



Gun Violence Affect Us All...

The disaster caused by gun violence can be seen in almost every community. Here are just a few things you may consider to help put a stop to gun violence in and around your community:

- 1** Learn about your state's concealed carry laws, which allow guns to be carried openly.
- 2** Support universal background checks and waiting periods for all gun purchases.
- 3** Support a ban on semiautomatic assault weapon, armor piercing handgun ammunition and .50 caliber sniper rifles.
- 4** Help close the gun show loophole that allows purchases with no background checks.
- 5** Encourage those you know who regularly handle weapons properly to be wise examples in reducing risks and teaching how to prevent the misuse of deadly force
- 6** Identify the organizations in your community engaged in gun violence prevention and get involved.
- 7** Attend a peaceful demonstration or public prayer service to end gun violence. Contact Sowers of Justice Network to be connected to what's going on in your community.
- 8** Contact your mayor and city council members and demand that steps be taken in your community to prevent gun violence..
- 9** Ask the leaders of your worshiping community to address gun violence in worship services and education classes.
- 10** Encourage your places of work and worship to prominently display signs that prohibit carrying guns on their property.

For information about Sowers of Justice Network
visit our website

<http://www.sowersofjusticenetwork.org/>



The Gospel Imperative...

- Hold a prayer vigil for your congregation. If you have a youth group, be sure to include young people in the planning and leadership of the vigil.
- Organize an ecumenical prayer service in your community.
- Create opportunities for people, especially young people and parents, to talk about the shooting.
- During worship, include prayers for the victims, survivors, families, emergency response personnel and those who will minister to the community in the aftermath of the violence.
- Remember in your prayers the communities impacted by previous shootings. The recent tragedy may evoke painful reminders and flashbacks of the violence they experienced.
- Work with your local school officials, encouraging them to implement violence prevention programs.
- Organize a meeting with the ministerial alliance, ecumenical and interfaith associations and local human service agencies to develop a preparedness response/plan should your community be directly affected by such a tragedy.
- Ask Gun Dealers to sign a "Code of Conduct" (<http://heedinggodscall.org/content/code-conduct>)

Something Else?

Plan to attend the "Stop Gun Violence in our Community" conference this coming September.

For more information about this conference please visit the Sowers of Justice Network website
<http://www.sowersofjusticenetwork.org/>

