

March for Our Lives Peace Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Every day in America, more than 100 lives are taken by the deadly epidemic of gun violence.¹ Among young people, gun violence has become a top cause of death, second only to drug overdoses.² It has many root causes, including hate, poverty, and despair. It's a deeply intersectional issue, inextricably bound with our long journey for racial justice, economic justice, immigrant rights, and the rights of our LGBTQ allies. And it's amplified by the societal belief that a gun can solve our problems. Gun violence is destroying our generation. This is simply unacceptable.

That's why, as survivors and students of March For Our Lives, we believe it's time for a Peace Plan for a Safer America.

The next President must act with a fierce urgency to call this crisis what it is: **a national public health emergency**. They must acknowledge that the level of gun violence in the U.S. is unprecedented for a developed nation³ — and only bold, new solutions can move the needle on the rates of gun injuries and deaths. They must recognize that gun violence has many faces in our communities, from rural suicides to intimate partner violence to urban youth violence to violence driven by white supremacist ideologies. And they must commit to holding an unpatriotic gun lobby and gun industry accountable not just for weakening our nation's gun laws, but also for illegal behavior in self-dealing⁴ that offends and contradicts America's vast majority of responsible gun owners.

We believe in **C.H.A.N.G.E.** — **six bold steps** that the next Presidential Administration and Congress must take to address this national gun violence epidemic:



CHANGE THE STANDARDS OF GUN OWNERSHIP:

Advocate and pass legislation **to raise the national standard for gun ownership:** a national licensing and registry system that promotes responsible gun ownership; a ban on assault weapons, high-capacity magazines, and other weapons of war; policies to disarm gun owners who pose a risk to themselves or others; and a national gun buy-back program **to reduce the estimated 265⁵–393⁶ million firearms in circulation by at least 30%.**

2

HALVE THE RATE OF GUN DEATHS IN 10 YEARS:

Mobilize an urgent and comprehensive federal response: declare **a national emergency around gun violence** and announce an **audacious goal to reduce gun injuries and deaths by 50% in 10 years, thereby saving up to 200,000 American lives.**

3

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE GUN LOBBY AND INDUSTRY:

Hold the gun lobby and industry **accountable for decades of illegal behavior** and **misguided policies** intended to shield only themselves; reexamine the *District of Columbia v. Heller* interpretation of the Second Amendment; initiate both FEC and IRS investigations into the NRA, and fully repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act.

4

NAME A DIRECTOR OF GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION:

Appoint a **National Director of Gun Violence Prevention (GVP)** who reports directly to the President, with the mandate to operationalize our federal goals and empower existing federal agencies such as the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) – agencies that have all been structurally weakened by the gun lobby. The National Director of GVP would begin by overseeing a **down payment of \$250 million in annual funding for research by the CDC and other federal agencies** on gun violence prevention.

5

GENERATE COMMUNITY-BASED SOLUTIONS:

Fully fund **targeted interventions addressing the intersectional dimensions of gun violence**, including community-based urban violence reduction programs, suicide prevention programs, domestic violence prevention programs, mental and behavioral health service programs, and programs to address police violence in our communities.

6

EMPOWER THE NEXT GENERATION:

Automatically register eligible voters and mail voter registration cards to all Americans when they turn 18. Create the **"Safety Corps,"** a Peace Corps for gun violence prevention. Younger generations are disproportionately affected by gun violence. They should have a say in how their country solves this epidemic.

**WE DON'T HAVE
TO LIVE LIKE THIS:
IN FEAR FOR OUR
LIVES AND OUR
FAMILIES.**

The federal government has failed in its responsibility to protect the safety and well-being of the public with regard to the nation's gun violence epidemic. The time for comprehensive and sweeping reform is now. We need ambitious leadership throughout the whole of government to stand in opposition to the gun lobby and industry in order to secure a peaceful America for generations to come.