



2018 National Observance of Children's Sabbaths

**“Realizing Dr. King’s Vision for *Every Child*:
Lives of Hope, Not Despair”**

“School Shootings Are Scary”

“The school shootings are scary and we feel like nothing can stop it from happening.”

– 11-year-old girl, Indiana

“No one is doing anything to make me feel safe at school.”

– 14-year-old girl, Washington, D.C.

“We are afraid because there are too many threats at schools. I want my school to be safe and to have art because kids like art.”

– 8-year-old girl, Wisconsin

“We deserve to have a childhood.”

– 13-year-old boy, Pennsylvania

Fear of a school shooting is front and center in the minds of America’s children and their parents, a fear shared across racial, ethnic, and income groups according to the Children’s Defense Fund’s Parent and Child Trends survey conducted earlier this year by YouGov. Children say they are more worried about a shooting happening in their schools than they are about fitting in with other children or experiencing peer pressure. Overall, only 59 percent of children—and only 42 percent of Black children—say they feel safe at school. The only worry more common among children was being bullied.



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Read the full survey reports at the Children’s Defense Fund’s website, www.childrensdefense.org.

The Children’s Defense Fund believes 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 in which children and teens feel safe in their communities and classrooms and leaders at all levels protect children not guns.

The Children’s Defense Fund supports efforts to:

- Make sure school safety plans developed across the country address the need for safe, nurturing schools that offer physical protection from guns as well as close connections and supportive relationships between staff and students.
- Eliminate zero tolerance discipline policies to focus on understanding children’s experiences rather than punishing their behaviors while carefully monitoring and responding to the impact of these reforms to ensure they benefit all students across racial, ethnic and income lines.
- Minimize the threat of gang violence and mass shootings in children’s neighborhoods and schools by restricting gun access for children and teens under 21 and other high risk groups, implementing universal background checks, and banning assault weapons, high capacity magazines and bump stocks through common sense guns laws in state legislatures and Congress.

Together, we can work to end gun violence so that every child may live a life of hope, not despair.



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