

2023 AUDIENCE GUIDE

"This ain't the intermission. It's the show. On this stage, in this world, we, the men and women who are merely players, in our various roles, are waking daily in different plays all together. This is the moment where everything changes. **We are in the inciting incident.**"

- Idris Goodwin
Playwright



ENOUGH!

PLAYS TO END GUN VIOLENCE

DEAR AUDIENCE MEMBER

As a theatremaker, I've staked my life on the idea that stories matter, and that coming together to tell them can change the fabric of our communities. When I heard the voices of our youth demanding change in the aftermath of the 2018 Parkland shooting, something clicked: The voices of these brave young people belong not only in our streets and in our senate chambers; they belong on our stages.

ENOUGH! is a story, in three acts:

Act I was writing the plays.

Act II is presenting the plays.

Act III, is about action, it's what **YOU** do next.

The theatre has always been the place where we can change the world one room at a time, where we can rehearse the future we want to create.





And our young people are ready to show us the way.

Michael Cotey

ENOUGH! Joaquin Oliver Artistic Producer

ENOUGH! NATIONWIDE PLAYS TO END GUN VIOLENCE READING

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NOTE: Text in **orange** found throughout this document is a link to other resources and were active at the time of publication.

THE STAGE IS SET TO END GUN VIOLENCE

ENOUGH!
PLAYS TO END GUN VIOLENCE

**TEAM
ENOUGH**

this is **YOUR** cue...

Nationwide Reading Action Items

ENOUGH! has teamed up with Team ENOUGH, the youth-led and youth-serving program of Brady United, to provide you with 3 simple action items you can do before you even leave the theater:

1

Send a Message to Congress NOW!

Scan the QR code to the right or click [HERE](#) and fill out the form to send a message to your senators and representative urging them to support gun safety policies.



2

Say "ENOUGH!" on Social Media!

Why are you saying ENOUGH to gun violence? Share a video using #ENOUGH to tell us what drives you to take action and why others should join you! Don't forget to tag @enoughplaysproject (X: @enoughplays) & @teamenough so we can help amplify your message. *Bonus: Tag your elected officials so they can hear from you directly!*

3

Commit to Longer Term Action!

Are you ready to take action around preventing gun violence? Scan the QR code to join a [Team ENOUGH \(under 26\)](#) or [Brady \(26 and older\)](#) for a virtual info session to learn more about the different ways you can engage and volunteer.



UNDER 26



26 AND OLDER



THE PLAYS

In this section you will find the following on each play:

On Writing the Play

Learn why the playwright wrote their play.

Start a Dialogue / Continue the Conversation

A place to begin a specific conversation rooted in the themes of the play.

Numbers Don't Lie

A few key statistics that help you cast the play into the context of the real world.

Know Their Names. Know Their Stories. Honor Their Legacies.

Highlighting real life examples of lives lost.

Dig Deeper

Research, articles, stories and other resources tied to the themes of the play.

Writer Spotlight & Beyond the Play

Short essays that give you a greater look at both the writer and the play's themes.



A CALL FOR HELP

by Pepper Fox

On Writing the Play

"I was very interested in speaking from a different point of view than what's usually seen. Typically you would understand the experience from the caller who is directly impacted, but many people don't think of who is receiving that call."

Start a Dialogue

The three 911 dispatch workers in *A Call for Help* pivot instantly from friendly coworker banter to life-and-death calls in the face of gun violence. Data shows that the rates of depression and even suicide for dispatch workers is significantly higher than the rest of the population. **When we consider victims of gun violence, who else experiences harm apart from those directly injured or killed? How does gun violence spiral out from the initial event and impact the whole community?**

Continue the Conversation...

A Call for Help deals not only with active shooter threats but also with another form of gun violence: suicide. Over 80% of firearm suicides of children under 18 involve a gun owned by a family member—as Sierra says, "It's just too easy." Have you or someone you love been impacted by firearm suicide? How did *A Call for Help*'s portrayal of this topic make you feel?

Were the three dispatch workers able to stop the violence in this play? What could have happened earlier in these three cases to get the callers the help they needed?

Numbers Don't Lie

3rd **17-24%** **273**

Suicide is the **3rd leading cause of death** for young Americans. (Ages 10-24) ¹

of emergency dispatcher personnel **grapple with PTSD.** ²

number of **unintentional shootings by children** in 2023, resulting in 103 deaths and 178 injuries. ³

Know Their Names. Know Their Stories. Honor Their Legacies.

Ethan Song loved to ski, hike, and play Spikeball. He loved his 10 cousins and would play card games with them for hours.

Ethan Song died in the home of a neighbor whose father had not secured his guns.

Ethan's life was full of laughter, travel, joy, and adventures. Although his life was tragically cut short, he lived with passion and experienced many wonderful things.

The Song family honors his life through actions that help keep kids safe. **Ethan's Law** will help ensure that dangerous arms are safely secured out of the reach of children and dangerous people.

Source: <https://www.songstrong.org/about/>

Dig Deeper *Click on the text in orange to bring you to the article.*

This VICE article examines the day-to-day experience of 911 dispatchers who grapple with traumatic experiences, punishing hours, and high rates of PTSD.

The Trace **examines the rising youth gun suicide rate**, noting that an American teenager took their life with a firearm every seven hours on average between 2019 and 2020.

According to the **American Academy of Pediatrics**, this risk of suicide is 4 to 10 times higher in homes with guns than in those without.

Learn about one **911 dispatcher's experience** during the mass shooting at Michigan State University on February 13, 2023.

Read **Preventable Tragedies**, Everytown's report on unintentional shootings by children.



WRITER SPOTLIGHT

Pepper Fox (she/her) of Louisville, KY may have just started writing last year, but you wouldn't guess it based on ***A Call for Help***, her winning ENOUGH! submission that gave playwright and selection committee member **Zora Howard** chills. "The action leapt off of the page," Howard wrote in feedback. "Bravo!"

A visual arts student at **DuPont Manual**, Pepper took a playwriting class as a junior and fell in love with it. "My teacher was a very strong impact on me," she says. "Without him, I wouldn't have begun writing in the first place."

Pepper's eye for the artistic is certainly evident in her play, which intricately and rhythmically weaves together six different storylines on a single afternoon in a 911 call center, where gun violence impacts people in unique and personal ways.

"I was very interested in speaking from a different point of view than what's usually seen," she says. "Typically you would understand the experience from the caller who is directly impacted, but many people don't think of who is receiving that call."

