



Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence

Statement on Weekend's Pair of Assault Weapons Mass Murders

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Here we are again, mourning and grieving the incredible loss of life at the hands of wielders of military-style semi-automatic assault weapons. And, again we pray for the dead, wounded and unhurt in El Paso and Dayton, as we do for families of victims and perpetrators in cities across the country who suffered this weekend and every day from gun violence in America.

It's too much. Too much grief. Too much mourning. Too many dead and wounded. Too many families damaged forever. Too many politicians unwilling to act to make our country and its residents safer from gun violence.

Yes, safer from gun violence – it's possible and, with the power of faith, it can be done, but it's time to get started. Now.

To us at *Heeding* the logical direction to start is to focus on the weapons that made killing and injuring so many in El Paso and Dayton so very easy, as they have in so many other places in the country. We call to 'Demand the Ban,' namely a prohibition on manufacture, sales, transfers and possession of military-style semi-automatic assault guns.

We understand there are many issues at play regarding this weekend's violence – white supremacy, racism, immigration and many more and we stand in solidarity with all those seeking to solve them. However, it has always been *Heeding's* way to focus our attention on one issue at a time and, for many reasons, we focus now on Demand the Ban, because there is no legitimate reason to allow citizens to possess these killing machines. We doubt not that God, by whatever name, is with us and that our work is truly worship.

Note we are tentatively planning with colleague organizations a walk and rally on Monday, the 12th in Philadelphia to show US Senator Pat Toomey that his opposition to an Assault Weapons Ban is anti-faith, anti-security and anti-people. Please watch this space as our plans solidify. Thank you.

Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence
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