

FAITHS UNITED TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE IN THE UNITED STATES

WHEREAS:

- > Each of our faiths teaches us that all human life is sacred and must be protected;
- > Clergy, laity, and religious representatives of all faiths and denominations are called upon to comfort friends and families of victims of gun violence and see firsthand the loss and pain caused by firearms;
- > Every day in the United States approximately 300 people, including 65 children and teens, are injured or killed with guns in murders, assaults, suicides, and accidents;
- > Among high-income populous countries, the United States accounts for 80% of all firearm deaths, including 86% of women killed by firearms, and 87% of all children from birth to 14 years killed by firearms;
- > Preventable gun violence drains our country of \$100 billion every year in medical, criminal justice, and security costs;
- > An estimated 40 percent of gun sales occur without a Brady criminal background check;
- > Background checks for private sales reduces gun trafficking within a state by 48 percent; strong, enforced gun dealer licensing laws reduce gun trafficking within a state by 64 percent; and licensing and registration make it more difficult to obtain crime guns locally; and
- > While the Supreme Court has held that the Second Amendment guarantees an individual right to “keep and bear arms”, they have also made it clear that this right is “not unlimited”.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the undersigned national faith organization believes it is a moral imperative to reduce death and injury from gunfire and endorses comprehensive and effective public policy measures such as those recommended by the International Association of Chiefs of Police Association (IACP) and other experts, including:

- > Keeping guns out of the hands of prohibited persons by closing gaps in the background check system, including requiring Brady criminal background checks for all sales at gun shows;
- > Decreasing the firepower available to civilians by prohibiting large capacity ammunition magazines;
- > Implementing a common sense, comprehensive approach to help law enforcement prevent gun trafficking that will decrease the availability of illegal guns, including licensing handgun purchasers and strengthening the regulation of gun dealers;
- > Strengthening record keeping of gun transfers, and requiring the reporting of lost or stolen guns to law enforcement to ensure better accountability of guns for persons involved in the supply of guns to the illegal market;
- > Supporting efforts to increase resources and capacity for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and repealing existing statutory restrictions that hamper the agency’s ability to combat illegal gun trafficking;
- > Supporting new technologies to help law enforcement more effectively trace crime guns and supporting development of safety features to childproof guns;
- > Encouraging local efforts to prevent and reduce gun violence;
- > Urging firearms retailers to implement protocols aimed at preventing the sales of firearms to prohibited purchasers and preventing “straw purchases”; and
- > Improving the National Violent Death Reporting System Data, and restoring firearms research funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Name of Organization _____ Number of Members _____

Contact Person _____

Address, City, State, Zip _____

Phone, Fax, E-mail _____

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

Please return to: Faiths United Against Gun Violence, 1225 Eye St., NW, Suite 1100, Washington, D.C. 20005
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