Who are the people receiving that call? 911 telecommunicators-dispatchers, call takers, etc.-are often the first line of help for people in distress, the "first first responders." But listening to moments of acute distress over the phone day in and day out takes a toll. Psychologist Michelle Lilly has researched 911 telecommunicators and suggests that somewhere between 17 and 24% suffer from PTSD-significantly higher than the general population, of whom only about 8% live with the disorder. Furthermore, a 2019 state of Virginia survey found that

911 telecommunicators were more than twice as likely to experience suicidal thoughts.

Not all of the calls these workers field are related to gun violence, but as it is now the leading cause of death for children and teens, the percentage of a dispatcher's job that involves gun-related trauma is only getting higher.

"I would love to see something implemented about gun laws," Pepper says. "The accessibility and the ease that guns are able to be impacting society shows how much we need restriction."

To Pepper, the arts play a central role in the future she wants to be part of and, perhaps, co-create. This future includes "a complete dive into physical art," she envisions. "Creative personal expression would be present everywhere, as well as encouraged."

It's the future all our youth deserve: where artistic expression can go beyond attempting to solve the problems our adults and politicians won't. As we work toward that future, we can expect to find artists like Pepper continuing to show us the way.

BEYOND THE PLAY

Because of its unique setting, *A Call for Help* is able to spotlight three distinct forms of gun violence that permeate our communities: unintentional gun deaths, firearm suicides, and mass shootings.

Mass shootings rightfully garner a lot of attention because of how much more frequently they happen in the United States than other nations on Earth; indeed, from 1998-2019, 73% of mass shootings worldwide happened right here in America. There have been more than 540 this year so far.

Unintentional gun deaths make up only a small percentage of firearms deaths in the U.S. (typically around 1% of gun deaths are due to unintentional discharge). But they capture public notice because they are so preventable, and because they often involve children, like in *A Call for Help*. So far in 2023, there have been about 300 unintentional shootings by children, resulting in more than 100 deaths

and nearly 200 injuries. Most of these occur when guns are kept in the home, especially when they're unlocked and loaded. Simple safety measures-or no gun in the home at all-could have made all the difference.

Firearm suicides-of which 90% of attempts are fatal-are on the rise across the nation, and it is a particular problem for youth. Suicide is the third leading cause of death for young Americans ages 10-24; firearm suicide makes up over one-third of all youth gun deaths and nearly half of suicides among young people. In 2020, that rate hit a 20-year high, and it continues to rise-especially among children of color.

80% of firearm suicides by children 18 and younger involve a gun belonging to a family member. The risk of suicide is 4 to 10 times higher in homes that have guns versus those that do not. From accidental shootings to intentional self-harm, guns in the home all too often spell disaster for our youth-and 911 dispatchers like in *A Call for Help* are the first to hear about it.

In the face of this rising tide of violence and a lack of structural support, it's no wonder that emergency telecommunicators are struggling with mental health.

Who else are the "forgotten victims" of gun violence, who feel the effects but don't get noticed? How can we include them in the conversation?





THE SMILES BEHIND

by Niarra C. Bell

On Writing the Play

"I decided to focus on gun violence in relation to the relationship between African Americans and the police because this is the kind of gun violence that I most connect with. I have been aware of this type of gun violence since I was a child, so I felt passionate to write about it when given the opportunity."

Start a Dialogue

The Smiles Behind shows the providential intervention of a young Black girl on behalf of her brother, who is being pursued by an armed police officer after a fatal robbery. **How did the play's portrayal of a police encounter with two Black children make you feel? What sensations, emotions, or images came to you as you experienced the play?**

Continue the Conversation...

A 16-year study showed that Black and Latine children were significantly more likely to be killed by police than white children, with Black children being six times more likely to die and Latine children three times more likely. What do you think would be different about the circumstances of this play had Kay been white?

Do police make you feel safe? Would you feel more or less safe if police were not armed with guns? Is there a world where policing and guns do not go hand in hand? Why or why not?

Numbers Don't Lie

9x

How many more young Black American men (ages 15-34) are **killed by police shootings** than young white American men.⁴

976

people have been **shot and killed** by police in the last year.⁵

1 in 1,000

About **how many Black men and boys in America** can expect to die at the hands of police.⁶

Know Their Names. Know Their Stories. Honor Their Legacies.

Wikipedia has [a list of African Americans](#) reported killed while unarmed by non-military law enforcement officers in the United States. Events are listed whether they took place in the line of duty or not, and regardless of reason or method.

In **Know Their Names**, Al Jazeera created an [online memorial](#) profiling Black men and women killed at the hands of the police. They document what they were doing, what was known about the shooting, and what action was taken.

Illustrator Pan Cooke uses Instagram to share the stories of a number of Black men and women killed by police by turning them into short comics that powerfully give the viewer a glimpse into who these people were, what happened, and what came next.

Dig Deeper Click on the text in [orange](#) to bring you to the article.

What is **police brutality**? Amnesty International offers [a definition](#) and explores cases in the US and around the world.

Mapping Police Violence records every police-related death in the United States.

Take a deep dive into the [history of policing in America](#) with NPR's *Throughline*. Hear about the *"origins of American policing and how those origins put violent control of Black Americans at the heart of the system."*

Explore this *Atlantic* article that outlines [some of the ideas on police reform in American](#).



WRITER SPOTLIGHT

When **Niarra C. Bell** (she/her) of Hampton, Virginia, thinks about the kind of future she wants to write about, her answer is simple: “In my story,” she says—in that future— “people would just be people.”

It’s a theme that resounds in Niarra’s playwriting debut, ***The Smiles Behind***: when people are allowed to “just be people”—to be fully in touch with their humanity, and to be seen as fully human by others—moments of grace can happen. Tragedy can be averted. And it’s what Niarra believes can help solve the gun violence epidemic.

“I feel that whenever gun violence is discussed, there’s a group of people who are concerned about losing the guns,” she says. “I would like to move the conversation about gun violence away from preserving the guns and more towards protecting the people.”

Last year, while a student at **Kecoughtan High School**, Niarra’s teacher and mentor, Mrs. Tracy Bourne, assigned her class to write ten-minute plays about gun violence and encouraged them to submit to ENOUGH!. Niarra knew right away what she wanted to write about: “I decided to focus on gun violence in relation to the relationship between African Americans and the police because this is the kind of gun violence that I most connect with,” she says. “I have been aware of this type of gun violence since I was a child, so I felt passionate to write about it when given the opportunity.

The Smiles Behind dramatizes a powerful encounter between a young African-American girl named Lay and an armed police officer pursuing her older brother. While Niarra's play infuses hope and empathy into a crisis setting, the reality of such encounters can be very bleak: police encounters with Black children are six times more likely to be fatal than with white children. Boys, in particular, are at a much higher risk.

