



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

Statement on Gun Proliferation and Gun Violence

1 October 2026

Introduction

The Statement on Gun Proliferation and Gun Violence was developed for the First Presidency by the Human Rights Team. The purpose of the statement is to support Community of Christ's enduring commitment to peace, safety, and the worth of all persons. This statement was written specifically to serve as practical guidance, helping to equip and inspire individuals, congregations, and communities to faithfully take the actions upheld in World Conference Resolution (WCR) 1331. Through this guidance, we are called to actively pursue peace and advocate for an end to violence in our communities.

Promoting Peace by Reducing Gun Proliferation and Violence

Adopted June 3, 2025

1331. *Resolved*, That Community of Christ reaffirms its commitment to WCR 1270 and calls, with urgency, for all nations in which the church is established to reexamine firearms policies to determine how best to reduce firearm availability in private hands, and be it further

Resolved, That the church calls upon nations of the world in which the church is established to adopt firearm program and regulation regimes that have been demonstrated to substantially limit gun violence, and be it further

Resolved, That the church requests the Peace and Justice Team to prepare study materials for congregations and members to use to advocate for the most effective means of reducing gun violence in local communities.

Community of Christ Statement on Gun Proliferation and Gun Violence

As a Christian faith movement, we affirm our core belief in the worth of all persons. Central to that belief is the affirmation of the basic human right to live without fear of suffering personal violence. We believe that God's peaceable kingdom is the vision of shalom that was present in the life, ministry, and mission of Jesus Christ. It is not only a heavenly experience, but one that can and must exist within the human condition on Earth.

At times, the work of establishing God's peaceable kingdom can seem overwhelming in a world filled with hunger, disease, and violence, fueled by greed, intolerance, and hatred. We support all efforts, individual, collective, and institutional, to affirm the kinship of all persons and to alleviate human suffering. A significant source of human suffering is interpersonal and international violence. We reject

the use of force and violence in the resolution of personal, cultural, religious, and governmental disputes. Limiting, and in some cases prohibiting, access to firearms is a critical step in reducing that violence.

To that end, we call on all national governments to actively work to reduce the private ownership of firearms except firearms appropriate for sporting, wildlife conservation, and food harvesting. This would include (other than for legitimate law enforcement and military purposes) banning the manufacture, import, export and ownership of automatic and semiautomatic weapons, weapons that can be modified to be automatic or semiautomatic, high-capacity magazines, and sound suppression devices. Ancillary to restricting private firearm ownership are requirements of gun safety measures, such as biometric triggering devices, robust personal background checks, secure gun storage and mandatory gun safety training and periodic recertification, with a particular focus on handguns.

In addition, we encourage all national governments to investigate and, whenever possible adopt programs and regulations designed to reduce gun violence. A number of such approaches have proven to be effective: required gun safety training and periodic training re-certification, and conflict and dispute resolution programs in schools and law enforcement. Increased availability to counseling and mental health resources has shown positive results in preventing suicides which account for sizable percentage of gun deaths. While different approaches may be more effective than others in specific social and cultural environments, even limited efficacy is preferable to continued inaction.

We are aware that in the United States, government restriction of gun ownership may have legal implications. But what is legal is not always what is moral, and, over time, the interests of the governed can lead to a re-examination of legal interpretation and application. In harmony with our call to reduce gun violence through limitations on gun manufacturing and ownership, we support such re-examination. However, the United States is not alone in experiencing a gun violence epidemic. Twelve countries have shooting death rates greater than the United States, and twenty-four countries and territories have higher gun homicide rates than the United States.

Our call for governments to limit gun proliferation, to require gun safety measures, and to support nonviolent conflict resolution programs, is not based on economics or politics. It rests on the moral imperative to live in accordance with the foundational commandment to love our neighbors (Matthew 22:37-40) and to move in tangible ways to establish God's peaceable kingdom.

Resources

Below is a brief list of readily available resources on gun violence and gun violence reduction actions:

[Fast Facts: Firearm Injury and Death | Firearm Injury and Death Prevention | CDC](#)

[Gun Violence Data | Center for Gun Violence Solutions](#)

[What the data says about gun deaths in the US | Pew Research Center](#)

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-resolution/260/text>

<https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/gun-deaths-by-country>

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