

MINUTE ON GUN VIOLENCE
MIAMI QUARTERLY MEETING
February 2016

In light of the ongoing epidemic of tragic shooting sprees, the Miami Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), affirms the following:

- 1) That it is the right of all humans, made in the image of the Creator, to be free from the threat of gun violence.
- 2) That our right to live in a society free from gun violence has greater moral weight than any right to own weapons capable of mass devastation.
- 3) That for anyone to possess or use of weapons of mass devastation (i.e., automatic or semi-automatic weapons) contradicts the basic values of the great world religions.

Consequently, we beseech our elected leaders to enact appropriate measures of gun control. Paralysis on this issue is not acceptable, as our national body count increases.

Friends of Miami Quarterly Meeting ask Americans to consider the following actions to address this urgent issue:

- 1) Please ask all who wish to represent you at the local, state, and national level “What is your position on more effective gun control?”
- 2) Demand that your representatives move forward in enacting universal background checks for ALL gun sales.
- 3) Reflect upon your own attitudes. How do your actions and attitudes towards guns and violence square with your religious or humanist beliefs?
- 4) Carrying more guns, or more people carrying guns, makes us less safe. We will find and publicize alternatives to violence.
- 5) Australia had a horrific instance of gun violence in 1996 and subsequently changed its laws, banning high-powered rifles and enacting strict licensing requirements. Since then, Australia has not had any mass shootings. Why can't the U.S. do the same?