



848 William Pitt Union
3959 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Phone: (412)-648-7970

Statement on Recent Mass Shootings in the United States

For Immediate Release:

Over the last two weeks, communities across our nation have once again been forced to endure a series of mass shootings. The shooting at a Dallas hair salon on May 11, the shooting on May 14th at the Tops Supermarket on the east side of Buffalo, NY, the attack at Irvine Taiwanese Presbyterian Church in Irvine, CA the following day, and the shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, TX, on May 24th are in no way novel acts of gun violence, but are no less devastating. As of May 29th, there have been [229 mass shootings in the United States](#) in 2022, which is more than the current number of completed days in the year.

Pitt Student Government Board is outraged at these tragic events and stands in support of the communities that have been affected. As students who have grown up with lockdown drills, we know that this issue is neither distant nor rare. It is here and real, and we stand in support of students, teachers, and school staff members, be they in Pennsylvania or elsewhere. Education is why we are here at Pitt, and no person should have their academic opportunities compromised by fear and violence.

Furthermore, in a city which itself endured the shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue in 2018, it is impossible to ignore that many of these shootings have been motivated by racism and white-supremacy, several of which have been confirmed to be hate crimes by local authorities. Pitt SGB stands with Black, Latinx, Jewish, Asian American, Pacific Islander, and other underrepresented communities students, staff, faculty, and community members here in Pittsburgh and around the world. As SGB has done in the past, we condemn the racism and white supremacy that has fueled not only these incidents, but the many other acts of violence against marginalized groups. We denounce the harmful ideologies, that are espoused by those who wish harm upon diverse identities, and we encourage all to denounce them similarly.

As the communities affected heal alongside our own, we must do our part to keep these tragedies from happening. To do so, we will use comprehensive strategies to make this community safer for all students.



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We also ask our fellow students, the University of Pittsburgh, and our local and state governments to reflect on gun violence as a public health issue rather than a political one, and to address the problem at its root cause by doing their part to increase gun control. As it has been said many times these past few weeks, this is a uniquely American issue. So, let's solve it.

SGB calls on our local, state, and federal policymakers to implement common sense gun reform to end these tragic mass shootings. Specifically, we demand our state legislators and congressional representatives to pass laws requiring universal background checks and mandatory training. More specifically, SGB supports the [proposal of Rep. Lucy McBath](#), which calls for the passage of a national red flag law to help prevent future mass shootings. Many of these proposed reforms, especially background checks, are popular [across party lines](#).

SGB also strongly encourages the student body to take action. Call your elected officials and tell them why gun reform matters to you. Join a local protest, campaign for a candidate that shares your views, and crucially, vote for the change you seek to accomplish. Your voice matters.

Finally, please take care of yourselves and those around you. We are a community and we are here for one another.

Thank You,

Danielle Floyd

2022-2023 Student Government Board President

Isabel Lam, Bhuvitha Chagantipati, Derek Dressler, Alison Linares Mendoza, Sophia Shapiro, Celeste Lintz, Daniel Temmallo, and Corbin Makar

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Places to give

[Uvalde, Texas Elementary School Shooting \(gofundme.com\)](#): Donate to verified Texas elementary school shooting fundraisers below to offer your help.

[Donate now to support the Uvalde community - OneStar Foundation](#): In partnership with the Uvalde CISD, First State Bank of Uvalde has created the Robb School Memorial Fund to assist the families and community affected by this tragedy.

[National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum \(NAPAWF\)](#): building collective power with AAPI women and girls to gain full agency over our lives, our families, and our communities.

[New York's Crime Victims' Compensation Program](#), offers help to offset a victim's financial burden related to funeral, mental health, medical, and other expenses. Following is contact information for this program

[Voicebuffalo.org](#): Working to overcome the history of abuses in the criminal justice process, VOICE Buffalo ensures that law enforcement, adjudication, and criminal corrections are equitable for all.

[National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center](#) is to improve community preparedness and the nation's capacity to serve victims recovering from mass violence through research, planning, training, technology, and collaboration

Pitt Resources

[Pitt University Counseling Center](#): (24/7) 412-648-7930

[Pitt Campus Concerns Connection](#): texting 412-903-3456, calling 1-800-468-5768, or [completing an online form](#)

[Rave Guardian App](#): provides rapid and proactive communication with friends, family, co-workers, your college or university, and even participating 9-1-1 call centers in the event of an emergency.

Mental Health

[NY Project Hope Line](#): 844-863-9314; free, confidential crisis hotline for mental health support that connects New Yorkers with the resources they need.



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VictimConnect: 855-484-2846; offers confidential assistance to victims of crime. Trained specialists are available to help you locate services in your area, including mental health counseling, legal services, and more

[Asian Mental Health Collective](#)

[APISAA Therapist Directory](#)

[The Crisisline](#): 1-800-273-TALK; Asian Languages: 1-877-990-8585

[Crisis Text Line](#): text CONNECT to 741741