It takes some remarkable intervention on Lay's part to interrupt this pattern of police brutality threatening her beloved brother, and to guide the police officer to remember both her brother's humanity and his own. But if Niarra's vision for the future becomes reality, and people—especially children—are allowed to “just be,” and be seen, perhaps it will make reaching for a gun harder and reaching for common understanding easier.

It's no wonder, then, that one of Niarra's major literary influences is another visionary writer: Maya Angelou. “Her writing is extremely powerful, and you can feel her strength as a woman in her words,” says Niarra. “As an African American woman, Maya Angelou inspired and continues to inspire me to find my own strength in my writing.”

Niarra began writing in 7th grade after becoming a regular visitor to her school library. “I wanted to write just like the authors whose works I was reading,” she remembers. Along with Angelou, some of Niarra's favorite works include *Twelve Angry Jurors*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, and—a fan favorite among ENOUGH! Winners this year—*Macbeth*.

We look forward to sharing *The Smiles Behind* with the world through the Nationwide Reading in November, and to reading more of Niarra's work as she continues to write the future she wishes to see.

BEYOND THE PLAY

The violence that all too often accompanies police encounters with children of color has become more widely documented in recent years. The data is dismaying, to say the least.

One troubling statistic involves the adultification of Black youth. **Research shows that Black children are estimated to be an average of 4.5 years older than they actually are. (This is not the case for white children.)** This contributes to the alarming pattern of police officers treating Black youth much more severely than white youth exhibiting the same behaviors at the same age. Examples include twelve-year-old Tamir Rice, who was described as “a guy with a gun” before being killed by police for holding a toy pistol, and the nine-year-old Rochester girl who was told to “stop acting like a child” as officers violently detained her.

In *The Smiles Behind*, Lay’s brother Kay is under suspicion of being involved in a fatal robbery because of his proximity to the crime when it happened. The officer, Jeff, immediately draws his weapon on Kay, who is fleeing in fear. This split-second assumption of Kay’s culpability-and his level of “threat” to the officer-echoes the same assumptions that have claimed the lives of Black men and boys like **Philando Castile, Michael Brown, Daunte Wright, Willie McCoy**, and more than a hundred others.

Along with the very real threat to Kay’s life, though, this situation also represents the epidemic of race-based trauma Black youth experience before they even reach adulthood. Niarra herself describes police violence against African Americans as something she’s “been aware of since [she] was a child.” Repeated exposure to police brutality-directly or vicariously-has been linked to many long-

term psychological effects and trauma responses in children, and the over-policing of predominantly Black neighborhoods increases the likelihood of these violent encounters exponentially.



The Smiles Behind gives us a glimpse of a different kind of public safety, focusing less on snap judgments and more on careful, empathetic truth-seeking, with a young Black girl leading the way toward healing. **But in the absence of such a providential encounter, what steps can we take to protect Black and Brown children like Kay from becoming the next heartbreaking hashtag? How do we foreground them in discussing public safety, policing, and preventing gun violence?**



THE MATTER AT HAND

by Valentine Wulf

On Writing the Play

"I wanted to focus on the ineffectuality of most adults to actually address the violence embedded in American culture. Sure, we can spread positivity or arm teachers or ban scary guns...but none of those are real solutions. Ban a gun? Kid's going to shoot up a school with another. Arm teachers? And train them how? We barely have the funding for special ed programs, let alone special ops...What we need to be doing is examining what it is about our culture that fuels people to do this"

Start a Dialogue

In *The Matter at Hand*, desensitized adults get weapons of their own while milquetoast anti-bullying campaigns do nothing to prevent more school shootings. **How do we avoid desensitization on one end—and hopelessness on the other—in the face of gun violence in schools?**

Continue the Conversation...

Research suggests that arming teachers not only won't prevent shootings but would actually make things worse by increasing accidental shootings and complicating law enforcement's ability to respond. Further studies show that unarmed civilians have had much greater success at stopping a threat than armed ones. How can we better empower staff and students to be safe without introducing more weapons?

The Matter at Hand uses satire and dark comedy to make a serious point about some of the suggested solutions to gun violence in schools. How did this style of storytelling land on you? What did you notice about your response? How can creative, sardonic, or even scathing storytelling influence listeners differently than traditional news?

Numbers Don't Lie

60%

of teachers surveyed by the National Education Association **are worried** a mass shooting could happen at their school.⁷

37

school staff members – including janitors, coaches, security officers and bus drivers – **have been shot and killed** in schools since 1999.⁸

Know Their Names. Know Their Stories. Honor Their Legacies.

The National Memorial to Fallen Educators is a permanent tribute to those who lost their lives in the line of duty. From their website: *"Throughout our history, educators have perished in the line of duty from accidents, violence or from the global coronavirus pandemic. Some lost their lives while protecting students. All of them left this earth heroes."*

View the names and read their stories online at <https://nthfmemorial.org/>

Dig Deeper Click on the text in *orange* to bring you to the article.

'Teaching in the Age of School Shootings' by *The New York Times* provides excellent first hand accounts of what it's like for teachers to come back to school and teach in the aftermath of a deadly incident of gun violence.

Teachers are already stressed. But along with testing standards, parent relationships and growing class sizes, **teachers and school staff in the post-Columbine era are increasingly worried** about keeping their students -- and themselves -- safe from shootings and other violence.

The Insider dives into some of the practices being asked of teachers and parents at certain schools, including **providing buckets of kitty litter so students can go to the bathroom in a lockdown**.

Students and teachers are **writing wills in case they are killed** in a school shooting.

Research has shown that if teachers carry guns into schools **children are likely to access those guns**.

Proposals to arm teachers will likely result in **additional costs for training teachers**, putting an additional financial burden on school districts and, ultimately, on taxpayers.



Valentine playing Victoria Frankenstein in an adaptation of *Frankenstein*

WRITER SPOTLIGHT

Valentine Wulf's first play, written in fifth grade, was about a family of sheep who accidentally discover they enjoy the taste of lamb. This affinity for dark, absurdist comedy carries through to her winning ENOUGH! play, ***The Matter at Hand***, which playwright and selection committee member **David Henry Hwang** called "sort of a *Waiting for Godot* of gun violence," at once both "hilarious" and "chilling."

This Seattle, WA native, now a student at Bennington College, traces some of this to her influences, which range from Edward Gorey and Dr. Seuss to Stanley Kubrick and *The Twilight Zone*. Valentine's impressive use of satire and brutal humor, paired with her searing indictment of adult inaction, will make any audience member take a good hard look at the problem of gun violence and their role in preventing it...or, even accidentally, promoting it.

"I wanted to focus on the ineffectuality of most adults to actually address the violence embedded in American culture," she says. "How do so many young people become radicalized to the point of mass murder without intervention? What we need to be doing is examining what it is about our culture that fuels people to do this."

