

## SUGGESTIONS ABOUT WHAT FAITH COMMUNITIES CAN ACTIVELY DO TO COMBAT GUN VIOLENCE

- **Memorial:** Read the names of gun violence victims in your city, county, state. Look to <https://www.heedinggodscall.org/> for powerful ideas to memorialize the victims of gun violence.
- Partner with RawTools (<https://rawtools.org/>) to sponsor a gun buyback program in your neighborhood.
- **Letter Writing Campaign** (there are many letter writing campaign suggestions on the partner organizations that we have listed)
- **Voter Registration:** seems simple, but making sure people vote for candidates who support common sense gun laws is incredibly effective.
- **School Walk Out:** If there is a local chapter of Students Demand Action in your area, or a youth who is active in their school concerning gun violence, help them organize a student walk out. Be there to support them, witness their action, and make sure everyone is reminded that youth are disproportionately affected by gun violence in our country.
- **Forge real guns into plowshares.** To learn more see <https://www.beatingguns.com/> and or <https://rawtools.org/>
- **Church Sit in:** remember when John Lewis led 170 congressmen and women to sit-in on the floor of the House of Representatives, demanding congress hold a vote on legislation addressing gun violence? With publicity, a 12 hour church sit-in could be an effective ecumenical and interfaith connection.
- Fill out **13909 Tax Exempt Org Complaint** form on the NRA <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f13909.pdf> and <https://diy.rootsaction.org/petitions/remove-tax-exempt-status-from-the-nra>
- **Call your Senators**
  - H.R. 8 closes the “gun show loophole” and H.R. 1446 closes the “Charleston loophole” which currently allows a gun sale to proceed without a background check if three business days have passed. **Script:** Hi, I’m a constituent from [ZIP] urging Senator [NAME] to take action today to end gun violence in our communities. 89% of Americans support universal background checks and 86% support red flag laws. So, I don’t understand why senators have failed to vote on the Bipartisan Background Checks Act (H.R. 8) and Enhanced Background Checks Act (H.R. 1446) that passed in the House last year. I’m asking [NAME] to collaborate with your peers to pass H.R. 8 and H.R. 1446 today.
- **#2 Call your Governor**

- **Script:** Hi. I'm a constituent from [ZIP] urging Governor [NAME] to take action today to end gun violence in [STATE's] communities. Governors from California, New York, New Jersey, and Rhode Island are taking action to restrict both dangerous and young people from purchasing guns. Gun buyback programs are effective at reducing deaths. Since the U.S. has had 274 mass shootings in 12 years, what is Governor [NAME] doing today to prevent the next one?
- **Organize a violent toy turn –in:** consider the impact of toys, games, TV and movies designed for children and youth.