

Children's Defense Fund

Children's Rights

<https://www.childrensdefense.org/policy/policy-priorities/gun-violence-prevention/>

Campaign and Advocacy

For decades, our leaders have failed to protect children, not guns and a growing number of children are paying with their lives. Gun violence is now the leading cause of death for all children and teens ages 1-19. In 2019, 3,371 children and teens died from guns enough to fill 168 classrooms of 20 children. While mass shootings grab fleeting public and policymaker attention, routine gunfire kills more children every week than the Columbine, Sandy Hook, and Parkland massacres combined. Children of color continue to face the greatest risk. Black children and teens are four times more likely to die from gun violence than their white peers. Enough is enough. It is time to stop the killing of children in America.

All children in America should be guaranteed the right to live, learn and grow up safely free from violence and fear. CDF envisions a nation where children and teens feel safe in their communities and classrooms and leaders at all levels protect children, not guns.

We work to demand elected officials protect children, not guns by advocating for common sense gun safety and gun violence prevention measures. To ensure all children a safe start and future, we must:

It is past time for Congress to hear and heed our children's calls. Gun violence is not an inevitable or intractable problem. Congress can and must strengthen background checks, ban assault weapons, and pass other gun safety measures to ensure all children a chance to grow up free from violence and fear.

President Biden recently released his Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Budget request to Congress to strengthen the economy, address longstanding racial disparities, and ensure a more equitable future for our children. After a year marked by such dramatic change and drastic negative impact on children's lives, we need meaningful investments in supports for children and families. President Biden's FY22 budget request starts to do just that.

Today, President Biden announced a series of executive actions to curb America's longstanding and growing gun violence epidemic. These lifesaving reforms represent the boldest federal action against gun violence in nearly 30 years and a major victory for the movement to protect children, not guns.

A gift today helps children get the help they need

The Children's Defense Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our Federal Tax ID number is 52-0895622.

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Be a champion for every child. Sign up for updates about our work to fight for children and ways you can help.

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Fight for children, stay informed and know when to act.