Valentine says she does put much stock in many of the ideas people insist will curb gun violence, from spreading positivity to arming teachers to banning "scary" guns. "We barely have the funding for special ed programs, let alone special ops," Valentine says. If teachers are armed, she continues, "we'll have a bunch of untrained adults fumbling around with firearms."

This is the exact problem sociologists worry about whenever that proposal comes up. Research already shows that arming “school resource officers”-who had training with firearms-did not demonstrably deter violent crime. **Throwing under-trained teachers into the mix raises serious concerns about increasing students’ access to loaded weapons, destroying students’ feelings of safety, and exposing students and staff alike to higher rates of violence, both intentional and accidental.**

Valentine thinks one thing might do some actual good in the stalemate around gun violence. “I want people to have a conversation with someone who radically disagrees with them and gain a genuine understanding of the other person’s point of view,” she says. “And then I want people to get off Twitter and start actually researching guns, gun culture, and gun legislation.” Because most people, she believes, “have no idea what they’re actually talking about.”

Sometimes art delights us, sometimes art haunts us, and sometimes art arrests us. *The Matter at Hand* manages to do all of this with eviscerating precision. Valentine says her next play is a musical she is co-writing about a PTA mom who “may or may not be hiding a war criminal in her home.” We have no doubt that wherever Valentine turns her pen next, she’s sure to delight, haunt, and arrest her readers again.

BEYOND THE PLAY

Despite extensive training, even law enforcement officers don’t always exercise sound judgment when it comes to using guns. **Is it any wonder that most law enforcement experts therefore agree that school staff should not carry guns?**

Educators are expert at teaching young people – spending years in school to acquire the requisite know-how to do so. They’re not expert at handling weapons, lacking the training and accompanying tactical knowledge which trained law enforcement personnel develop through years of formal as well as on-the-job training.

Bottom line: an armed teacher cannot, in a moment of extreme duress and confusion, be expected to transform into a specially trained law enforcement

officer. **Indeed, an armed teacher is more likely to shoot a student bystander or be shot by responding law enforcement than to stop an active shooter in a school.**

When a teacher is carrying a gun, there is also a much greater chance of a negligent discharge. Or a misplaced weapon. Or a bad actor getting hold of that weapon. Or children accessing those guns (the majority of gun incidents in schools have involved adults' firearms being accessible to students).

There's more.

Armed civilians can also complicate law enforcement's response. A former Dallas police chief explained why: **"We don't know who the good guy is versus who the bad guy is if everyone starts shooting."**

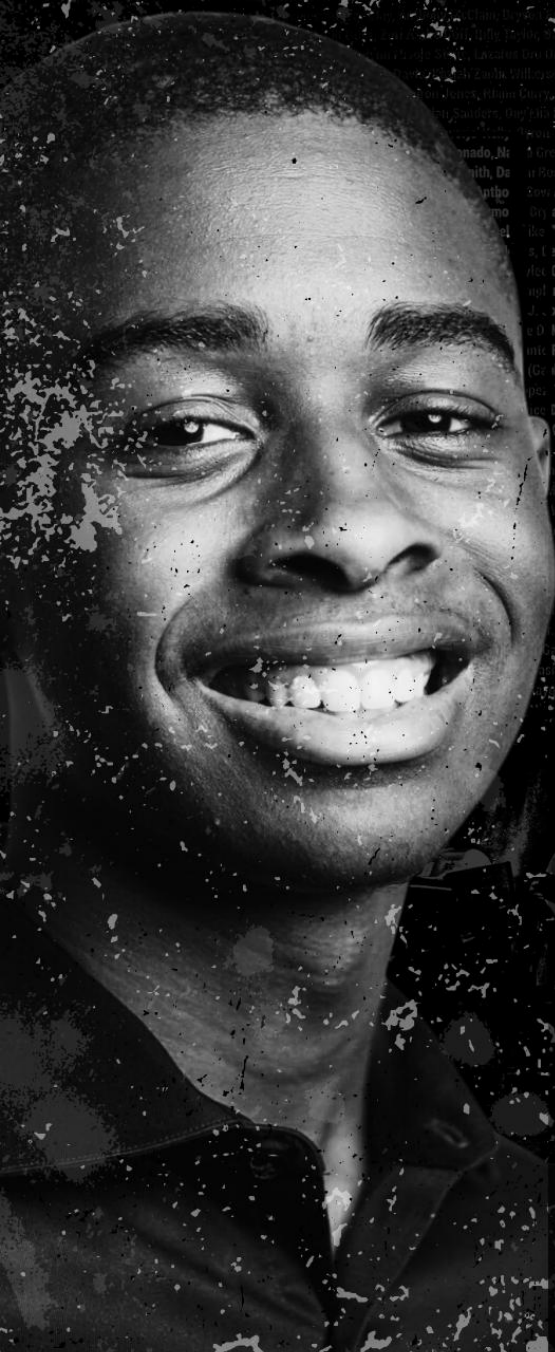
Similarly, Colorado, law enforcement noted that shoppers drawing weapons in self-defense "absolutely" slowed the process of identifying the suspect, when a man shot and killed three people at a Walmart.

The FBI found that in 160 active shooter incidents, **there was only one successful armed civilian intervention—and the civilian in that incident was a highly trained U.S. Marine**. In contrast, unarmed civilians successfully intervened in over 20 incidents.

Moreover, proposals to arm teachers will likely result in additional costs for training teachers, as will the added insurance costs (assuming a school can even obtain such insurance; schools allowing employees to carry guns have had difficulty obtaining insurance coverage.)

Given this context, is it no surprise that most professional education organizations, including major national teacher and school administrator organizations, reject the call to arm teachers? Or that the National Association of School Resource Officers, American Bar Association, and national school psychologist and school social work associations also oppose this call?

Arming teachers won't just cost money and time. Most important, it won't save lives. *The Matter at Hand* underscores the absurdity of this "solution" through biting satire. But it also begs the question, how can we better empower staff and students to be safe without introducing more weapons?



NO PROSPERING WEAPONS

by Justin Cameron Washington

On Writing the Play

"Artist XXXtentacion was one of those people that was "looked up to" by a 13 year boy like myself at the time...So when young me heard about his passing to gun violence, I was devastated. My adolescent soul wondered why would someone want to do such a thing...[I wrote this play] to somewhat answer the question thirteen year old Justin didn't have the answers to."

Start a Dialogue

No Prospering Weapons examines the cyclical nature of gun violence, especially when poverty and structural inequity enter the picture. **How can we address the factors that lead people to seek violence as a solution WITHOUT turning to more guns?**

Continue the Conversation...

