

STANDING OUR HOLY GROUND

A YEAR-LONG LOOK AT **GUN VIOLENCE** & WHAT THE FAITH COMMUNITY CAN DO ABOUT IT

Study Guide

The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence in Urban Contexts

Timestamps

Opening Remarks

[1:51](#) - Common Understandings

[5:53](#) - Panelist Introductions

Panelist Presentations

[8:50](#) – Cleoda Walker, Baltimore Pastor and clergy to [Safe Streets Violence Interrupters](#)

[17:08](#) – Amy Cress, Director of Community Engagement, [Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence](#)

[29:28](#) – Major Monique Brown, Commander of the Southern District, [Baltimore City Police](#)

Q&A

[39:03](#) – What do you believe is the root of gun violence?

[41:20](#) – How can I start a Safe Streets program in my community?

[43:30](#) – How do you get the police to buy into a violence intervention program such as Safe Streets?

[47:31](#) – Do background checks actually keep guns out of the wrong hands? If background checks are not the answer, what do you think would be the best screening process?

[49:47](#) – What are strategies for re-connecting members of a neighborhood

Helpful References

[Presbyterian Peacemaking Program](#)

[Presbyterian Peace Fellowship](#)

[Standing Our Holy Ground Webinar Series](#)



General Questions

1. How did this webinar engage your **mind**? What thoughts came to mind as you heard from the panelists?
2. How did this webinar engage your **heart**? What emotions and feelings did you experience while hearing from the panelists?
3. How did this webinar speak to your **soul**? What spiritual wonderings emerged while listening to the panelists?

Guided Questions

1. Is your community urban, suburban, or rural? What is your community's experience with gun violence? How is it similar or different from the experiences in Baltimore described by the panelists?
2. Rev. Cleoda Walker describes the level of cooperation needed to prevent and interrupt gun violence in her Baltimore community. Organizations including community organizations, churches, faith-based organizations, safety violence interrupters, the police department, hospital, businesses, youth organizations and politicians all have role to play in addressing gun violence. Does this cooperation exist in your community? Why or why not? How can such cooperation and relationships be fostered?
3. Amy Cress states that *"it's too easy for people who are not directly affected by gun violence to consider it someone else's problem or another community's problem."* Further, the way things are going in the United States, everyone likely will be affected at some point by gun violence. For example, you can't go to church or a movie theater or have a family member dealing with a crisis without the fear of something bad happening. Do you agree? Why or why not?
4. Major Monique Brown mentions how children, community members, and police officers all suffer from trauma and PTSD due to gun violence. With regards to those who commit acts of gun violence, she also mentions the need to address the root cause of people's pain and trauma that *"is stimulated from a deeper place and not just from the fact that they have a gun"*. How can the faith community be a part of trauma-based solutions that focus on the mental health and physical well-being of the entire community?

