



Dear Friends,

As a youth-serving organization that supports individuals from under-resourced and historically marginalized communities, we are deeply troubled by the acts of violence in Buffalo, New York, and Uvalde, Texas. Our hearts ache for the families and communities navigating these unnecessary tragedies.

SWSG denounces violence in any form. Every mass shooting is one too many. We are incredibly heartbroken by these events that have targeted children, a majority Latino and immigrant community, and the Black community. In our work, we represent individuals of all ages, races, and backgrounds, and words alone cannot express the sadness we feel for the pain inflicted on vulnerable populations. We stand with the families, towns, first responders, and everyone working to take measures that protect all. Even as we join in expressions of sadness and sympathy, we recognize these horrific events can be a turning point in our society - if we act.

As a board and staff team, we are taking action to make our voices heard, and we urge you to join us in these efforts in any way that feels right for you.

Here are some considerations:

- Sign the [petition for the U.S. Senate](#) to pass HR 8 and HR 1446
- Contact your local representatives to learn about what they can do to reduce gun violence in our country and tell them your concerns.
- Understand how [gun violence impacts American communities](#)
- [Talk to your family and children about these tragic events](#)

There are reforms that can help make our schools and towns safer, and this begins by reducing access to guns. Join us in answering the call and fighting for justice for the children of Uvalde, TX, the men and women of Buffalo, NY, and many others who have lost their lives to gun violence.

It's hard to put into words and to begin to make sense of the consistent and unnecessary acts of violence that have become "normalized" in our communities. The children who are part of SWSG and beyond deserve a better world. It is up to all of us to create meaningful change now.

In strength and action,

Natalie Martinez, CEO

Kathryn Fishman, Board Chair

Aleya Crable Jennings, Board Vice Chair