What role do community spaces (such as places of worship, as in *No Prospering Weapons*) play in healing communities afflicted by violence? What can your workplace/neighborhood/church do to prevent violence by addressing community needs?

No Prospering Weapons uses hip hop and poetry to tell the story of two fathers caught in the cycle of violence. What role do you think the arts can play in generating action and change?

Numbers Don't Lie

9,000

Nearly the number of Black Americans who die by gun homicide every year, a rate **11x higher** than that of white Americans.⁹

30

Black Americans are killed by guns **everyday**.¹⁰

5x

The amount **young Black Americans (ages 15-19)** are more likely to be murdered by guns than young white Americans.¹¹

Know Their Names. Know Their Stories. Honor Their Legacies.

According to **CNN**, gun violence has killed at least **1 rapper every year since 2018**.

XXXTentacion

20 years old | Deerfield Beach, Florida
June 18, 2018

Young Dolph

36 years old | Memphis, Tennessee
November 17, 2021

Nipsey Hussle

33 years old | Los Angeles, CA
March 31, 2019

PnB Rock

30 years old | Los Angeles, CA
September 12, 2022

Pop Smoke

20 years old | Hollywood Hills, CA
February 19, 2020

Takeoff

28 years old | Houston, TX
November 1, 2022

King Von

26 years old | Atlanta, GA
March 13, 2020

Dig Deeper *Click on the text in **orange** to bring you to the article.*

In **Hip-Hop is Not the Problem**, *34th Street* examines how the deaths of young rappers are not being treated as a tragedy, but rather as another reason for critics to vilify the hip-hop genre.

A.D. Carson, a rap artist and scholar, explains how the music is just a mirror reflecting back the larger issue of gun violence that plagues all of America in **this NPR interview**.

Everytown addresses the disproportionate challenges for Black communities and outlines possible solutions in its report **Impact of Gun Violence on Black Americans**.



WRITER SPOTLIGHT

Justin Cameron Washington (he/him) of Rochester Hills, Michigan has been writing for as long as he can remember. But when the pandemic hit in 2020, he started to see writing as a personal tool for the first time, thanks in part to some special gifts he received from family: a copy of Spike Lee's film *Do the Right Thing* from his brother, and headphones and a music streaming service from his parents.

Do the Right Thing, Justin says, "led me to write premature stories in Google docs with Spike Lee always in mind." And the headphones? "[They] led me to listen to mass amounts of music, which would call me to write a nice amount of poetry and verses."

Justin's abilities not only as a playwright but also as a poet and lyricist come through vividly in his winning play, ***No Prospering Weapons***. Combining the musicality of hip-hop and the drama of theatre, *No Prospering Weapons* is the haunting story of two men caught in a cycle of greed, glory, and gun violence that Justin felt compelled to explore after seeing musicians he admired get caught in that same cycle.

"The artist [XXXTentacion](#) was one of those people that was 'looked up to' by a thirteen-year-old boy like myself," Justin remembers. "He obtained a mass amount of influence with youth with his reliability and comforting music. So when young me heard about his passing to gun violence, I was devastated. My adolescent soul wondered why would someone want to do such a thing."

As Justin researched XXXTentacion's death, he learned about the similar fates of iconic artists like Tupac Shakur and The Notorious B.I.G. "This was nothing new," Justin says he realized then. "These people were taken due to the hate of a gun. They were people of high influence and status. And [they] were taken by people that would easily have shared a community with them."

It was "no hesitation," therefore, for Justin to make this the focus of his play: "To somewhat answer the question thirteen-year-old Justin didn't have the answers to."

Justin says he draws much of his creative inspiration from family, friends, and his own imagination. His first published piece, "Please Don't Mind My Mind," was a short story about mental health he wrote and performed for Mosaic Youth Theatre in Detroit. He is currently writing a new play about the constant movement of time. "Time is rarely appreciated until it's already ticked," Justin says, a theme that also plays out in *No Prospering Weapons*.

For a writer who is deeply influenced by music, it's no surprise that two of Justin's favorite plays are musicals: *Hamilton* and *Matilda*. "But *Everybody* by Branden Jacobs Jenkins really takes the cake for me personally," he adds.

Justin may not be the thirteen-year-old he once was, grappling with the murder of an artist he admired, but the violence that shook him then has not yet abated, and the future he wants to see-and write about-is not yet built. "In a perfect world and script, there would be no guns," he envisions. "Characters in this futuristic society would use their words to tackle issues, and would have a small enough ego and large enough sensitivity to simply let an issue go."

BEYOND THE PLAY

Justin's shock, grief, and confusion after the death of XXXTentacion-and, more recently, the rapper Takeoff-is reflective of many Americans' experiences after someone they know (or know of) is gunned down. And with the exponential rise of gun violence across the country, more and more individuals and communities are grappling with the trauma related to gun deaths.

Research has shown that gun violence survivors experience more severe and lasting mental health effects, including PTSD, than those who experience violence by other means. And it's not limited just to those directly impacted; even people who witness, hear about, or are simply in proximity to gun violence suffer varying degrees of gun-related trauma. It's not an exaggeration to say that for every gun death in America, thousands of people are impacted.

Both of the characters in *No Prospering Weapons* have experienced gun-related trauma themselves before ever even meeting. Both of them have young children and families. The character Up-and-Coming is an rising artist whose music can be heard blasting from speakers throughout his community-not unlike the seven rising-star rappers that have been killed by gun violence since 2018. **And so the gun violence that brings Up-and-Coming and Down-and-Falling together will have ripple effects that extend far beyond the two who were actually in the room when it happened, wounding families, neighbors, friends, and fans for years to come.**

Everytown Research and Policy defines community trauma as resulting from “the accumulation and interaction of many forms of violence, including gun violence,” as well as structural violence like poverty, underinvestment in healthcare and housing, and over-policing. **Hundreds of years of state-sanctioned oppression has meant that Black communities are faced with this kind of violence and trauma at significantly higher rates than white communities: eleven times higher, in fact.** Gun violence exacerbates existing racial injustice and makes it even more deadly.

There is a haunting inevitability with which Up-and-Coming contemplates his fate in *No Prospering Weapons*. But for Down-and-Falling, he knows up to the very end that he could have made a different choice. The tension of external pressures and internal agency is a central theme in this remarkable play. **What kind of violence are we willing to accept as “inevitable”? What will it take for us all to make a different choice?**





LIGHTNING STRIKE

by Amanda Fagan

On Writing the Play

"I decided to write something that reflected my own fears about mass shootings. My school got several shooting threats last year and even got put in hard lockdown after getting swatted. I needed an outlet to express my fears that one day it wouldn't just be a threat."

