Collaborative Statement Calls for End to Gun Violence

May 2022

The undersigned communities represent over 23,000 Catholic women religious, associates, and partners in mission in over 30 states.

Today, we are all residents of Uvalde, Texas, a relatively small community more than 80 miles from San Antonio. On Tuesday, May 24, the world witnessed another horrific, senseless tragedy as a lone gunman shot and killed 21 people, including 19 students, at Robb Elementary School just two days before the end of the school year.

We are once again heartbroken. Whether in Uvalde, Parkland, Newtown, or Littleton, all of us, God's people, deserve to live in communities free of gun violence. The massacre of children is abhorrent and should never be accepted as "normal." These acts of violence can no longer be tolerated. They have to stop. It has to end.

Both shooters in Uvalde and Buffalo legally obtained their weapons. The United States, when compared to peer countries, has far more guns per capita, incidences of gun violence, and some of the least restrictive gun laws. According to Education Week, there have already been 27 school shootings in America in 2022 - averaging more than once a week. There have been 251 mass shootings in our country this year, and there have been more mass shootings in the United States than in any other country in the world.

We challenge ourselves, our Church, and all people of goodwill to rededicate themselves to end the scourge of gun violence in this country. To pray for the conversion of society. We plead that all continue to contribute to this movement by taking some of the actions listed below.

Actions we can take:

- Donate to the Uvalde Victims First Fund, the Buffalo 5-14 Survivors Fund, or Catholic Charities of San Antonio Crisis Relief Services.

- Send messages to national elected officials to pass gun safety measures through Moms Demand Action, Sandy Hook Promise, or March for Our Lives. If you have a Republican Senator, consider calling to ask for their support for the Background Check Expansion Act. If your senator is Kyrsten Sinema or Joe Manchin, call to ask for their support for a filibuster exception for gun safety legislation.

- Pray in solidarity with protests at the NRA convention on Friday, May 27th.

- Join or pray in solidarity with national and local March for Our Lives marches on June 11.

This statement and call to action was prepared by representatives of several religious communities: the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, and the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana on behalf of the undersigned communities.

Statement Supporters:

- Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth JPIC Office
- US Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph
- Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
- Sisters of the Humility of Mary
- Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis
- Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes & the CSA USA Associate Community
- Holy Union Sisters- US Province
- Sisters of St. Anne
- Leadership Team of the Felician Sisters of North America
- National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
- Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
- Ursulines of the Roman Union - Eastern Province
- Presentation Sisters USA Unit
- Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul USA
- Dominican Sisters of Houston
- Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity - Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth
- Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Scranton, PA
- Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
- Sisters of Charity Federation
- Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center
- Sisters of Charity of New York
- Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, Texas
- Sisters of Bon Secours, USA
- Sisters of St. Francis, Dubuque, IA
- Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate
- Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
- Adorers of the Blood of Christ, US Region
- Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods Indiana
- Sisters of Charity of Nazareth WP Leadership

Statement supporters:

The Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Scranton, Pennsylvania

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF LEAVENWORTH
OFFICE OF JUSTICE, PEACE, AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION

Sisters of the Humility of Mary

SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER
Rise Up AND Act for Justice

THE SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS OF PHILADELPHIA

Intercommunity
Peace & Justice Center

SISTERS of CHARITY NEW YORK

Sisters of Saint Joseph
U.S. FEDERATION
United in Mission – Loving God and Neighbor

SISTERS OF BON SECOURS

SAINT MARIE PROVINCE ~ PROVINCIA SANTA MARIA
SISTERS OF ST. ANNE
HERMANAS DE SANTA ANA

Dominican Sisters
OF HOUSTON

Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth
Convent Station, New Jersey

Sisters of St. Francis
Dubuque, Iowa

CSA
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
Promoting Justice, Building Community

Sisters of Providence
OF SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS

FELICIAN SISTERS
OF NORTH AMERICA

DAUGHTERS of CHARITY
OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, USA

Sisters of Mercy
Hermanas de la Misericordia

URSULINES
OF THE EASTERN PROVINCE

A MISSION of SERVICE A VISION for CHANGE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
SCL OFFICE OF JUSTICE, PEACE, AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION • JPIC@SCLS.ORG