



Nuns Against Gun Violence Condemns Racist Shooting in Jacksonville; Pledges to Continue to Work for Change

Last weekend, three people were murdered in yet another racially-motivated shooting, this time in Jacksonville, Florida. **Angela Michelle Carr, Anolt Joseph Laguerre, and Jarrald De'Shawn Gallion** were killed at a Dollar General store by a gunman brandishing a swastika-covered AR-15 assault-style rifle and a Glock handgun after he tried and failed to enter a nearby historically black college, Edward Waters University.

Nuns Against Gun Violence, a coalition of over 60 congregations of Catholic sisters, stands in solidarity with the Black community in Jacksonville. We pray for the families and friends of those so senselessly murdered. White supremacy and systemic racism lie at the heart of this hate crime. We must continue to advocate to keep firearms out of the hands of violent extremists.

Our mission of prayer, education, and advocacy calls us in this moment to lament the loss of life, inviting all to continue to pray our [Novena Against Gun Violence](#). We hope to educate about the relationship of systemic racism and gun violence. According to [Everytown USA](#), in an average year, more than 25,000 hate crimes in the U.S. involve a gun – 69 per day. Half of these race-based hate crimes target the Black community in particular, calling us to do more to dismantle structural racism. This call to advocacy also means continued pressure on Congress to act on the [Assault Weapons Ban of 2023](#).

It is outrageous that while mass shootings continue – [479 in 2023 alone](#) - Congress does nothing. We invite supporters and advocates to take three actions:

1. [Contact Senator Dick Durbin-IL](#), Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and demand he mark up the bill for the committee to vote. There have been enough cosponsor votes to pass the Assault Weapons Ban out of committee for months, and it is long past time for action.
2. [Contact Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer-NY](#) and demand a floor vote on the Assault Weapons Ban. The public deserves to know exactly who is voting no on such crucial legislation that will save lives.
3. Contact anyone you know that lives in Illinois or New York, and ask *them* as constituents of Senators Durbin and Schumer to put the pressure on their elected officials to take action against senseless gun violence.

We must continue to pray for an end to white supremacy and gun violence as well as work for common sense gun laws that keep weapons of war off the streets and protect all human life, especially those our society has marginalized.

A COALITION OF
CATHOLIC SISTERS
AND THEIR ALLIES
THAT AFFIRMS THE VALUE
OF HUMAN LIFE THROUGH
PRAYER,
EDUCATION,
AND ADVOCACY
FOR COMMON SENSE,
EVIDENCE-BASED,
GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION.

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/NAGV2023](https://tinyurl.com/NAGV2023)
#NUNSAGAINSTGUNVIOLENCE