



Alameda County Human Relations Commission

Statement on Gun Violence from the Alameda County Human Relations Commission

Members of the Alameda County Human Relations Commission join with all who have expressed grief and heartache at the woeful events which have transpired in Newtown, Connecticut. The tragedy of violent loss of life is difficult for any to bear. The violent loss of so many young and innocent children is horrendous and is cause for national mourning. It is also, we believe, a cause for national action.

“The United States experiences epidemic levels of gun violence, claiming over 30,000 lives annually,” according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. “Every year, approximately 100,000 Americans are victims of gun violence. In 2010, guns took the lives of 31,076 Americans in homicides, suicides, and unintentional shootings. This is the equivalent of more than 85 deaths **each day** and more than three deaths **each hour**.”

Alameda County has its share of such tragedy as annually we witness increases in gun violence in our cities...both as a result of gang-related violence and individual use of guns to resolve conflict. In some areas of Alameda County, listening to gunfire, day and night, has become a way of life for residents. Not only has the prevalence of gun violence become a public safety hazard, it is a health hazard for citizens of all ages and walks of life. We, in Alameda County too, have suffered the loss of young, innocent children by gun violence.

The Alameda County Human Relations Commission supports legislation and programs to better control availability of military-style assault weapons, and access to ammunition.

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