

bike.poc, CACHE, and INTERFORM Joint Statement on Uvalde, TX

We are heartsick and angry for the Uvalde, TX community. We extend our deepest condolences, offer strength, and join them in grief for their 21 loved ones, including 19 children.

The grief we feel is not new. We experienced it not three weeks ago for the families and community in Buffalo, NY. And before that, families in Laguna Woods, Aurora, Parkland, Sandy Hook, and too many others. As we send this statement out there are reports of more mass shootings across the nation, including one as close to home as Tulsa, a vibrant city collaborating with many organizations from northwest Arkansas. In the face of such senseless, heartbreaking loss to gun violence, our answer cannot be inaction and hopelessness, but rather a conviction that we can and must make meaningful progress.

While these recent tragedies took place outside Arkansas, our state has one of the highest rates of gun deaths nationally—and it's a hard reality that any of these events could have played out here at home. As organizations committed to creating a safe, inclusive, and welcoming community for our children, families, and neighbors, we are eager to participate in, facilitate, and/or support a dialogue about a better way forward. We do so recognizing that this is not a simple discussion and that the traditional divide between those seeking to protect Second Amendment rights and those advocating more legislation has led to inaction that belies what most folks want—namely common sense solutions that are respectful of law-abiding gun owners and impactful at the same time.

We welcome those interested in participating in this conversation to reach out to our organizations. Positive change requires our collective participation and effort.

Co-signed by

INTERFORM

CACHE

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