAILS)

WHERE: Your Location

WHEN: Time and Date

###

(ADD YOUR BOILERPLATE HERE)

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society; and to help them lead the way toward positive cultural change over the long term.” Learn more about the Newtown Foundation at <http://foundation.newtownaction.org/>.

**Newtown Action Alliance** is a grassroots organization formed after the tragic shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School. It works to make America’s children, families, and all citizens safer through legislative and cultural change that will reduce gun violence in our nation. Learn more about the Newtown Action Alliance at <http://alliance.newtownaction.org/>.

## **SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE  
NAME  
EMAIL ADDRESS  
PHONE

**(YOUR ORGANIZATION) JOINS NATIONWIDE VIGILS AND REMEMBRANCE EVENTS ON DECEMBER XX  
TO #EndGunViolence**

**(VIGIL OR EVENT) TIMED FOR SEVEN YEAR MARK OF THE SANDY HOOK TRAGEDY**

(YOUR TOWN, STATE ABBREVIATION)-In remembrance of the seven year mark of the Sandy Hook Elementary school tragedy, as well as the 700,000 American victims and survivors of gun violence since December 2012, (your organization here) is joining *the Newtown Foundation, Newtown Action Alliance, Alliance for Gun Responsibility, American Association of Suicidology, American Gun Safety Association, Amnesty International USA, Bishops United Against Gun Violence, Blessed Ministries & Blessed Devotions, Brady, Brady Campaign Stanislaus County California, Campaign to Unload, Ceasefire Oregon, CeaseFirePA, Center for American Progress, Coalition Against Gun Violence-A Santa Barbara County Coalition, Coalition to Stop Gun Violence Community Justice Action Fund, Community of Sant'Egidio, Concerned Citizens Against Gun Violence, CT Against Gun Violence, Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence, Episcopal Peace Fellowship, Equality California, Everytown Survivor Network, Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence, Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, Franciscan Action Network, Gays Against Guns, Generation Progress, Georgians for Gun Safety, Giffords, Gun Safety Alliance, Gun Violence Prevention Action Committee, Gun Violence Prevention Center of Utah, Gun Violence Prevention PAC, GunsenseVermont, Healing 4 Our Families & Our Nation, Herndon Reston Citizens Against Gun Violence, Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence, Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence, International Health & Epidemiology Research Center, Jewish Women International, Journey 4ward, Jr Newtown Action Alliance, Maine Gun Safety Coalition, March for Our Lives, March For Our Lives DC, March For Our Lives Virginia, Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence, Micah Leadership Council, Million Hoodies Movement for Justice, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, National Council of Jewish Women, National Equality Action Team (NEAT), #NoRA, North*

***Carolínians Against Gun Violence, Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence, On Earth Peace, Pax Christi Metro DC-Baltimore, Protect Minnesota, Psychiatrists for Gun Violence Prevention, Purpose Over Pain, Rabbinical Assembly, Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence, San Diegans for Gun Violence Prevention, Sandy Hook Promise, Silver State Equality-Nevada, Sisters of ST. Francis Justice, Peace and Care for Creation Committee, Srs. of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Marks Episcopal Church Capitol Hill DC, States United to Prevent Gun Violence, Stop Handgun Violence, Survivors Empowered, Survivors Lead, Temple Micah, The Campaign to Keep Guns Off Campus, The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence, The ENOUGH Campaign, This Is Our Lane, Urban Word NYC, Vision Quilt, Washington National Cathedral, WAVE Educational Fund, Women's March and Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice*** in a nationwide (vigil service or remembrance) to #EndGunViolence.

The (vigil or event) will take place on Wednesday (DAY OF THE WEEK), December (DATE) at (TIME AND PLACE). (ADD DETAILS, E.G., CANDLELIGHT, PERFORMANCE, ETC.)

(LOCAL LEADER QUOTE HERE)

**SOME FACTS TO ADD IN YOUR PRESS RELEASE:**

Since the tragic Sandy Hook shooting on December 14, 2012,

- Over 700,000 Americans have been killed or injured by guns.

