



DC Area Interfaith Gun Violence Prevention Network

The DC Area Interfaith Gun Violence Prevention Network, founded in 2017 by the GVP Ministry of the Washington National Cathedral and the Temple Sinai (DC) GVP Group, is a coalition of volunteers from churches, synagogues, and temples in the DMV area most active in gun violence prevention. They have agreed to receive and disseminate information to congregants, clergy, and others interested in working to prevent and reduce gun violence. Faith traditions currently represented in the Interfaith Network include Baptist, Catholic, Congregational (United Church of Christ), Episcopalian, Evangelical, Jewish, Lutheran, Methodist, Muslim, Presbyterian, Quaker, and Unitarian Universalist. New members and denominations are always welcome to join.

Some houses of worship with volunteers in the Interfaith Network are more active than others, collaborating, for example, to host panel discussions, participate in education campaigns, arrange for outdoor displays in memory of those killed by guns, or turn out to support sensible federal or state legislation or to oppose non-sensible gun laws. Some work with national groups such as Giffords, the Brady Campaign, and Everytown for Gun Safety. Others work with state and local GVP groups or organizations such as Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence, area chapters of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, and the northern Virginia chapter of the Brady Campaign. Our network provides a chance to partner with others, share information, reach out for advice, or simply keep abreast of the many opportunities to join in the effort to stop gun violence.

Many caring people of faith want to do what they can to end gun violence. They will turn out when called to act on this vitally important moral and public health issue facing the country.

GVP initiatives that many of us support:

- Universal background checks (to cover all gun sales including the 20 percent sold privately)
- Banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines
- Safe (locked) storage of guns, especially in households where there are children under 18
- Increased funds for research on gun violence at the federal and state levels
- Extreme Risk Protection Orders to allow law enforcement, family members, and others to remove guns from a person deemed by a court to be a threat to himself or others
- Removing guns from those convicted of domestic abuse

Our members do not support:

- Guns in houses of worship
- Campus carry (guns on the campuses of public universities and colleges)
- Arming teachers

For more information and to join the Interfaith Network, please contact any of its leaders:

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- Christina Files, Member, GVP Ministry, Washington National Cathedral, anglofiles1@gmail.com
- Steve Klitzman, Chair, Temple Sinai GVP Group, steve.klitzman@gmail.com
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