



Season For Nonviolence 2025

Week 5

Addressing Gun Violence Through Nonviolent Action

“Nonviolence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man.”

Mahatma Gandhi

To our friends on the journey of the nonviolent Jesus,

Nonviolent approaches and gun control strategies can reduce gun violence. Community engagement, crisis intervention, and conflict mediation combined with gun control legislation, which includes background checks, wait times, and restricting access to firearms, would decrease gun violence. However, the issue of gun control has become clouded by rhetoric from the NRA and worries about amendment rights. The heart of the nonviolence movement is opposition to physical force, especially using weapons. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “Nonviolence is a powerful and just weapon which cuts without wounding and ennobles the man who wields it. It is a sword that heals.”

In the Know:

Gun violence touches every town in America. In Wisconsin, 741 people are killed, and 1,686 are wounded on average every year. This includes approximately 69 children and teens. Black residents are significantly more likely to die by guns than white residents. The [Gun Violence Archive](#) is a not-for-profit organization that educates and provides a daily listing of mass shootings in America as defined by four or more people injured or killed.

Many people feel that any legislation restricting guns is a loss of their 2nd Amendment rights. However, there are a lot of laws that can be passed to limit access to guns, to prohibit assault weapons, and to monitor the sale of guns. Governor Evers, in his State of the State address, called for bipartisan efforts to enact gun control measures such as having a 48-hour waiting period for gun purchases. Currently, Wisconsin does not require background checks to carry a gun. You can see how [Wisconsin](#) compares to other states.

What does Scripture Say?

“Do not envy a man of violence and do not choose any of his ways.”
Proverbs 3:31

A Quiz!

[Take Our Quiz to Test Your Knowledge of U.S. Gun Laws](#)

A Nonviolent Hero Addressing Gun Violence

“In the absence of a Congress ready to act to reduce gun violence, we will keep working to create a different Congress.” Gabrielle Giffords



[Gabby Giffords](#), a former member of the House of Representatives, was shot in the head during an assassination attempt and mass shooting while at an event with her constituents.

Who to contact to stand against gun violence in Milwaukee?

[Advance Peace Milwaukee](#) is a gun violence prevention program that provides young people opportunities with strategies to prevent and disrupt the cycle of violence and retaliation through mentoring and activities.

[Ujima](#) is a collaborative effort by Sojourner and Children's Hospital to address youth and adult violence through intervention and prevention.

[WAVE Educational Fund](#) is a statewide grassroots organization dedicated to preventing gun violence.

Active Nonviolence Opportunities: Gun Violence

Easy: [Prayer: Let the Shooting End](#) from the [Sisters of Mercy](#):

God, our hearts are broken with pain at the senseless deaths caused by gun violence. Families mourn, children live in fear, and some in our nation respond by arming themselves with more guns with greater capacity to end life. Our disconnection and alienation has caused some to turn to guns for protection and safety. We ask that you touch our hearts with Your love, heal our brokenness and turn us away from violence and towards peace. Help us to transform our own hearts and seek peaceful ways of resolving our differences. Let our hands reach out and connect with those who feel alone, those who live in fear and those who suffer from mental illness. Let our voices be raised asking our legislators to enact gun laws to protect all in our society, especially those most vulnerable. Let our pens write messages demanding change while also scripting words of hope and transformation. We ask this in the name of the God who desires that we live together in peace. Amen

A Bit More: The most effective way to make societal-level changes is by participating in civic opportunities.

- The next election is on April 1, including filling a Wisconsin Supreme Court seat. For information on candidates and issues, click [here](#).
And....
- Write to your [local and state](#) representatives telling them you want to prioritize gun safety.

All In: Attend an Anti-Gun Vigil with [Casa Maria Catholic Worker](#), which is typically held on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Amen