



16 January 2024

To the Leadership of Communities of Women Religious in the United States,
Justice Promoters of Communities of Women Religious in the United States, and
Communities and Individuals resisting gun violence:

As Catholics, our faith calls us to protect life, and yet our country continues to be plagued with an epidemic of gun violence. **In response, we invite you to participate in a fast against gun violence during Lent.** Our fast will be a prayer to God and an opportunity to publicly appeal to our civic communities for action to reduce gun violence.

The toll gun violence takes on our communities is staggering with 120 firearm deaths and 200 firearm casualties a day.¹ Death by suicide, homicide, and mass shootings ravage our communities at rates 26 times higher than other high-income nations.² Troublingly, the leading cause of death of children and teens in the United States is now firearms.³ Despite public support, gun violence prevention legislation stagnates in Congress, and many state and local representatives enact extreme laws that ignore the public call for gun violence prevention legislation.

As we prepare for the Lenten season, we reflect on this reality and the devastating effect of gun violence on our nation. The loss of life and continuous toll of grief and trauma on individuals, families, and communities compel us to take action to change our society to protect life.

It is our hope that members of our coalition congregations as well as like-minded individuals will join in this fast against gun violence. Please share this invitation with your community members and networks. **To demonstrate your commitment to undertake this fast, please complete this [form](#).**

To support you in this fast, Nuns Against Gun Violence will gather virtually for prayer and provide resources to assist you in publicly acknowledging your fast, focusing on relevant legislation, and contacting your national and local representatives. More information about the following resources will be available on our website:

www.nunsagainstgunviolence.org.

- Zoom community service on Ash Wednesday, February 14 at 1:00 p.m. ET.
- List of relevant legislation in Congress that addresses gun violence prevention
- A sample press release and letters to Congress
- Action alerts
- How to contact national, state, and local representatives

For more information about our Lenten fast, please contact nunsagainstgunviolence@gmail.com.

We will join our hearts, minds and bodies in a sacrifice – according to our capability – as an expression of love, in a spirit of generosity, willingly abstaining from food and

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GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION.

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drink or undertaking other meaningful sacrifices as we put forth our united call for people to lay down their guns and enact gun violence prevention legislation.

Thank you for your participation in this Lenten fast for an end to gun violence. May our prayers and fast strengthen a desire to create a society of peace.

Peace,

Nuns Against Gun Violence Coalition

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¹ Everytown Research & Policy, "Gun Violence in America," Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, 13 February 2023, <https://everytownresearch.org/report/gun-violence-in-america/>.

² Everytown Research & Policy, "Gun Violence in America," Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, 13 February 2023, <https://everytownresearch.org/report/gun-violence-in-america/>.

³ "Statistics," Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, Accessed 11 January 2024, <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-violence-statistics/>.