



RABBI JONAH DOV PESNER, *Director*
ISABEL P. (LIZ) DUNST, *Chair, Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism*

Arthur and Sara Jo Kobacker Building
2027 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, at Kivie Kaplan Way, Washington, DC 20036

(202) 387-2800

@theRAC

www.rac.org

A Guide to Calling Your Elected Officials

Gun violence kills over 30,000 Americans every single year.ⁱ The rate of gun violence in the United States is up to 25 times higher than other developed countries.ⁱⁱ The gun death rate for black children and teens was nearly four times that for white children and teens and more than 8 times that for Asian and Pacific Islander children and teens.ⁱⁱⁱ Enough is enough.

Reform Judaism demands that we “Do not stand idly by while our neighbor’s blood is shed.” For too long, Congress has stood idly by, refusing to take action to prevent senseless deaths. We need to make it clear to our elected officials that inaction is not an option. No more empty calls for thoughts and prayers. No more excuses for abrogating their basic responsibility to protect the safety of the American people. We are urging Congress to pass comprehensive legislation that would improve public safety, prevent gun violence, and save lives. After you've made your call, let us know how it went!

Step 1: Pick Your Policy

There are some bills working their way through the House, and others through the Senate. When you reach out to your legislators, use the House Script for your representative and the Senate Script for your senators.

As a movement, We want our elected officials to introduce legislation that implements universal background checks, bans both assault weapons and high capacity ammunition magazines, funds Centers for Disease Control research on the scale and impact of gun violence in America, and supports people in crisis through Extreme Risk Protection Orders.

You can learn about these and other policies through the [Religious Action Center’s GVP Campaign Website](#) and our [Gun Violence Prevention Fact Sheet](#).

Step 2: Find Your Elected Official

If you know the names of your senators and representatives, you can skip ahead to Step 3.

[Find Your Senators](#)

Choose your state from the drop-down menu, and your two senators will pop up. Keep their names handy.

[Find Your Representative](#) Enter your zip code in the box at the top right of the page and click “look up.” You may have to enter your exact address to narrow down the search. Keep their names handy.



The Religious Action Center pursues social justice and religious liberty by mobilizing the Reform Jewish community and serving as its advocate in Washington, D.C. The Center is led by the Commission on Social Action of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Union for Reform Judaism (and its affiliates) and is supported by the congregations of the Union.



Step 3: Make the Call

Call the Capitol Switchboard at [202-224-3121](tel:202-224-3121) and ask to speak with one of your elected officials' offices. When the call is connected, introduce yourself and say that you are calling because you want your legislator to take action on gun violence prevention. The individual answering the phone will pass your message on to the member of Congress.

Step 4: Get Ready to Share Your Opinion

Below are sample scripts to share with the staff of your elected officials when you make your call. Don't forget to personalize it by mentioning why this issue is important to you! It's always helpful to practice once or twice, but don't be nervous – the staff member who answers the phone will typically note your support, thank you, and say goodbye.

House Script

Hello, my name is ____ (name)____, and I am from ____ (town)____. I am calling today as a constituent and as a Reform Jew to speak about the epidemic of gun violence in our country. I want to urge ____ (Representative Name)____ to protect the safety of the American people, and be a leader in gun violence prevention by advocating for _____ (bill name)_____. This is so important to me, because _____ . Thank you for your time.

Senate Script

Hello, my name is ____ (name)____, and I am from ____ (town)____. I am calling today as a constituent and as a Reform Jew to speak about the epidemic of gun violence in our country. I want to urge ____ (Senator Name)____ to protect the safety of the American people, and be a leader in gun violence prevention by advocating for the _____ (bill name)_____. This is so important to me, because _____ . Thank you for your time.

Step 5: Report Back

Let us know how it went by [filling out our quick form](#). We want to be able to say that thousands of Reform Jews across America flooded Congress with our calls, and we want to make sure your voice is counted!

i <http://www.bradycampaign.org/key-gun-violence-statistics>

ii <https://everytownresearch.org/gun-violence-by-the-numbers/>

iii <http://www.childrensdefense.org/library/data/2015-protectchildrennotgunsfactsheet.pdf>