



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Position Statement on Violence

The Long Island Council of Churches takes the following update on its position on gun violence.

WHEREAS the Bible in the Ten Commandments tells us, “Thou shalt not kill”, and the Gospels tell us to “love thy neighbor as thyself” and

WHEREAS In 2016 (the last year for which statistics are available) there were 346 mass shooting events and 66% of all suicides were by guns and

WHEREAS domestic violence events took their toll with easy availability of guns and gangs also made use of the availability of guns to carry out their crimes and

WHEREAS one woman in a domestic violence situation is killed by guns every 16 hours and

WHEREAS there were 38,000 deaths in 2016 by gunfire, 80,000 survivors of gunshot wounds.

WHEREAS deaths by gun violence have climbed to being high on the list of the ten most common causes of death in the USA;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Long Island Council of Churches affirm its opposition to gun violence in the following ways:

1. Support the collection of data by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to study gun violence as a public health hazard as they do with other health problems like heart disease or cancer or auto accidents in order to eliminate the cause(s).
2. Support marches, boycotts, and other forms of protest by young people and all others against gun violence, as a grass roots mass movement is the best way to get social justice action.
3. Encourage gun-making companies to increase the safety measures on guns with new technology that will make the guns child-proof and useless to thieves.
4. Call upon all individuals and faith-based shareholders in gun companies to put pressure on the gun makers to carry out these measures.
5. Support gun-selling stores like Dicks and Walmart, who a) sell no assault style weapons, b) sell no large capacity ammunition magazines and c) sell only to persons 21 years of age or older and ask all other stores to do the same.
6. Approve an educational program for all schools like the Sandy Hook Promise curriculum.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we advocate for government legislation including the following:

- 1 Make licensing of all guns more extensive (like auto licensing) and enforce it.
- 2 Close all loopholes in gun checks of criminal background, especially at gun shows where enforcement is lacking.
- 3 Set the age limit for the sale of a gun to 21.
- 4 Prohibit the sale of assault-style weapons.
- 5 Prohibit the sale of high capacity ammunition magazines.
- 6 Enforce the ban on illegal transfer of guns from outside of New York to the local area for sale.
- 7 Enforce prohibition on transfer of guns privately from one person to another without going through transfer of license in a proper legal fashion

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