



Advocacy Update

Sent May 18, 2016

Today, May 18 is the [Interfaith Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence National Faith Day of Action](#) on the intersection of domestic violence and guns.

Over half of all women killed by intimate partners were murdered with a gun. Nearly half of all intimate partner homicides were committed by a dating partner, and more than three-quarters of women killed by intimate partners were also stalked by their abuser. Yet perpetrators convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence against a dating partner or misdemeanor stalking can still freely access firearms, despite posing a significant risk to the safety of the victim.

H.R. 3130, the Zero Tolerance for Domestic Abusers Act, and S. 1520, the Protecting Domestic Violence and Stalking Victims Act, would close these life-threatening loopholes by extending domestic violence protections to include “dating partners” or others “similarly situated to a spouse,” and make it illegal for convicted stalkers to own guns.

We’ve already united [500 clergy members from a diverse range of traditions on a letter asking Congress to cosponsor these pieces of legislation to close loopholes that endanger the lives of abuse and stalking victims](#). Now we’re asking you to join us in our call to action!

Here are two ways to take action today:

- Send an email to your members of Congress: Urge your elected officials to fight to end gun violence and act for survivors of domestic violence and stalking by cosponsoring legislation to close dangerous loopholes in our gun purchasing system.

Contact Your Member of Congress

- Post about the initiative and why you care on social media: Today, people of faith and national faith based organizations will be raising awareness about the intersection between domestic violence and gun violence. Join in the conversation by using the hashtag #FaithsAgainstDV. If you are on twitter, be sure to tweet at us @WRJ1913. [Click here for some example social media posts.](#)

As a women’s organization, WRJ cares about domestic violence because though it is a [tragedy that affects millions of people](#), women are at the highest risk of being victims. Additionally, in 2013, our [Board of Directors passed a statement on gun violence prevention](#) urging our members and sisterhoods to advocate for legislation that would increase background checks. This initiative hopes to do just that.

For more information about the initiative, visit www.jwi.org/loophole.