

BUILDING A CULTURE OF PEACE

FAITH
IN PUBLIC LIFE

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for joining over 600 faith leaders throughout the country in committing to confront white supremacy and the culture of gun violence in our communities. We know that a better world is possible through our labor and solidarity, and that work begins locally.

Throughout this document, you will find resources to help you begin having conversations within your congregation and community on white supremacy and gun violence. It is our hope that these resources will help facilitate small group discussions and empower you and your community to build a culture of peace locally that ultimately influences the national conversation.

Share the video:



WHAT'S INCLUDED

1. Resources on white supremacy and gun violence
 - Articles
 - Toolkits
 - Podcasts
 - Books
2. Policy Call to Action
3. Social Media Posts

ARTICLES

[God did not give Americans guns. To say otherwise is heresy.](#)

by Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite | Religious News Service

The gun carnage in this country — seen just in the last few days in the spa shootings in the Atlanta area and a mass shooting at the King Soopers grocery store in Colorado — is not only a horrific social problem, it is also a theological problem, even a theological crisis.

The theological crisis is that white Christian nationalists, in particular, are led to believe that the “right to bear arms was bestowed upon Americans by God,” as Wayne LaPierre of the National Rifle Association said after the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, on Feb. 14, 2018.

God did not give Americans guns.

[Read more.](#)

TOOLKITS

[Anti-Asian Hate: What Can You Do?](#)

by Asian Americans Advancing Justice

Learn how to respond to anti-Asian hate through bystander trainings facilitated by Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAAJ).

[Register here.](#)

[Gun Violence Prevention Congregational Toolkit](#)

by Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

Help your congregation, group or organization explore issues of gun violence and what we can do about it. Newly updated in 2019, the Gun Violence Prevention Congregational Toolkit offers:

- 70 pages of educational resources, pastoral resources and action tools
- Case studies on two churches and a presbytery engaged with gun violence prevention
- Three complete Small Group Study programs for congregations, campus groups and others
- Worship, biblical and pastoral care resources on issues of suicide prevention, grief and solidarity
- The Citizen's Test on Gun Violence in America
- Sample signage for "No Guns in God's House"
- Over 160 links to educational resources and action ideas, including gun violence prevention national groups and local contacts in all 50 states

PODCASTS

[Bridging Activism & Spirituality](#)

by Rev. angel Kyodo williams

What is the interplay between activism and personal practice? Sharon and Rev Angel Kyodo Williams discuss the qualities of the two and what they bring to one another. In this week's episode, we learn how to make radical change happen and love everyone in the process.

[Toward Sacred Activism](#)

by Imam Dawud Walid

Towards Sacred Activism is designed to present Islamic foundations for what is dubbed social justice activism within the Western context.

BOOKS

[Who Stole My Bible: Reclaiming Scripture as a Handbook for Resisting Tyranny](#)

by Rev. Jen Butler

Who Stole My Bible?: Reclaiming Scripture as a Handbook for Resisting Tyranny shows how the Bible from Genesis to Revelation is an inspiring handbook for resisting tyranny. Each chapter illustrates the lessons of scripture with true stories of courageous religious communities countering authoritarianism and white supremacy in America today. This book will help you connect with generations of prophets and leaders who followed God's call and prevailed against power to establish justice and community.

[White Evangelical Racism: The Politics of Morality in America](#)

by Anthea Butler

The American political scene today is poisonously divided, and the vast majority of white evangelicals play a strikingly unified, powerful role in the disunion. These evangelicals raise a starkly consequential question for electoral politics: Why do they claim morality while supporting politicians who act immorally by most Christian measures? In this clear-eyed, hard-hitting chronicle of American religion and politics, Anthea Butler answers that racism is at the core of conservative evangelical activism and power.

[See No Stranger](#)

by Valerie Kaur

How do we labor for the world we want when the labor feels endless? Valerie Kaur – renowned Sikh activist, filmmaker, and civil rights lawyer – declares that revolutionary love is the call of our time, a radical, joyful practice that extends in three directions: to others, to our opponents, and to ourselves. It enjoins us to see no stranger but instead look at others and say: You are a part of me I do not yet know. Starting from that place of wonder, the world begins to change: It is a practice that can transform a relationship, a community, a culture, even a nation..

POLICY CALL TO ACTION

[Initiatives for Partners, Influencers and Businesses](#)

by Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund

The Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund is the education, research, and litigation arm of Everytown for Gun Safety, the largest gun violence prevention organization in the country. We build awareness about the complexities of gun violence in America so that every person—policymakers, volunteers, cultural influencers, business leaders, and more—can learn about the issues and become part of the solutions.

[Take action.](#)

Gun Violence Prevention

by Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

The Reform Movement, led by students and NFTY, is outraged at the current lack of legislative action and political leadership that allows this horrible violence to continue. This epidemic is not natural, nor normal and gun violence can be prevented. Drawing on Jewish traditions and values, we remain committed to taking action by engaging in community and legislative advocacy to end the gun violence epidemic.

[Take action.](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Tweets

Tweet 1:

I'm not going to give up – I'm going to keep working for a world free from gun violence. Join me and commit to acting in our places of worship and community institutions to break down the root causes of this culture. <http://fpl.actionkit.com/sign/gun-culture-pushback/>

Tweet 2:

Our culture, built on white supremacy and misogyny, enables gun violence. My faith demands that I say: No more! Join me! <http://fpl.actionkit.com/sign/gun-culture-pushback/>

Facebook Posts

Post 1:

The fruit of America's obsessive veneration of guns is mass death and unending grief. This lethal culture, from laws written by arms manufacturers, to an idolatrous embrace of guns by many churches, to our cultural depictions of weapons, is rooted in a soil of white supremacy, toxic masculinity, and political corruption. <http://fpl.actionkit.com/sign/gun-culture-pushback/>

Post 2:

We can't do this any more. The violence, racism and misogyny that has built American gun culture must end: I'm committing to building a better society rooted in love & care for our neighbor. <http://fpl.actionkit.com/sign/gun-culture-pushback/>

Graphics

FAITH
IN PUBLIC LIFE

**BUILDING A
CULTURE OF PEACE**

We can become a nation where no life is lost to a bullet. To build this **life-affirming** community, we must do more than offer thoughts and prayers.

We must dismantle the white supremacy, patriarchal violence and political corruption at the root of American gun culture.

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**BUILDING A
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We **commit to acting** in our places of worship and community institutions to break down the root causes of gun violence. We **commit to advocating** for policy changes that will keep us all safe. **A better world is possible through our labor and solidarity.**

Signed,
People of Faith

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