

LCWR ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 2013
End the Violence

RESOLUTION

We, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, are compelled to work toward a world where reverence for all living beings finds expression in an approach to life free from violence. We stand in solidarity with the victims of violence, with a majority of the American people, and with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) as we heed the Gospel call to nonviolence and seek to persuade our local, state, and federal officials to enact laws that will:

1. Require universal background checks for all gun purchases.
2. Restrict civilian access to assault weapons and high capacity magazines.
3. Make gun trafficking a federal crime.
4. Improve access to mental health care and other services for those in need.
5. Fund programs that make available educational materials on the effects of violence and provide opportunities for youth and young adults to end gang violence.

RATIONALE

Belief in the inherent dignity of all human life is the basis for Catholic Social Teaching. This dignity can only be preserved within a structure in which all are called to contribute to the common good and in which government is constructively engaged in protecting all people, especially those living in poverty and at the margins.

In light of the events of this past year and mindful of all those who are victimized by violence, we feel compelled to choose a non-violent lifestyle that respects the life and dignity of our brothers and sisters and all of creation.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

1. Engage our elected officials, at all levels of government and urge them to support legislation that will:
 - a. Require universal background checks for all gun purchases.
 - b. Restrict civilian access to assault weapons and high capacity magazines.
 - c. Make gun-trafficking a federal crime.
 - d. Improve access to mental health care.
 - e. Fund programs that make available educational materials on the effects of violence and provide opportunities for youth and young adults to end gang violence.
2. Work to strengthen federal laws to stem the flow of weapons from the United States that contribute to the drug trafficking violence in the world.
3. Support those who help families victimized by violence.
4. Address the prevalence of violence in entertainment (i.e. films, television, electronic games, etc.), music, language, advertisements and social media.
 - a. Write letters of protest and apply pressure to media outlets that make use of advertising which glorifies violence.
 - b. Make available for use by students and adults educational material on the effects of violence.
 - c. Monitor our own choices in entertainment.
5. Promote interfaith prayer at sites where violence has occurred.

Submitted by LCWR Regions 2 and 8