Start a Dialogue

In *Lightning Strike*, we begin with a memory of Hallie's first active shooter drill at age seven, and we end with her son's first active shooter drill, also at age seven. Reflect on your first time experiencing or learning about an "active shooter drill." **Where were you—at school, work, your place of worship? Who was there/who told you about it—your teacher, your child, your coworker? What did you feel at the time?**

Continue the Conversation...

What happens for you when you hear about another school shooting? What feelings emerge (both emotions and physical sensations)?

What role do the voices of school shooting survivors play in our national discourse about gun violence? Should that role look different? If so, how?

Numbers Don't Lie

6.7%

of students in one study reported they **missed class** in the previous month because **they felt unsafe at school**.¹²

57%

of teens **worry a shooting could happen** at their school.¹³

95%

of American public schools **drilled students on lockdown procedures** in the 15-16 school year.¹⁴ In 05-06, only 40% did.¹⁵

Know Their Names. Know Their Stories. Honor Their Legacies.

Since **Columbine**, there had been **14** deadly mass school shootings with four or more victims.

Virginia Tech	Virginia	32	April 16, 2007
Sandy Hook	Connecticut	26	December 14, 2012
Robb Elementary School	Texas	21	May 24, 2022
Marjory Stoneman Douglas	Florida	17	February 14, 2018
Santa Fe High School	Texas	10	May 18, 2018
Umpqua Community College	Oregon	9	October 1, 2015
Oikos University	California	7	April 2, 2012
Red Lake Senior High	Minnesota	7	March 21, 2005
Covenant School	Tennessee	6	March 27, 2023
Santa Monica College	California	5	June 7, 2013
Northern Illinois University	Illinois	5	February 14, 2008
West Nickel Mines School	Pennsylvania	5	October 2, 2006
Oxford High School	Michigan	4	November 30, 2021
Marysville Pilchuck High School	Washington	4	October 24, 2014

Dig Deeper Click on the text in **orange** to bring you to the article.

Stanford University explored the **impacts of surviving a school shooting** had on the mental health, education, and earnings of American youth.

Good Morning American asked more than a **dozen school shootings survivors** to write letters to the next school shooting survivors.



WRITER SPOTLIGHT

Amanda Fagan (she/her) from Billings, Montana has been writing stories since she was barely out of kindergarten. By age seven, she had already made it her goal to be a published author. Since then, she's upped the challenge: to be a published author...before graduating high school.

Now a senior at Billings West, Amanda is on track to meet that goal with her remarkable playwriting debut, ***Lightning Strike***, which will be published in the 2023 ENOUGH! anthology and featured in the Nationwide Reading. She learned about the contest through a newsletter from the International Thespian Society and decided ENOUGH! could be an outlet not just for her writing skills, but also for navigating her fears about mass shootings.

"My school got several shooting threats last year and even got put in hard lockdown after getting SWATted," Amanda shared with us. "I needed an outlet to express my fears that one day it wouldn't just be a threat."

In *Lightning Strike*, a school shooting survivor named Hallie struggles to move forward from the tragedy that, statistics say, was less likely to happen than getting struck by lightning. But, as Hallie realizes, statistics don't mean much once it's happened to you. And for school-aged kids across America, the likelihood feels higher and higher every day. **There were more school shootings in 2022 than any year since Columbine: 46 in just one year, killing 34 students and adults from January to December.**

The fictional Hallie represents the more than 356,000 real students who have experienced gun violence at school since 1999. Hundreds of thousands of young people, many of whom watched friends and teachers die in front of them in a place that was supposed to be safe. That's a lot of lightning strikes after all.

Like Hallie, Amanda knows the problem is complex and will require an equally complex response. But she has ideas. "The best thing would be a national assault weapons ban, but I understand in today's climate that's not going to happen overnight," she says. "For now, even things like mandatory background checks and waiting periods would be an improvement."

Though *Lightning Strike* has brought Amanda closer to her dream of being a published author, it does not, she says, represent the future she wants to live in: "I would like to write a story where small children do not have to participate in active shooter drills. I would like to write a story where kids don't get shot and killed in school."

For her next play, Amanda is considering trying her hand at historical fiction, possibly in the era of World War II: after all, her favorite plays include *Auschwitz Lullaby* by James C. Wall and *Sending Down the Sparrows* by Laura Lundgren Smith (along with *Almost, Maine* by John Cariani and *Macbeth*). She credits her 9th grade English teacher, Mr. Matthew Rockeman, with helping keep her inspiration alive. "[He] has been a very positive influence on my passion for storytelling," she says.

If we've learned anything about Amanda so far, it's that she knows how to follow through on a goal. She plans to study history and creative writing at the University of Montana Missoula, and we have no doubt she will continue to use her gifts as a storyteller to captivate audiences and spread a message with courage and conviction.

BEYOND THE PLAY

While dying in a school shooting may statistically be as rarer than being struck by lightning, experiencing a school shooting is becoming increasingly more likely. In fact, in 2022 alone, more than 43,000 U.S. children were exposed to gunfire at school.

Read that again. 43,000.

Award-winning playwright and ENOUGH! Play Selection Committee member **Idris Goodwin** said of *Lightning Strike*, “[T]his narrator’s guilt and trauma [offer] a reminder that survivors carry a different kind of wound.” A wound that, each year, thousands more American children have to live with.

Researchers are finally beginning to investigate the long-term effects such violence can have on school shooting survivors. A [2020 study](#) showed that **youth antidepressant usage spiked in areas that had experienced a school shooting**, with the most significant increase linked to fatal shootings. What’s more, that usage persisted for over three years post-shooting, signaling lasting psychiatric trauma requiring long-term care.

[Additional studies](#) have shown that, all things being equal, schools that have experienced a shooting (even a nonfatal one) see **higher numbers of chronic absenteeism and more students held back a grade in the year or two following the shooting**. These trends continued even as the children grew up, leading to lower graduation rates, lower rates of college attendance, lower rates of employment into their 20s, and even lower salaries—one section of the study estimated that a student exposed to a school shooting could expect to earn \$115,000 less in their lifetime than a student who was not.

Hallie’s experience in *Lightning Strike* is frighteningly indicative of the reality so many American students are struggling to live with—a reality so many others, like Amanda, are concerned about having to face one day.

The discussion about gun violence, especially in schools, is not complete when we focus only on the number of fatalities. The lifelong ramifications for survivors deserve attention, care, and sweeping change.





A DISORDERLY HOUSE

by Sam Lee Victor

On Writing the Play

"I don't think it is a surprise that it is a bad time to be trans. With the sheer amount of attacks on our community-- I have had problems focusing on anything else...I needed to write a play that highlights the actual people that are being affected by these crimes...As trans people, we're not these scary hormone monsters that are out to indoctrinate the nation. We are people, with families, friends, struggles, dreams, plans, with everything. I hope this play can highlight that, and help people empathize with us."

