

# DRAFT

## Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Dieguito (UUFSD) Resolution Affirming Congregational Commitment to Gun Violence Prevention

### 2018 Action of Immediate Witness

**BECAUSE** Unitarian Universalists affirm the inherent worth and dignity of each person—an unshakeable conviction calling us to respect ourselves and others;

**BECAUSE** Unitarian Universalists affirm justice, equity, and compassion in human relations, pointing us toward the larger community and a collective responsibility for one another;

**BECAUSE** Unitarian Universalists are committed to the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large; and

**WHEREAS**, Senseless and tragic mass shootings at places across all communities such as schools, colleges, and universities; movie theatres; music festivals; hospitals and medical clinics; shopping malls; and religious institutions have highlighted the dangers of and clearly demonstrates that gun-related violence can occur any place at any time; and

**WHEREAS**, Community violence, which is often gun violence that occurs in a community but does not directly impact a child, still negatively impacts learning, health, and behavior, interfering with the ability of students to succeed in school and in life.

**WHEREAS**, The crisis of gun violence in our country necessitates a sustained, coordinated, and collaborative effort involving entire communities, elected officials at every level of government, law enforcement, and the entire criminal justice system; and

**WHEREAS**, recent resolutions and statements of conscience across UU congregations have inspired UUFSD to support this example of call to action to help spread this message across the UUA world; and

**WHEREAS**, the scourge of gun deaths in the US continues unabated, reaching levels where no one is immune to one of America's greatest public health epidemics; and

**WHEREAS**, national polls repeatedly validate that vast majorities of citizens—including individual members of the NRA—want sensible legislation requiring expanded background checks restricting availability of certain firearms and large-capacity ammunition clips to people with documented impairments of judgment and anti-social behavior; and

**WHEREAS**, it is regrettably clear that federal legislators have so far found insufficient citizen support to offset the divisive leverage of the NRA and the even more virulent opposition forces to such legislation;

**WHEREAS**, while the public may assume that advancing Gun Violence Prevention (GVP) initiatives is futile—that will only be the case if we fail to persist; and

**WHEREAS**, public advocacy for socially-conscious change is most successful when it is based on solid evidence –and grounded in faith community principles and commitment; and

**WHEREAS**, Unitarian Universalist congregations and affiliates and community resources, experienced with both the process and content of developing Gun Violence Prevention commitment resolutions, stand ready to assist and guide us in undertaking this worthy and much needed statement of commitment; and

**THEREFORE:**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Dieguito (UFSD) endorses the focus and call for a congregational commitment to work for gun violence prevention initiatives.

**RESOLVED**, That those stricter controls include not only comprehensive and thorough background checks of all purchases of firearms, including curios and relics; dangerous weapons; and ammunition; and include the purchase of those items facilitated through the internet and at gun shows; but also an outright ban on semi-automatic firearms, high-capacity magazines, armor-piercing ammunition, bump stocks, and any other equipment, alteration, or modification that would increase a firearm's capacity for ammunition or rate of fire; as well as a 10 day waiting period and mandated training in the safe use of guns; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That we support the elimination of the Dickey Amendment and any other restrictions on the collection and compiling of data related to violence perpetrated with firearms, including research into the causes and consequences of gun violence, such as that research that was begun by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention but abruptly halted in 1996 when the Dickey Amendment was enacted and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That we support repeal of P.L. 109-92 Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA). This law provides unique legal protection in many cases when a gun company negligently sells or makes a gun that ends up in being used in crimes or violence. Negligence is the most fundamental principle of civil justice in our legal system; it requires everyone in society to simply use reasonable care to NOT EXPOSE others to harm. For example, bars are liable for accidents when the negligently sell alcohol to people they have reason to think will drive drunk. Gun companies have a unique immunity from this basic duty in most cases.

**RESOLVED**, That the UUFSD supports organized student and adult ally action to amplify students' voices and work toward creating a future where children are no longer murdered in schools, including such activities as walkouts, sit-ins, civics training, voter registration campaigns, and other acts of civil disobedience and peaceful protest; and be it further

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Dieguito (UFSD) encourages member to take action:

1. Urging the Congress to fully fund the Center for Disease Control (CDC) so that data on gun violence can be collected, analyzed, and published and used as the basis for policy;
2. Working for gun safety, background checks and a ban on assault weapons on a national, state, and municipal levels;
3. Reaching out to partner with interfaith groups and community activists to support gun violence prevention initiatives;
4. Engaging and speaking with local public and private health professionals, members of the legal profession and their associations including the American Bar Association, elected officials and candidates for office about gun violence prevention; and
5. Speaking out and supporting in local forums, town meetings and media.
6. Reach out for guidance and resources from the UUA, other faith communities, and established local groups and state legislatures.
7. Use phrase "NOT ONE MORE" and the twitter #ENOUGH to notify our commitment to Gun Violence Prevention.

These we Affirm and so commit UUFSD to support in action and policy.

**DRAFT**