

## FAITHS UNITED TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE IN ARIZONA

### WHEREAS:

- > Our faith traditions teach us that all human life is sacred and must be protected;
- > Clergy, laity, and religious representatives of our faiths and denominations are called upon to comfort friends and families of victims of gun violence and see firsthand the loss and pain caused by firearms;
- > In an average year, Arizona loses 923\* people to gun violence, destroying families and communities in all parts of the state;
- > Preventable gun violence drains our country of \$100 billion every year in medical, criminal justice, and security costs;
- > Background checks for private sales reduces gun trafficking within a state by 48 percent; strong, enforced gun dealer licensing laws reduce gun trafficking within a state by 64 percent;
- > The U. S. Supreme Court has held that the Second Amendment guarantees an individual right to “keep and bear arms,” nevertheless they have also made it clear that this right is “not unlimited.”

### THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the undersigned faith organization believes it is a moral imperative to reduce death and injury from gunfire; resolves to educate our communities about the risks of gun violence; and endorses comprehensive and effective public policy measures including:

- > Encouraging local efforts to prevent and reduce gun violence;
- > Supporting new technologies to help law enforcement more effectively trace crime guns and supporting development of safety features to childproof guns;
- > Decreasing the firepower available to civilians by prohibiting large capacity ammunition magazines;
- > Keeping guns out of sensitive areas, such as schools, government buildings, and places of worship;
- > Keeping guns out of the hands of prohibited persons by closing gaps in the background check system, including requiring Brady criminal background checks for all gun sales including gun shows;
- > Licensing handgun purchasers and strengthening the regulation of gun dealers to help law enforcement prevent gun trafficking and thereby decrease the availability of illegal guns in Arizona and Mexico
- > Strengthening record keeping of gun transfers, and requiring the reporting of lost or stolen guns to law enforcement to ensure better accountability of guns for persons involved in the supply of guns to the illegal market; and
- > Urging firearms retailers to implement protocols aimed at preventing the sales of firearms to prohibited purchasers and preventing “straw purchases.”

Name of Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Members \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact  
Person \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address, Zip  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone, Fax, E-mail  
\_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to:** Faiths United To Prevent Gun Violence-Arizona, P.O. Box 65871, Tucson, AZ 85718

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\* 5-yr average, latest years available, 2003-2007