

2013 Gun Violence Prevention Summit Ideas Wall Responses

WHY IS THIS ISSUE IMPORTANT TO YOU & YOUR COMMUNITY?

- “My dad’s friend is like my uncle, got shot and ran his car into a school wall.”
- “Affects me because of the line of work I do. I work in-home therapy, mostly in low income, high crime settings. It can be scary, distracting, overwhelming, to enter a home where a shooting has happened recently.”
- “This issue is important to me because most of the people affected are African Americans—my culture—and I have a responsibility to my people, to my culture, and to my ancestors that come before me. It is important.”
- “My friend got shot and killed trying to help a friend move out of her ex-boyfriend’s house.”
- “I believe that gun violence should be stopped because if it was stopped, the world would be a better place.”
- “Life is too short!!!! Stop! Don’t shoot!”
- “Because the stigma needs to be broken.”
- “Someone was shooting at my brother’s over gang violence.”
- “My brother got shot when he was 22 years old and we had to bury him.”
- “So many people are getting killed from gun violence.”
- “This issue is important to me because it largely affects our Milwaukee youth—it is our job to protect and support them.”
- “This issue is important to me because a lot of young peoples are dying. For me is not only gun violence there is other issues of bullying and that causes problems to for young kids.”
- “This is important because I live in the community and so do my loved ones of various ages.”
- “I work with young people (teens) and this issue affects them and their families. This is a city-wide issue and it’s important that all of us do our part.”
- “Making a safer place in communities and neighborhoods.”
- “My sister’s ex-boyfriend got shot for a \$5 bag of weed.”
- “I want all neighborhoods in this city to thrive.”
- “My father shot my mother, when she was pregnant with me. As a child, I had to hide under a couch to avoid gunfire while playing video games at a friend’s house. Children shouldn’t have to grow up with these experiences. That is why I do this work.”
- “I buried three former students in 2012 alone. More than ten former students have been shot since then. Enough is enough!”
- “This issue is important to me because I live, work, and play in the Amani 06 zip code and I care about my people.”
- “Because many don’t understand that it’s okay for African Americans to kill each other and some Europeans are okay with that. Especially for population control.”
- “There are some good young people in the inner city. Not all of them are bad.”

HOW ARE WE GOING TO MEET OUR GOALS?

- “Increase the cost of the bullets!”
- “This is the challenge. Awareness, education, legislation. From a systemic/multicultural approach.”

- “Societally much emphasis is placed on the empowerment and overall health and well-being of females. Please note I am not suggesting a shift from this present emphasis but rather a better balancing act in our efforts to support/invest in our young boys and men. Currently, there is not a solid understanding of how to go about this as there is so much bias and historical gender disparity among other issues. I advocate investing in boys from birth forward. A shift in societal attitudes is necessary as well as a better understanding of the environmental conditioning that happens within youth culture and within their familial settings. In addition, learn how to tap into and work with male emotionality in a positive and accepting way.”
- “Make it illegal to get online.”
- “Pass a universal background check for all firearms. Provide more livable wage jobs in the city. Increase programs such as Earn & Learn that provide paid job opportunities for youth.”
- “Ending gun violence is easy! 1) Restrict non-hunting weapons. 2) Ban semi-automatic weapons. 3) Harsh punishments for purchases of weapons used in crime. 4) Track all weapons. Ending violence is much more difficult. Start with addressing poverty.”
- “Get parents involved. Start from the bottom up instead of top (government) down. The lady that spoke from Project Ujima brought up a good point: if parents allow their children to protect themselves with “weapons” then how can we convince their children to do differently? We need to work with parents first because of the influence they have on their children. Most parents’ #1 priority is to protect their children. If they think that by carrying a gun their child will be protected, then the cycle won’t change and we fight a losing battle.”
- “I would say honestly maybe stress the cause ‘stop gun violence.’”
- “It would take a lot for the gun violence to stop people killing each other for girls. You would need to get rid of the drugs.”
- “Allow people in the community difference outlets when it comes to self and knowing their gifts, talents, and purpose in this world. As they say, people perish for lack of knowledge. And that includes self-knowledge.”
- “Continue having meetings (like this one).”
- “Advocacy to reduce availability of guns. Educate and advocate re: universal background checks for all and gun sales.”
- “Make them for only adults.”
- “Teach youth community organizing skills. Then, hire them to do organizing in their neighborhood.”
- “Traveling, gun safety training/course, pathlets (myths, stats, laws, etc.)”
- “Parental/caregiver involvement. Family systems matter!”
- “Mental health—not ‘mental illness’ focused, but ‘mental health.’ Awareness of self, including but not limited to PTSD from violence that has been experienced, witnessed, or threatened.”
- “We will meet our goals through hard work and listening.”
- “Focusing on other disenfranchised populations that lead to violence, not just drugs and gangs.”
- “Parent-school teacher/other professions collaborations. Figuring out the behavior itself—what do people carry guns for? What prompts them to shoot one another?”
- “Stand up and fight.”
- “To end gun violence we have to speak with our words instead of bullets. Also stay away from gangs because that’s where it starts.”
- “Word of mouth through teens or youth saying how uncool this problem is.”

- “Ask youth to present and invite their parents.”
- “Make guns illegal online.”
- “Develop more apprenticeship/internship programs to train youth in employment skills and pay them—Artworks for Milwaukee is a good model.”
- “Continue to push for universal background checks. It’s the best common sense legislation we have at the state level. Mandatory minimums does nothing but targets different communities of color.”
- “City of Milwaukee curfew. Nothing good happens after 10:00 PM (no kids outside). All year, summer and winter, 10:00 PM.”
- “It will take a decrease in gun manufacturing and the organizational structure of how guns get into communities of poverty and into the gun dealers, stores and even from our own government.”

WHOSE SUPPORT DO WE NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL?

- “Work in conjunction with researchers at UW-Milwaukee Peace & Sustainability program.”
- “Organization called Teens for Jeans at James Madison Academic campus. Donate your used jeans that you don’t wear. Help the underprivileged teens.”
- “City of Milwaukee Mayor, city & county officials, business owners, youth, community, nonprofit organizations/faith based.”
- “Include youth in future planning and follow-up activities.”
- “Everyone—youth, parents (families), various professionals from all walks of life, organizations, agencies, public and private sector.”
- “Parents.”
- “To end gun violence, we need the police and people in different communities to help, to make people think positive and not always negative. Fight with your words instead of guns. Words will keep you here, guns won’t.”
- “WE NEED EVERYBODY’S SUPPORT!!!!!!”
- “Youth and young adults.”
- “Organizations like Urban Underground, Boys & Girls Club, COA, etc.”