



YARDLEY FRIENDS MEETING

65 N. Main St. Yardley PA 19067 ♦ www.yardleyfriendsmeeting.org

Eradicating gun violence has become an intractable issue in United States. One of the reasons why is because it is not a simple fix. Gun violence in our country takes many forms and has complex origins, therefore one type of solution won't fix all the issues. From mass shootings, criminal activity, inner city gun violence, domestic violence, deaths from police shootings, accidental home shootings due to unsafe storage practices to suicide deaths by gun. All of these require our focused attention and thoughtful intervention.

Additionally, the new and social media reports you see and hear are mostly focused on gun *deaths* – but deaths are **not** the only issue with gun violence. Many more people survive gun violence than those who are killed but they can suffer life-long emotional and psychological trauma as well as profound physical after effects including disabilities, loss of limbs and lifelong poverty related to the cost of those injuries and lost occupational abilities.

We need to have *civil, in depth* conversations about the many roots of gun violence and the solutions that can combat each of them in order to arrive at a comprehensive package of safety measures that can have significant and lasting results.

Becoming well educated about all the nuances and forms of gun violence and gun safety can seem a daunting task.

On these pages you will find a listing of the major gun safety organizations nationally and locally. We have provided a summary of the fundamental focus of each group and what kinds of information you can find through them. We hope that doing this survey of gun safety organizations will help take some burden off of you and help you decide where to start your education about this issue.

It will take many of us working diligently toward the common purpose of living out not only the spiritual call from God to care for our brethren but to live out our responsibility as citizens to the Constitution to make our country safe for everyone.

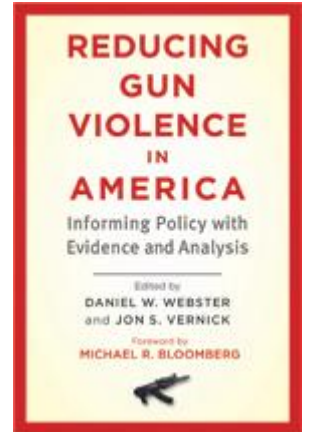
News / Research Organizations

The Trace

The Trace is an independent, non-profit, non-partisan news room dedicated to expanding coverage of gun violence epidemic in the United States. They believe that our country's epidemic rates of fire-arm related violence are coupled with a second problem: a shortage of information of the issue at large.

They provide ongoing news articles on a myriad of issues related to gun violence

- ◆ Sign up to receive the email newsletter on every weekday or a summary newsletter on Saturday mornings
- ◆ Interactive geographic map of gun violence – put in your zip code and find out the number of individuals shot this year near your neighborhood.
- ◆ In depth reports on issues such as: ATF, background checks, campus carrying, concealed carry, domestic violence, gun lobby, gun theft, gun trafficking, laws, law enforcement, military, NRA, open carry, safe storage, suicide, stand your ground, urban violence, unintentional shootings – just to name a few.



Center for Gun Policy and Research:

The Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research is engaged in original scholarly research, policy analysis and agenda-setting public discourse. Our goal is to bring public health expertise and perspectives to the complex policy issues related to gun violence prevention.

An important part of the Center's mission is to serve as an objective and informative resource for the news media, thereby providing the public with accurate information about gun injuries, prevention strategies, and policies.

They have produced a book “Reducing Gun Violence in America” available for \$11.95 on their website.

National Organizations

The Brady Campaign: <http://www.bradycampaign.org/>

The Brady Campaign was started by Jim and Sarah Brady. Jim Brady was Ronald Reagan Press Secretary and was injured during the assassination attempt on the President – he incurred a serious head wound from the shooting that left him partially paralyzed for life.

The mission of the Brady Campaign is to create a safer America by cutting gun deaths in half by 2025. Their strategy centers on the idea of keeping guns out of the wrong hands through 3 campaigns: (1) "Finish the Job" which focuses on getting Brady background checks applied to **all** gun sales; (2) "Stop 'Bad Apple' Gun Dealers" – the 5 percent of gun dealers that supply 90 percent of all crime guns; and (3) to lead a new national conversation and change social norms around the real dangers of guns in the home, to prevent the homicides, suicides, and unintentional shootings that happen every day as a result.

