



A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

Yesterday in Uvalde, Texas, 19 elementary school students and two teachers were murdered in yet another act of gun violence. It was the deadliest shooting at a U.S. grade school since the 2012 attack at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

As usual, “thoughts and prayers” were offered by various politicians and other public figures. They are without a doubt sincere in their condolences. But more than condolences are needed as mass shootings happen again and again and again, and more men, women, and children die unnecessary, senseless deaths.

How many more innocent lives will be lost before America fixes its gun problem?

Effective ways to deal with gun violence are in place in almost every country in the world except the United States – and they work. Why doesn’t America admit the problem exists and act accordingly?

A number of issues are involved, but it boils down to two main reasons: The National Rifle Association (NRA) and its supporters in Congress. As the English newspaper the *Statesman* recently reported, the NRA will hold a meeting in Houston, Texas later this week, and gun-loving figures such as Senator Ted Cruz, Texas governor Greg Abbott, and former US President Donald Trump plan on being there.

Emily Tamkin, author of the piece in the *Statesman*, is not hopeful about the prospects of revised gun laws, even given the tragic events in Texas. Tamkin writes:

Children will instead continue to be taught active shooter drills, practicing what to do when confronted by an active shooter with a gun that their politicians could not be bothered to ban or make more difficult to obtain. We will be told that we’re politicizing a tragedy, and that the real issue is mental health, or police in schools, or violent video games, or anything but guns...We will hope our personal luck holds because our leaders will not replace luck with policy.

We cannot allow this to happen. Luck *must* be replaced with policy. Let your local, state, and Federal representatives know how you feel. Join in marches and other peaceful forms of protest. Make your voice heard.

Thoughts and prayers? Of course – whose heart isn't broken by such horrible news? But even more important, as many have pointed out, are “policy and change.”

Too many have died from gun violence.

Let's do our part to make it stop.

Now.

In solidarity,

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
President

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