Start a Dialogue

In *A Disorderly House*, two parents grapple with the aftermath of their transgender child's murder. Data shows that hate crimes against LGBTQIA+ people are dramatically on the rise, and trans people in particular are 2.5 times more likely to be victims of violent crime than cisgender people. **What do you think is contributing to this disturbing trend? What can individuals and communities do to stop it?**

Continue the Conversation...

Victim-blaming occurs when the victim is held responsible for the crime because of something they did or didn't do, like what they were wearing. Have you experienced, witnessed, or even participated in victim-blaming? How has this tactic been used to stall the conversation around violence against women (trans and cis) and queer people?

Mass shootings at LGBTQIA+ spaces such as the Pulse shooting in Orlando and the Club Q shooting in Colorado Springs have led many people, especially of marginalized identities, to fear attending social events. Have you ever felt worried about the prospect of a shooting while attending a public gathering? How did you respond?

Numbers Don't Lie

3 of 4

Nearly 3 out of 4 homicides of trans people **are with a firearm.**¹⁶

2.5x

Trans people are **2.5x more likely to be victims of violence** as cisgender people.¹⁷

93%

increase of known transgender killings from 2017-2021. 73% of those people were killed with a firearm.¹⁸

Know Their Names. Know Their Stories. Honor Their Legacies.

Since 2013, the **Human Rights Campaign** has tracked incidents of fatal transgender violence. From their website: *"These victims, like all of us, are loving partners, parents, family members, friends and community members. They worked, went to school and attended houses of worship. They were real people – people who did not deserve to have their lives taken from them."*

View the names and read their stories online at: <https://www.hrc.org/resources/fatal-violence-against-the-transgender-and-nonbinary-community-in-2023>

Dig Deeper Click on the text in **orange** to bring you to the article.

The Human Rights Campaign's report **Dismantling a Culture of Violence** "demonstrates how anti-transgender stigma, denial of opportunity and increased risk factors compound to create a culture of violence -- and provides clear ways that each of us can directly make an impact to make our society a safer place for transgender and gender non-conforming people."

Increase your understanding of the transgender community with **this guide** from the Human Rights Campaign.

Everytown outlines how anti-LGBTQ+ bias and guns are taking the lives of countless LGBTQ+ people.

TransLash tells trans stories to save trans lives, creating trans-affirming content, valuable resources, and events, by leveraging the power of journalism and personal narratives.

Listen to the Red, Blue, and Brady podcast episode on **Gun Violence and the Murder of Black Trans Women**.



WRITER SPOTLIGHT

When **Sam Lee Victor** (he/him) started writing *Glee* fan-fiction under his desk during middle-school English class, he didn't necessarily know it would lead him to one day write for the theatre. But after his work was stolen on WattPad by someone under the pseudonym "Blaine," Sam exhibited the most vital trait of all successful artists: perseverance. He kept writing, forging ahead into a new genre-novellas-before finding his way to playwriting.

"I think the theatre is such a great medium because it's a living and breathing art form," says Sam. "It's art that changes based on the day, and you never get the same performance twice. There's nothing else like that!"

Sam's signature perseverance has also helped him form an impressive habit: reading a play a day, every day, for two years now. "Reading so many plays has exposed me to countless different voices-helping me develop my own," he says.

A New Jersey native now studying at University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Sam knew exactly what he wanted to write about when he learned about ENOUGH!. "I don't think it is a surprise that it is a bad time to be trans," he shares. "Whenever I turn on the TV and watch the news, or God forbid go on Twitter, all I see are debates around whether or not I should be allowed to exist. People's lives are being threatened-taken-because of their gender identity. I needed to write a play that highlights the actual people that are being affected by these crimes."

By the time this piece was written, at least 19 trans and gender nonconforming people have been murdered in the United States in 2023 alone. Between 2017 and 2021, the number of homicides of transgender people nearly doubled, with firearms driving this rapid increase in fatalities. Given how violence against LGBTQ+ people can be underreported, the actual numbers may be higher.

Sam is already working on his next play, this time focusing on trans medical care, which is under attack in many states nationwide. **However, he really wants his work after that to highlight something that his current plays-and U.S. media-do not: trans joy.**

"We rarely see trans people in our media, and when we do-they're always struggling with their identity or facing heaps of discrimination," says Sam. "That isn't all there is to trans life, there is so much more. I want there to be more trans joy in the world and want to highlight it in my work."

A Disorderly House, Sam's winning play, dives deeply into the pain that ripples into families and communities when transphobia leads to violence. It's a courageous piece that Sam also hopes can foreground humanity in a way that's often missing from mainstream media.

"As trans people, we're not these scary hormone monsters that are out to indoctrinate the nation," says Sam. "We are people, with families, friends, struggles, dreams, plans, with everything. I hope this play can highlight that, and help people empathize with us."

BEYOND THE PLAY

Of the many communities facing heightened levels of violence in this country, **transgender Americans seem to be facing a greater risk each year, with trans homicides increasing 93% in just four years between 2017 and 2021. 73% of those victims were killed with a firearm**. Right now, trans people are 2.5 times more likely to be victims of violent crime than cisgender people.

For people with intersecting oppressed identities, this violence skyrockets. 67% of the trans people murdered in that four-year period were Black trans women, even though they make up only about 13% of the trans population. Transmisogynoir—the hatred of Black trans women that festers at the intersection of transphobia, misogyny, and anti-Blackness—can be deadly and devastating.

Gun violence preys on the most vulnerable. On average, there are 69 hate crimes with a firearm committed every single day, an increasing number of which are targeted at queer people. But in addition, guns are a common means of death by suicide, which is significantly and distressingly more common among the LGBTQ+ community. It is estimated that almost 40% of trans people attempt suicide in their lifetime, and trans adults are five times more likely to attempt it than cis adults.

The plague of gun violence is incompatible with the promises of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness that are supposed to be protected by our Constitution. **Saying enough to gun violence is intrinsically bound up with the liberation and protection of LGBTQ+ people; Black, Brown, and Indigenous people; women; children; and all of us.** But it's up to us to demand a world where Sam's goal of foregrounding trans joy rather than suffering can be possible.



RESOURCES

How does gun violence impacts YOUR community?

Gun Violence Archive This resource provides raw data on gun-related incidents in the United States. Among the statistics it tracks are the ages of individuals involved in gun violence, officer-involved incidents, suicides, and mass shootings, with maps that indicate where these incidents happened. Each incident is numbered and connected to an article or source that verifies the incident. Search your city or state [HERE](#).

