



## **Hospital Sisters of St. Francis**

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### **Statement of Support for End to Gun Violence**

The Leadership Team of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, in the light of the recent mass shootings in El Paso, Texas and Dayton, Ohio, asks how we can be instruments of healing and non-violence that help bring about the change necessary to counteract the direction that division, racism and violence seem to be taking us? As consecrated women empowered by Franciscan Spirituality that reverence all life, we have dedicated our lives to be a healing presence in society and agents of change.

We join other religious communities in a shared response to these incidents of violence through the [August 6, 2019 statement](#) of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) and their call to end gun violence.

“The recent mass shootings in our country impel us to once again beg all citizens and all elected leaders to end the rampant rage and division that has overpowered the nation and too often result in mass, indiscriminate violence. We implore all legislative bodies to pass legislation that effectively prevents gun violence. We call for the passage of laws that ban assault weapons, require universal background checks for all gun sales, provide funding for gun violence prevention research and makes the trafficking in weapons a federal crime.”

We choose to join the thousands of other citizens and religious communities across the country to ask our Federal Government to take action now to prevent this continuing violence from spreading. We join our brothers and sisters in Christ in prayer, advocacy and education to bring healing to all from this stochastic terrorism - the public demonization of a person or group resulting in the incitement of a violent act, which is statistically probable but whose specifics cannot be predicted.

August 15, 2019

