



Actions Individuals Can Take to Prevent Gun Violence

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1. Make a panel for the Vision Quilt. Tell others about the Vision Quilt and encourage them to contribute their vision. Send in an image of your panel to visionquilt@gmail.com.
2. Talk to friends and family and encourage them to openly dialogue around this sensitive issue. Focus on root causes and potential solutions.
3. Invite friends and neighbors to a Vision Quilt Video night to start the conversation. Watch the Vision Quilt video and lead a discussion using the graphic handouts from Vision Quilt. Ask people what they will do to help share what they've learned.
4. Research the gun laws in your town, county and state regarding open carry, background checks, etc. Decide how these laws could be improved. Then talk to your local, state and national elected representatives and encourage them to stand up for gun safety and the prevention of gun violence.
5. Research what other communities are doing related to preventing gun violence. Encourage members of your community to implement these best practices. Share these ideas with us: visionquilt@gmail.com.
6. Talk to a gun owner or gun shop owner to better understand why people choose to own guns. It will be informative and could generate new ideas for gun safety and gun sense.
7. Years ago we did not have the idea of a "designated driver". When individuals and the media began to use the phrase, "Friends don't let friends drink and drive". Thousands of lives have been saved as a result. Discuss how this behavioral change could relate to gun violence. Could a norm be fostered to promote, "If your neighbor, friend, or relative is depressed or enraged, see if you can safely encourage that person to give up their gun for a period of time and seek support"?
8. Create a storytelling event at your local school, community center or place of worship in which people share their good and bad experiences with guns. Ask people to reflect on how the bad stories could have ended differently.
9. Ask teachers to assign gun violence and gun safety readings, videos and writings to find out what students know and are thinking about this topic. Ask students to create a project that depicts their thoughts and potential solutions to the problem.
10. Post your views on social media. You have the power of the Internet to influence friends, family, friends of friends and even people you do not know.
11. Sign up on the Internet for organizations that are actively trying to prevent gun violence such as:
 - Everytown for Gun Safety, former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's group, which includes Moms Demand Action, Mayors Against Illegal Guns, Everytown Survivor Network: <http://everytown.org>
 - Coalition To Stop Gun Violence, a coalition of 47 national organizations: <https://csgv.org/>
 - Cure Violence: Treating violence as an epidemic by detecting and interrupting conflicts, identifying and treating the highest risk individuals, changing social norms: <http://cureviolence.org/>
 - Moms Rising looks at many relevant issues including gun violence: http://www.momsrising.org/issues_and_resources/inspiring-gun-safety

- Americans for Responsible Solutions, former Congresswoman Gabrielle Gifford's organization: <https://americansforresponsiblesolutions.org/>
- Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, started by Jim and Sarah Brady after the assassination attempt on President Reagan: <http://www.bradiycampaign.org/>
- Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence is a national law center focused on providing comprehensive legal expertise in support of gun violence prevention and the promotion of smart gun laws: <http://smartgunlaws.org/>
- The Trace: a website that provides detailed information about gun violence in the United States: <https://www.thetrace.org/>

12. Donate to the Vision Quilt: donate online at <http://www.visionquilt.org/donate.html> or send a check to Vision Quilt at: PO Box 3192 Ashland, OR 97520. Vision Quilt is a volunteer organization which accepts tax deductible donations. Donations go toward art materials to work with youth and incarcerated individuals.