

Here are some ways you can get involved...

1. Become an individual member of Protect Minnesota. Go to protectmn.org and click on JOIN US.
2. Invite a representative from the [Interfaith Alliance for Gun Safety](#) to make a presentation at your congregation. We'll create a presentation to meet the unique needs of your group. Some ideas include:
 - Gun Violence and How We Can Prevent It*
 - Curing Gun Violence: the Public Health Approach*
 - Suicide and Gun Violence*
 - Domestic Abuse and Gun Violence*
 - Protect Minnesota Kids -- A guide to protecting children from gun violence*
 - Student Pledge Against Gun Violence — A curriculum for children and teens*
3. Encourage your faith community to become an organizational member of the [Interfaith Alliance for Gun Safety](#). Contact our office for more information.
4. Arrange for Protect Minnesota to have a table at your denominational assembly and enlist our help in crafting resolutions about preventing violence.
5. Assist the [Interfaith Alliance for Gun Safety](#) in expanding our reach and relevance by connecting us with other congregations, faith groups and individuals of faith in Greater Minnesota.
6. Become a Protect Minnesota volunteer. Contact the office for information.

Join Our Efforts to Protect Minnesota!

Go to www.protectmn.org to make a donation, sign up to join the [Interfaith Alliance for Gun Safety](#), make a gift, or request a speaker. You can also “like” us on Facebook and follow us on twitter @protectmn.

**PROTECT
MINNESOTA**
working together to prevent gun violence

Protect Minnesota is a 501.c3 tax exempt organization. All donations to Protect Minnesota are tax deductible and will be used for educational purposes.



People of faith from all faith traditions working—and praying—together to **PROTECT MINNESOTA** from the devastation of gun violence.



“Do not stand idly by while your neighbor's blood is shed.”

Leviticus 19:16

Every day in Minnesota, at least one person is killed with a gun. As people of faith, we know that these individuals were made in the image of God and that their lives **mattered**—not just to their family and friends, but also to their Creator.

Often it falls upon faith communities to lead the public mourning for these victims. We plan candle light vigils, we preach inspiring sermons, we call for moments of silence. But with over 33,000 Americans dying by gun violence every year, all that feels a lot like standing idly by while our neighbor's blood is shed.

Congregations, faith-based organizations and individual people of faith are invited to join Protect Minnesota's **Interfaith Alliance for Gun Safety** and work to **prevent** gun violence before it occurs, rather than lead the mourning procession afterwards.

People of faith and religious organizations have always been the most powerful agents of change in Minnesota. We need that strength now, because gun-rights extremists have never been in a more powerful position. We won't be successful at passing sensible gun laws—and saving lives—if we don't reach out to, organize, and mobilize people of faith from all traditions in our state.

We invite you to join us!



Episcopal priests wearing orange stoles for gun violence prevention.

Protect Minnesota

was founded in 1991 as a coalition of 16 statewide groups committed to working together to prevent gun violence. The Joint Religious Legislative Coalition and Church Women United were two of our original member organizations, establishing interfaith cooperation as a key to our early success. 26 years later, Protect Minnesota is still the **ONLY** independent, state-based gun violence prevention organization in Minnesota. We've created the **Interfaith Alliance for Gun Safety** to give a voice and vehicle for action to the faith community.

Our goals

Legislative Priorities

1) Closing the background check loopholes that enable felons, domestic abusers and other legally prohibited individuals to purchase guns from unlicensed dealers, at gun shows and online, without a criminal background check. Our #1 priority is passing legislation that would mandate background checks before ALL gun purchases.

2) Passing legislation authorizing Gun Violence Protection Orders, also called “Red Flag” legislation, so that family members and law enforcement officers can have firearms temporarily removed from individuals who are exhibiting signs of depression or serious mental illness until they get the help they need. Almost all suicide victims and mass shooters exhibit “red flags” prior to their lethal actions.

3) Removing prohibitions in state law against the collection of data about gun violence and gun deaths which prevent law makers from having the information they need to make informed decisions about gun safety.

Suicide Awareness and Prevention

Over 80% of gun deaths in Minnesota are suicides. The **Interfaith Alliance for Gun Safety** works with congregations, in addition to mental health and public health partners, to inform families and faith leaders about the need to identify, get help for, and prevent access to guns from those vulnerable to suicide.

Community Education

Protect Minnesota promotes a culture of health and safety for all Minnesotans by preventing gun violence. Education is as important to the fulfillment of that mission as legislation. Through presentations at churches, synagogues, mosques and other organizations, we teach about safe gun storage and help people understand the danger that unsecured guns represent to children, families, and the community.

