

## Resolution 207.7

### On Reducing Gun Violence

The 207th Annual Convention enacts:

“Resolved, that in keeping with our baptismal covenant to respect the dignity of every human being, and to minimize the impact of gun violence, the 207th Annual Convention commits to urge state and federal legislators to sponsor and support the passage of laws to:

1. Require universal background checks for every gun purchase, including private sales, sales at gun shows, and ghost guns;
2. Ban possession of, sale of, transfer of and manufacture of semi-automatic, military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines **for civilian use**;
3. Require persons to provide evidence of reputable gun safety training prior to purchasing a gun;
4. Promote local and federal funding to research the causes and prevention of gun violence;
5. Promote funding for expansion of Community Violence Intervention Programs; and

Be it further resolved that the congregations of the Diocese of North Carolina be strongly urged to:

1. Include gun violence prevention regularly in conversations, educational sessions, and prayers;
2. Partner with local agencies and community groups to encourage gun dealers to adhere to all regulations and best safety practices, and share discovered resources with other congregations and convocations;
3. Ban the possession of guns on church property, **excluding on-duty law enforcement officers who may be required to carry firearms**;
4. Identify and support existing Community Violence Intervention Leaders and Programs; and

Be it further resolved that all members of the Diocese of North Carolina be encouraged to:

1. Commit to educating themselves on the issues of gun violence, gun violence prevention, and Community Violence Intervention;
2. Seek and share accurate information on gun violence and gun violence prevention in your community, particularly the danger of ghost guns;
3. Store guns and ammunition safely and securely at all times; and
4. Promote the importance of teaching and practicing gun safety.

*”Submitted the Diocesan Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention*

**Comment: Ghost gun** – “is a firearm that is produced by a private individual rather than a corporate or government entity. The term is used mostly in the United States by gun control advocates, but it is increasingly being used by gun rights advocates and some in the firearm industry. Because home-manufacture of firearms for personal use is not considered to fall under the U.S. federal government’s authority to regulate interstate, as opposed to intrastate, commerce per the Commerce Clause, individuals making their own firearms are not subject to federal or state background commercial check regulations.” (Wikipedia)

**Semi-automatic, military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines** - “An ‘assault weapon’ refers to a semi-automatic gun designed for military use and quick, efficient killing. Assault weapons are uniquely lethal because of their rapid rate of fire and high muzzle velocity — coupled with high-capacity magazines, which attach to an assault weapon to allow dozens of gunshots without needing to reload. A high-capacity magazine is typically defined as any magazine or drum that is capable of holding more than either 10 or 15 rounds of ammunition.” (Brady United: [https://www.bradyunited.org/fact-sheets/ what-are-assault-weapons-and-high-capacity-magazines](https://www.bradyunited.org/fact-sheets/what-are-assault-weapons-and-high-capacity-magazines))

**Community Violence Intervention (CVI) Programs** are evidence-based programs that identify and support people at risk for violence by helping them peacefully resolve conflicts, and by connecting them to local resources like employment, education, trauma support, and housing. In North Carolina, CVI program 7 types include Violence Interruption programs and Hospital-Based Violence Intervention programs. In our Diocese, the cities of Charlotte, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, and Durham have CVI programs – but more programs in more places are urgently needed.

More information can be found at:

[https://www.ncgv.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/CVI-Programs-Fact-Sheet-2022\\_2.pdf](https://www.ncgv.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/CVI-Programs-Fact-Sheet-2022_2.pdf) and <https://www.everytown.org/solutions/violence-intervention-programs/>. Statistics related to the gun violence epidemic in North Carolina can be found on this fact sheet from the Injury and Violence Prevention Branch of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services: <https://injuryfreenc.dph.ncdhhs.gov/DataSurveillance/VDRS/FirearmDeaths2020.pdf> Other websites with information related to gun violence and gun violence prevention include: • NC Injury Prevention Branch: <https://injuryfreenc.dph.ncdhhs.gov/> • North Carolinians Against Gun Violence: [www.ncgv.org](http://www.ncgv.org) • Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions: <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/departments/health-policy-and-management/research-and-practice/center-for-gun-violence-solutions> • Everytown Research & Policy: <https://everytownresearch.org/>