

STANDING OUR HOLY GROUND

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

Study Guide

Young People & Campuses Stand Up to Gun Violence

Timestamps

Opening Remarks

[1:30](#) - Common Understandings

[6:00](#) - Panelist Introductions

Panelist Presentations

[10:45](#) - Teyonna Lofton, Youth Activist, [the BRAVE Youth Leaders of St. Sabina](#)

[16:35](#) - LaNiyah Murphy, Youth Activist, [the BRAVE Youth Leaders of St. Sabina](#)

[21:40](#) - Kaaleah Jones, Youth Activist, [Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence](#)

[32:00](#) - Captain Keene Red Elk, [Purdue University Police Department](#)

Q&A

[39:22](#) - How do you learn to deal with the aftermath of gun violence as a person of faith? What does gun violence do to you as a person of faith?

[45:00](#) - What would you recommend as a screening practice for someone to buy a firearm?

[46:16](#) - How long did it take you to prepare and become comfortable to share your story? Do you think gun violence will end during our generation or our lifetime?

[49:40](#) - How do you feel about people who use guns to protect themselves, claiming gun legislation will not work?

[51:45](#) - What do you believe is the root of gun violence?

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. Teyonna and Kaaleah describe gun violence as a force that keeps “*getting closer*” to them. This description gives gun violence a physical presence with the ability to spread, similar to a contagious disease. How could gun violence be addressed if treated as a public health issue?
2. Several of the speakers connect gun violence to issues of lack of employment and lack of access to resources and mental health services, combined with oppression. LaNiyah calls it “*post-traumatic slave syndrome*” which includes cycles of broken parents raising broken children. Kaaleah states that to end gun violence, we have to “*heal the people*”, which comes from “the intentional teachings of parents.” What are ways that your congregation can help support such healing?
3. Teyonna mentions the difference in how gun violence is portrayed depending on whether the shooter is black or white. If the shooter is black, that person is portrayed as a “*gang banger*” with “*mom and dad issues*” whereas if the shooter is white, that person is portrayed as having a mental health problem. Where do you see this depiction in the media? Why do you think it exists?
4. Captain Keene Red Elk emphasizes the important of educating the community about what to do in the event of an active shooter situation, including “*run, hide, fight.*” Are your congregation members prepared for such a situation? Do you have a formal response plan or procedure to be followed? Do all congregation members know it?
5. What do you think of Captain Keene Red Elk’s response to the argument “*the only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun*”? Police officers, who are trained to use a firearm and assess the background of a situation, only hit their target 50% of the time. What are the chances of untrained civilians missing their target or having unforeseen consequences? Do you know people who own firearms? What kind of training do they have?
6. A common argument in the debate over gun violence is whether “*guns kill people*” or “*people kill people.*” Several of the speakers used the phrase “*guns don’t kill people, people kill people*” but with a different implication than it is typically used. How are they using this phrase? What does it mean in their context?