What Information you can get on the site:

The “Gun Violence” tab provides a wealth of detail on gun violence deaths and breaking down the **96 people who die on average each day in the US** by homicides, suicide, police action, and unintentional deaths. They even highlight such statistics for the **246 people who are shot everyday but survive.**

They have a quarterly newsletter which provides more in depth coverage of the many topics surrounding gun violence and is a good way to get fully informed on the issues involved in making our country safe from gun violence. You can find it in “Resources” which is a subcategory of the “Gun Violence” tab.

The **“Brady Solutions”** tab has pages on their campaigns which include:

- ◆ “Finish the Job” – expanding background checks to every gun sale
- ◆ “Family Fire” - keeping families safe through education on gun safety practices in the home
- ◆ “Ask” - keeping kids safe by helping parents learn to “ask” if there are any unlocked/loaded guns in the places where their children play
- ◆ “Stop Bad Apple Gun Dealers” – 90% of crime guns can be traced to only 5% of gun dealers.
- ◆ They even address gun suicide deaths and have information about reducing the risk of suicides in the home with their “Suicide Proof Your Home” info page

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**Giffords Courage to Fight Gun Violence** <https://giffords.org>

On January 8, 2011, Gabby Giffords, then an Arizona State Representative was shot while meeting with constituents in her hometown of Tucson, Arizona. The shooter killed six people and wounded 13 others. Despite her critical injuries, Gabby embarked on a courageous rehabilitation journey.

Following the mass shooting of 20 children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary in December 2012, Gabby and her husband, Navy combat veteran and retired NASA astronaut Captain Mark Kelly, gun owners themselves, announced the formation of an organization to fight the gun violence epidemic. Originally named Americans for Responsible Solutions, the organization quickly became known as a leader in the growing movement to save lives from gun violence. In 2016, Americans for Responsible Solutions joined forces with the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence to expand its mission, increase its impact, and **launch the organization today known as Giffords.**

There are 2 sections of this organization the Giffords PAC (Political Action Committee) and the Giffords Law Center. The Political Action Committee’s main focus is on political action to end gun violence.

The Law Center arm of Giffords, is the nation’s leading policy organization dedicated to researching, writing, enacting, and defending proven laws and programs. It’s mission is to save lives from gun violence by shifting culture, changing policies, and challenging injustice.

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Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America <https://momsdemandaction.org>

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America (MDA) is a national, non-partisan organization committed to applying political pressure to federal and state legislatures, companies, and educational institutions to establish “common sense gun reforms.” It was started in 2012 by a mom who lived near the Newtown Connecticut Sandy Hook Elementary School at the time of the devastating mass shooting.

This website has a wealth of information:

- 1) “Statistics” section is where you can get a sense of the enormity of gun violence
- 2) “Gun Law Navigator” - check out your state’s gun laws and compare them to other state’s
- 3) “News Center” is where you can follow new issues in the gun safety efforts
- 4) “Gun Sense Voter Candidate Locator” lets you find local candidates that have expressed support for gun safety legislation

But of particular interest is the “Faces of Courage” page where people can submit their stories of how their lives were impacted by gun violence.

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**March for Our Lives** <https://marchforourlives.com>

The March for Our Lives was created by the 2018 Parkland, Florida’s Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School shooting victims. The focus of the organization is geared toward engaging youth in the gun safety discussion and fostering a sense empowerment- the youth voice counts. They have a heavy focus on gun safety legislation both locally and at the federal level. They also identify need for local communities to institute programs to help ameliorate the conditions that lead to violence.

There is a great listing of the gun safety topics on the "[How We Save Lives](#)" page and on the Mission Statement which is under the “Info” page.

This is a good page to start with to get your feet wet with the various types of legislation many gun safety groups work toward getting enacted as the explanations are thorough yet easy to understand.

