



**NAME National Office: 2100 M Street • Suite 170-245 • Washington, D.C.**  
**Phone: 202.679.NAME (6263) • Email: [action@NAMEorg.org](mailto:action@NAMEorg.org) • Web: [www.NAMEorg.org](http://www.NAMEorg.org)**

The National Association for Multicultural Education extends its concern and condolences to those directly impacted by the tragic shootings in Las Vegas on October 1.

NAME is saddened by recurring tragedies from gun violence, and NAME calls for stricter gun control as well as high quality mental health care services. Mass shootings have become an all too common occurrence in the United States. The Las Vegas massacre was the latest example — and the deadliest in recent U.S. history. The mass slaughter in Nevada was among more than 270 mass shootings that have occurred in America in 2017 alone, according to the Gun Violence Archive.

More than 59 people were killed and at least 527 others were wounded when a gunman with more than 20 firearms and thousands of rounds of ammunition opened fire from his 32nd-floor room in the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino. The true face of terrorism showed itself, and it didn't come from another country, but is American made. The shooting victims in Las Vegas were among thousands of people attending an outdoor Jason Aldean country music concert when a hail of bullets started raining down on the peaceful gathering.

Such violence shatters Americans' sense of safety for themselves and their children. It is past time for the nation to get gun violence under control.

A good start would be for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to be allowed to study gun violence, its causes and how the trauma can be eliminated. Gun violence annually costs Americans \$229 billion — \$8.6 billion in direct expenses for emergency and medical care and \$221 billion in indirect costs. A second front in this vital struggle for “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” is for Congress to pass meaningful gun control legislation and for lawmakers to stop being puppets for the National Rifle Association and the powerful gun lobby.

A good beginning for the House and Senate would be to debate and then pass the 1994 Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act, commonly called the federal Assault Weapons Ban. Congress allowed it to expire in 2004. Imagine how many lives could have been saved in Las Vegas this month if assault weapons and high-capacity magazines had been outlawed and the gunman didn't have them to use. Such common sense gun legislation and firearms education is needed now to prevent more mass shootings, random homicides and injuries from guns as well as firearms being used in suicides. Schools could teach this along with lessons against bullying.

If the country cares about its residents, lawmakers and citizens will join together to take action, and that includes mental health services for people who need them.

We at NAME stand with those affected by the trauma in Las Vegas as we are mindful that the ripple effect has yet to occur.

*In peace and solidarity,  
NAME Leadership*

October 3, 2017