An Atlas of American Gun Violence Nine years. 330,000 shootings. How has gun violence marked your corner of the country? This map was built with data collected by the Gun Violence Archive, and the incidents collected in this map cover the time period between January 1, 2014, and December 31, 2022.

EveryStat for Gun Safety From the website: *"Although the impact of gun violence is felt throughout the United States, its contours vary widely by state, county, race and ethnicity, gender, and intent. EveryStat for Gun Safety was designed for users to better understand how gun violence impacts the communities they care about."*

Federal Gun Laws

The National Firearms Act of 1934 - Imposes an excise tax and registration requirements on some firearms (machine guns, short-barreled shotguns or rifles, and silencers).

The Gun Control Act of 1968 - Established a minimum age for firearms purchasers, stated all firearms must be serialized, and expanded the categories of prohibited people.

The Firearms Owners' Protection Act of 1986 - Legalized sales by licensed dealers away from their place of business if at a "gun show" within their state, limited the number of dealer inspections conducted by the ATF without a warrant, prevented the federal government from keeping a database of firearm dealer records, and loosened what qualifies as "engaging in the business" of firearm sales for a federal license.

The Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1993 - The current background check system in the U.S., which mandates federally licensed dealers to conduct an instant background check, which can be extended to a 3 day period when results are not clear.

The Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA) of 2005 - It largely insulates the gun industry from civil liability action.

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act of 2022 - Required additional steps in the background check process for those 18-20 years of age on long gun purchases, clarify which gun dealers and sellers must obtain a federal firearms license and conduct background checks, establish federal statutes to penalize straw purchases and firearm trafficking, and prohibit persons who have been convicted of a violent misdemeanor against a "current or recent former dating" partner for 5 years.

State Gun Laws (and the States That Have Them)

UPDATED: 10/23/2023

Extreme Risk Laws Help prevent a person in crisis from harming themselves or others by temporarily removing guns and prohibiting the purchase of firearms.

California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Washington, D.C.

Assault Weapon Bans An “assault weapon” refers to a semi-automatic gun designed for military use and quick, efficient killing. Assault weapons are uniquely lethal because of their rapid rate of fire and high muzzle velocity – coupled with large-capacity magazines, which attach to an assault weapon to allow dozens of gunshots without needing to reload. A large-capacity magazine is typically defined as any magazine or drum that is capable of holding more than either 10 or 15 rounds of ammunition.

Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Washington, D.C.

High Capacity Magazine Bans Large capacity magazines are often used in mass shootings because they allow a shooter to keep firing many more rounds before stopping or pausing to reload, increasing casualties and reducing victims’ ability to escape or intervene.

California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington.

Universal Background Checks Though more than 90% of the American public supports background checks for all gun sales, a dangerous and deadly loophole in federal gun laws still exempts unlicensed sellers from having to perform any background check whatsoever before selling a firearm. With this loophole, guns easily find their way into the hands of illegal buyers and gun traffickers, dramatically increasing the likelihood of gun homicides and suicides.

California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Washington, D.C.

Ghost Gun Ban Ghost guns unserialized and untraceable firearms that can be bought online and assembled at home. They are often sold through “ghost gun kits,” which include all of the parts and often the equipment necessary to build these weapons at home.

California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Nevada, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Washington, D.C.

Permit-to-Purchase *Applies to handgun sales only.

Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska*, New Jersey, North Carolina*, Oregon*

States that require a concealed carrying permit *Applicants must show they are suitable, commonly known as “may-issue” laws.

California, Colorado, Connecticut*, Delaware*, Hawaii*, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts*, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey*, New York*, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Virginia, Washington, Washington, D.C.*, Wisconsin*

States that allow Permitless Carry

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wyoming

Adopt Microstamping Technology for Firearms

California, New York

State Laws Broken Down by Region

Northeast

	Extreme Risk Laws	Assault Weapons Ban	High Capacity Magazine Ban	Universal Background Checks	Ghost Gun Ban	Require Concealed Carry Permitting
Connecticut	X	X	X	X	X	X
Maine						
Massachusetts	X	X	X			X
New Hampshire						
New Jersey	X	X	X	X	X	X
New York	X	X	X	X		X
Pennsylvania						X
Rhode Island	X		X	X	X	X
Vermont	X		X	X		

Midwest

	Extreme Risk Laws	Assault Weapons Ban	High Capacity Magazine Ban	Universal Background Checks	Ghost Gun Ban	Require Concealed Carry Permitting
Illinois	X	X	X			X
Indiana	X					
Iowa						
Kansas						
Michigan						X
Minnesota						X
Missouri						
Nebraska						X
North Dakota						
Ohio						
South Dakota						
Wisconsin						X

West

	Extreme Risk Laws	Assault Weapons Ban	High Capacity Magazine Ban	Universal Background Checks	Ghost Gun Ban	Require Concealed Carry Permitting
Alaska						
Arizona						
California	X		X	X	X	X
Colorado	X		X	X		X
Hawaii	X	X	X		X	X
Idaho						
Montana						
Nevada	X			X		X
New Mexico	X			X		X
Oregon	X		X	X		X
Utah						
Washington	X		X	X	X	X
Wyoming						

South

	Extreme Risk Laws	Assault Weapons Ban	High Capacity Magazine Ban	Universal Background Checks	Ghost Gun Ban	Require Concealed Carry Permitting
Alabama						
Arkansas						
Delaware	X	X	X	X		X
District of Columbia	X	X		X	X	X
Florida	X					
Georgia						
Kentucky						
Louisiana						X
Maryland	X	X	X	X		X
Mississippi						
North Carolina						X
Oklahoma						
South Carolina						X
Tennessee						
Texas						
Virginia	X			X		X
West Virginia						



Special thank you to **Robert Schentrup** and **Grace Killian** of Team ENOUGH for compiling this research.

Mental Health Resources

Writing about such heavy material can be challenging and draining. Make sure to check in with how you feel and take breaks if necessary to keep yourself as emotionally healthy as possible. Here are some resources to keep in your pocket for yourself or others.



Team ENOUGH - List of Mental Health Resources

This is a helpful compilation of resources for suicide prevention and crisis intervention. Below are a few of the links available on that list.

5 Action Steps For Helping Someone In Emotional Pain

Coping Tips for Traumatic Events and Disasters

Strength After A resource for disaster survivors.

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Online Resources for loss survivors.

Are you worried about a friend? Be proactive - use this **resource provided by Sandy Hook Promise to anonymously get someone the help they need.**

Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

988

Disaster Distress Helpline

1-800-985-5990

Teen Line:

1-800-TLC-TEEN (852-8336) or Text TEEN to 839863



Goodman Theatre Chicago, IL