



**CAMPUSMINISTRY**

INVITES YOU TO PRAY AND ACT  
TO END GUN VIOLENCE

January 2023 has marked the most mass shootings in a month ever: 49

mass shootings, resulting in 84 people dead.

Every day, more than 110 Americans are killed with guns. In an average year, 1,021 people die by guns in our own state of Indiana.



**Firearms are the leading cause of death for American children.**



Learn more about secure gun storage  
[BeSMARTforKids.org](https://www.BeSMARTforKids.org)

Gun violence disproportionately affects the most marginalized communities, including people

living in poverty, racial minorities, and LGBTQ+ people, who specifically are more than twice as likely to be a victim of gun violence than their peers.

Additionally, appx. **4.6 million American children** live in a home where at least one gun is kept loaded and unlocked, leading to school shootings, suicides and the deaths of family members, including infants and toddlers.

Sources: Everytown USA, Gun Violence Archive, Sandy Hook Promise

**The US Bishops' Letter to Congress on Gun Violence:** "...We support a total ban on assault weapons and limitations on civilian access to high-capacity weapons and ammunition magazines. ... We also support measures that control the sale and use of firearms, such as universal background checks for all gun purchases. We ask that Congress pass a federal law to criminalize gun trafficking. ... Finally, the USCCB also supports recent proposals to set a more appropriate minimum age for gun ownership, and to ban 'bump stocks.' ... We, therefore, in addition to seeking for all manner of policies be crafted to encourage cultivation of strong family life, call for improved access to and increases in resources for mental health care and earlier interventions. We also encourage peacebuilding in our communities through restorative justice models. Bipartisanship is never more important than when it is required to protect life and end the culture of death. We invite you to support these measures and to be part of building up **the culture of life** that is so needed in our society..." -Signed by Bishops Paul Coakley, Salvatore Cordileone, Thomas Daly and William Lori; June 3, 2022

# TAKE ACTION AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

Prayer is about a relationship with a God of Peace. Pope Paul VI reminded us, “If you want peace, work for justice.” [Prayer bears fruit in action \(James 2:14-26\)](#), nourishing our relationship with the Lord and compelling us to advocate for the marginalized and build a just world. **Campus Ministry invites you to consider these action steps as a path forward to fight on behalf of the victims of gun violence in our communities and world.**



## SEND A LETTER TO YOUR REPRESENTATIVE AND OTHER LOCAL LEADERS

Send your own letters to public officials, and think about who in your hometown, faith community, or this campus that could contact to take a stand alongside you. Could you start a letter writing campaign? Here is a sample letter to get you started:

Dear (Leader),

Gun violence prevention is not a partisan issue—the vast majority of Americans support common sense gun safety policies that will save lives. Tragically, more than 110 people are shot and killed, and hundreds more are wounded, every single day in the United States. YOU can take action to save lives. [Make a specific request.] Please put public safety first by prioritizing gun violence prevention. We cannot afford to lose any more Americans to senseless violence.

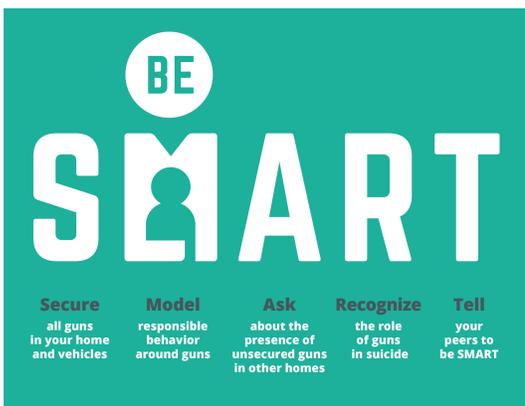
Thank you for your time.

Signed,  
(Name + contact info)

## JOIN THE MOVEMENT

- Join a group! **Students Demand Action** will provide resources to get you started.
- Check out **Every Town for Gun Safety** to join the **Gun Sense Action Network**, where you can commit to making phone calls for an hour a week to gather volunteers or talk with voters about ways they can make a difference.
- Check out the virtual symposium through Johns Hopkins: “The Deadly Intersection of White Supremacy and Firearms,” a chance to reflect on **the role of racism in gun violence**, taking place online on Feb. 9th, or check out the work of Sharon Risher, who lost her daughter to racially-motivated gun violence and has moved from tragedy into taking action.

Contact Becky at [rczarne2@nd.edu](mailto:rczarne2@nd.edu) to stay involved with Campus Ministry Faith & Justice initiatives.



## PROMOTE SAFETY

- **Vote** for officials who will pass safe gun legislation and support mental healthcare for those most in need.
- Learn the **BE SMART** model for gun safety and speak up if a gun is not secure!
- If you or someone you know has experienced gun violence, check out [momentsthat survive.org](http://momentsthat survive.org) or stop by “Need to Talk?” drop-in hours, Mon-Thurs 5-7pm in Coleman-Morse 113.
- Join us **Feb. 6th at 8:30 PM in the Coleman-Morse lounge** for conversation during National Gun Violence Survivors Week.