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**NAME Statement on
Texas Church Shooting, November 5, 2017**

Safe communities and safe schools best ensure a supportive learning environment for children and nurturing neighborhoods for families and businesses. The National Association for Multicultural Education decries the repeated gun violence because the resulting deaths, injuries, fear and trauma completely and destructively disrupt the best of what America should guarantee.

The mass shooting on Nov. 5 at [First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas](#), is just the latest example. Twenty-six people were killed, and 20 others were wounded when a gunman entered the church and opened fire on worshipers.

In this particular case, people point to a shoot-out between the gunman and another armed man as the gunman was trying to flee. The suspect, in fact, died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Yet because of the shoot-out, some people cite [National Rifle Association rhetoric](#), saying more guns make for a safer, more polite society. However, an undeniable fact remains that [26 adults](#) and children still died because of the shooter and 20 others suffered injuries.

As an equity and social justice organization, NAME also abhors the fear and shattered sense of safety that repeated gun violence causes in communities throughout the United States. People should think of the trauma that assaults children and adults and how each new shooting resurfaces the agony, anguish and sense of helplessness for every person who earlier in their life suffered a traumatic event.

NAME knows that teachers have to contend with this fallout in student absenteeism, class disruptions, disciplinary problems and many students' heads on desks instead of hands up and eyes forward with a great interest in learning. The proliferation of guns and the continued liberalization of gun laws only fuel the schools-to-prison pipeline. NAME encourages state and national lawmakers to focus on disrupting this uncivil, toxic environment made more unsafe by gun violence.

Think of Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., where a gunman shot 20 children and six adults on Dec. 14, 2012. Think of the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Fla., where 49 people were fatally shot and others wounded on June 12, 2016. Think of the Oct. 1, 2017, open-air concert in Las Vegas, where a shooter gunned down 59 people and wounded nearly 400 others. Each mass shooting horrified the nation and the world with people blaming mental illness and wondering — without action — how to prevent such terrible acts of mass violence.

Promoting safer communities and schools should be everyone's aim, not waiting until the next mass shooting occurs, adding to the horrors that all of the others have caused.

NAME knows that sensible and enforceable gun laws can make a difference. To promote safer communities NAME also reiterates the need for the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) to be allowed to study gun violence its causes and the trauma it creates.