



Serve: Contribute your time and talents to support local programs working to promote the safety and well-being of children and teens, such as after-school activities, conflict resolution programs, family support initiatives and child abuse prevention efforts.

Advocate: Encourage the President, members of Congress and other decision-makers and community leaders to:

- Take action to protect children from guns through sensible gun safety measures.
- Strengthen support for children facing violence in their communities and homes and for those with unmet mental health needs.
- Offer parents and children the resources, support and tools they need to survive and stand against violence.

More information on these priorities is available at www.childrensdefense.org

Children's Defense Fund Protect Children Not Guns Toolkit **BULLETIN INSERT**

Thus said the LORD:

A cry is heard in Ramah –

Wailing, bitter weeping –

Rachel weeping for her children.

She refuses to be comforted

For her children, who are gone. (Jer 31:15 TNK)

Today, we weep for our children who are gone.

We weep for the 17 children and teachers lost in the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

We weep for the 8 children and teens who are killed by guns each and every day in our nation.

Too many children and teens lose their lives to gun violence in America.

- 3,128 children and teens died from guns in the United States in 2016, enough to fill 156 classrooms of 20 children.
- A child or teen was killed with a gun every 2 hours and 48 minutes in 2016.
- Guns kill more children under 5 than law enforcement officers in the line of duty.
- Since 1963, over three times more children and teens died from guns on American soil than U.S. soldiers were killed by hostilities in wars abroad.

Thus said the LORD:

Restrain your voice from weeping,

Your eyes from shedding tears;

For there is a reward for your labor

— declares the LORD:

They shall return from the enemy's land.

(Jer 31:16 TNK)

We can and must labor together, faithfully and persistently, to bring all children home to an experience of peace and safety, security and well-being. What can we do?

Pray: Pray for children and those who would harm them that all may know peace, love, justice, and well-being. Pray that we have the strength to speak out and act to make our lives and our nation reflect the world God intends. Pray that we will persist to insist that we Protect Children, Not Guns.

Educate: Share the facts about child and teen gun deaths in this insert. More information is available at www.childrensdefense.org. Talk with children and youths about violence and promote peaceful conflict resolution and nonviolent organizing skills. Help them speak out to adults who they depend on to protect them.