The number of gun deaths in America has increased over the years.

- In 2015, there were 36,252 gun deaths
- In 2016, there were 38,658 gun deaths
- In 2017, there were 39,773 in 2017 (highest level in 40 years)  
<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/injury.htm>
- Gun deaths by state for 2017 (latest data available) is listed here:  
[https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/firearm\\_mortality/firearm.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/firearm_mortality/firearm.htm)

Every year:

- 2,700 children and teens are shot and killed and nearly 14,500 more are shot and injured. (<https://everytownresearch.org/school-shootings/>)
- There are more than 300 mass shooting incidents - defined as four or more people shot in an incident. <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/reports>

Federal action and inaction:

- In February 2019, the House of Representatives passed two background check bills. 232 Democrats and 8 Republicans approved HR8, the Bipartisan Background Check Act and 223 Democrats and 3 Republicans approved HR 1112, the Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2019.

- As of September 9, 2019, the Senate has not taken action on the background check bills.
- In June 2019, the House of Representatives passed \$50 million for federally funded gun violence research in the House budget. 226 members of the House of Representatives voted to support funding gun violence research for the first time in 20+ years.
- Congress has not yet passed federal bills on Extreme Risk Protection Order laws to keep guns away from people in crisis; raise the minimum age of gun purchases to 21, ban on high capacity magazines or assault weapons; keep guns away from domestic violence abusers; digitize gun records; repeal PLCAA, the special legal immunity for the gun industry; and many other common sense proposals to #EndGunViolence in America.
- After the Parkland school shooting tragedy in February of 2018, two modest bills were signed into law via Fiscal Year 2018 Omnibus Appropriations bill:
  - *The Fix NICs Act requiring federal agencies to improve their reporting standards and to encourage states to follow suit. Since Congress cannot force the states to report more records, there is no guarantee that records will be submitted.*
  - *STOP School Violence Act to reauthorize the Secure Our Schools Act to offer Department of Justice grants to states to help schools implement evidence-based programs to stop violence before it happens.*
- On the day the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual National Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence was being held in 2017, the House of Representatives passed the dangerous Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017, the “arm anyone everywhere” bill. This legislation would pre-empt state legislation and would force states with strong permitting laws to accept permits with weak requirements or even no requirements at all. The Senate blocked this bill but it remains NRA’s #1 priority.

###

(ADD YOUR BOILERPLATE HERE)

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**We thank you for joining our efforts to #EndGunViolence in America!**

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Blessed Ministries & Blessed Devotions  
Brady  
Brady Campaign Stanislaus County California  
Campaign to Unload  
Ceasefire Oregon  
CeaseFirePA  
Center for American Progress  
Coalition Against Gun Violence, A Santa Barbara County Coalition  
Coalition to Stop Gun Violence  
Community Justice Action Fund  
Community of Sant'Egidio  
Concerned Citizens Against Gun Violence  
CT Against Gun Violence

Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence  
Episcopal Peace Fellowship  
Equality California  
Everytown Survivor Network  
Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence  
Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence  
Franciscan Action Network  
Gays Against Guns  
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Herndon Reston Citizens Against Gun Violence  
Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence  
Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence  
International Health & Epidemiology Research Center  
Jewish Women International  
Journey 4ward  
Jr Newtown Action Alliance  
Maine Gun Safety Coalition  
March for Our Lives  
March For Our Lives DC  
March For Our Lives Virginia  
Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence  
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Protect Minnesota  
Psychiatrists for Gun Violence Prevention  
Purpose Over Pain  
Rabbinical Assembly  
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St. Marks Episcopal Church Capitol Hill DC  
States United to Prevent Gun Violence  
Stop Handgun Violence  
Survivors Empowered  
Survivors Lead  
Temple Micah  
The Campaign to Keep Guns Off Campus  
The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence  
The ENOUGH Campaign  
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Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice