

Content warning: gun violence, racism, strong language

When will this terror end?

Our staff is seething with rage and sadness that we cannot even put into words. **Over and over, we keep asking each other, *WHAT THE HELL is wrong with us as a country? Why is this still happening?***

We have cried tears of anguish and frustration, like far too many days before this.

We are still reeling from the white supremacist attack in Buffalo less than two weeks ago that terrorized a Black community. Now, we're grieving for the community of Uvalde dealing with the devastating murders of their children and teachers.

Certain people in power in our country love guns. This statement feels like insanity – but those in power repeatedly show us through their INACTION to create policies to protect us from gun violence that they truly value guns *more than our children, more than our elders, more than people of color- especially Black people, and more than our communities living with the danger of daily gun violence.*

We should not be fearful to live our daily lives – to send our children to school, to worship at church, to make a trip to the grocery store, to visit a movie or concert venue, or walk down the street.

Certain people in power in our country love their power more than they love the people they serve. We deserve elected leaders who are not afraid to take big, bold action against gun violence. Taking no action because of a desire to hold onto an elected position for any reason IS IMMORAL while we continue to exist in crisis and survival mode around gun violence.

We deserve public servants who put the safety of our communities ahead of their own ambitions. We need politicians who will stop making bullshit excuses for the gun enthusiasts and the gun lobby when another tragedy happens. We don't want politicians who do nothing proactive and only extend thoughts and prayers for the families and survivors. Thoughts and prayers don't stop a hail of bullets from a handgun or an assault rifle from mutilating an innocent child's body. Strong gun control policy would

stop guns from so easily landing in the hands of people- usually white boys and men- who would do such harm.

School massacres are a consequence of the damage caused by the effects of patriarchy and white supremacy on our boys and men. Here in our state, we pride ourselves on being more progressive and open-minded than some of our Southern neighbors. But Connecticut is not immune to injustice and evil. In Connecticut, we know all too well the lasting scars and ripple effects of gun violence – the pain and lifelong sorrow burdening families and entire communities. We are all aware of how hateful and utterly ridiculous it is that families who have lost loved ones to gun violence are repeatedly traumatized by school shootings and mass murders that happen across the country with a frequency *no other country in the world has ever experienced*.

The harm being inflicted upon us feels relentless. And it is - by design. When you are feeling tired and overwhelmed, remember that a primary goal of systemic oppression is to break us down so we can't fight back on our own or collectively. The intertwined and deeply entrenched culture of white supremacy, patriarchy, and capitalism wants us to give up and say it's all just too much to fight. The system wants us to look out only for ourselves instead of looking out for *us*.

Through the anger and grief in this moment we are feeling incapable of making a difference - *but we know this is a lie that patriarchy and white supremacy want us to believe and internalize*. CWEALF's mission charges us with advocating for women and girls. We will not give up fighting because we are committed to embracing, embodying and advocating an intersectional feminist, antiracist, anti-white supremacist agenda to uplift all women and girls. As long as the threat of gun violence continues to grow and looms over our lives like a grim reaper, we will never achieve a state or country where women and girls can truly thrive. What has become clear is that as a country we have reached a breaking point where if you aren't actively advocating for better gun control then you are a part of the problem.

Historically, CWEALF has never taken on gun control as a primary issue. However, moving forward, we will use the considerable organizational power and influence we have built up over the last five decades to hold our elected officials accountable to the people for their inaction and silence about gun violence. We will provide support to the organizations in Connecticut that advocate for stronger gun control measures.

As a start, please join us in following and supporting the organizations leading this fight.

[Sandy Hook Promise](#)

[CT Against Gun Violence](#)

[Newtown Action Alliance](#)

[Mothers United Against Violence](#)

[Moms Demand Action](#)

[Everytown for Gun Safety](#)

[March For Our Lives](#)