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Sandy Hook Promise - <https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/>

Founded in response to the Sandy Hook tragedy, the Sandy Hook Promise is both a group and an actual promise, **“I promise to do all I can to protect children from gun violence by encouraging and supporting solutions that create safer, healthier homes, schools and communities.”** Their mission statement, found on the website, makes it clear that they are focused on preventing gun related deaths in all its manifestations, including homicide, suicide, and accidental discharge.

Based in Newton, CT, their intent is to honor all victims of gun violence by turning the tragedy of the Sandy Hook into a moment of transformation by providing programs and practices that prevent the senseless tragic loss of life.

This website is a very comprehensive collection of information about gun violence causes and prevention. The “Promise Leader” tab (located under the “Get Involved Tab”) offers suggestions and opportunities for training to empower individuals to advocate locally for gun safety, sensible gun legislation, and mental health awareness. There is also a “Get the Facts” tab that uses both graphics and text to illustrate the dimensions of the gun violence problem in the U.S. This page also documents the source material supporting the cited information. The website also contains a “Know the Signs” section, which details signs and signals to look for before gun violence occurs, and helpful tips on prevention, and also a section on SOS, the suicide prevention program.

Local Organizations

Bucks Safe - <http://www.ceasefirepa.org/about-us/partners/bucks-safe/>

Bucks Safe is a partner of Cease Fire, PA. According to their website, Bucks Safe is made up of Bucks County residents who believe in the 2nd Amendment and Article I, Section 21 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, but who also recognize the urgent need to curb gun violence in our society by examining and addressing a wide variety of causes. They believe that in order to maintain safety in our communities we must fix our broken mental health services infrastructure, provide law enforcement with the tools necessary to protect us, and draw a clear line in the sand between the weapons and ammunition that have a lawful place in our society and those that do not.

Their Facebook page is a mix of local gun violence prevention events, links to gun safety articles, and political action information: www.facebook.com/BucksSafe/

Monthly meetings are held at Congregation Beth El of Bucks County, and meeting schedules can be found on the Events section of the Facebook page. The email contact is BucksSafe@gmail.com.

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## **Bucks Students Demand Action**

This group is comprised of Bucks County high school students who are fed up with Gun Violence and current Gun Policies. The group is completely managed by students, and their focus is on inspiring fellow students to take action by voting, protesting for changes in gun policy, and local political activism. They do not have an official website, but they do have a very active Facebook and Twitter Page.

Their Facebook page contains an events section, which lists current and past events that the group is organizing or participating in. This is a great resource for upcoming local gun violence prevention events in the Bucks County Area. [www.facebook.com/BucksStudentsDemandAction/events](http://www.facebook.com/BucksStudentsDemandAction/events)

They also list an email contact, [BucksStudentsDemandAction@gmail.com](mailto:BucksStudentsDemandAction@gmail.com).

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Cease Fire PA - <http://www.ceasefirepa.org/>

Cease Fire PA is a statewide organization working with mayors, police chiefs, faith leaders, community organizations, and individual Pennsylvanians to take a stand against gun violence. Through outreach, education, coalition building, and advocacy, they work to reduce gun violence and gun tragedies in our communities, stop the flow of illegal guns onto our streets, and keep guns out of the hands of people who should not have them.

Learn, Act and Updates are the major areas of information you can find on the website.

What Ceasefire PA is fighting for: expanding background checks, passing extreme risk protection orders, safe storage, loss and theft reporting and banning assault weapons, high capacity magazines and bump stocks.

What they are fighting against: expanding of “stand your ground” law, putting guns in schools, elimination of the PA criminal Background check system (PICS) some have been trying to dismantle the PA system and have us only use the national system NCIS – but Pa system is more thorough, and “preemption laws” which would allow outside groups to sue towns /cities/municipalities in pa regarding their gun laws.

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**Lower Bucks Indivisible** - <http://www.lowerbucksindivisible.org/>

Lower Bucks Indivisible (LBI) is part of the national Indivisible organization. According to its mission statement, Lower Bucks Indivisible is dedicated to supporting progressive policies. Preventing gun violence is a component of this effort, but it is not the primary focus of the group.

**LBI does, however, offer a tab that helps voters keep track of gun safety and school security legislation that has been proposed in Congress – which is the reason we have included it in this listing.**