

## North American Drama Therapy Association's Statement Concerning Gun Violence

The NADTA would like to offer condolences and honor the victims, survivors, families, friends and communities affected by the U.S. massive shootings, most recently: "Indiana Middle School in Noblesville, Indiana", "Santa Fe High School in Santa Fe, Texas", "Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida".

**June 2<sup>nd</sup> is National Gun Violence Awareness Day. There are many ways to get involved including local and national events June 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>. <https://everytown.org/act/>**

NADTA acknowledges the devastating nature of these events and how this can impact individual, family, social well-being and mental health. As therapists, we are called upon to support people who are in distress, shock and grief as a result of such violence. We encourage our members to access the multiple resources that exist guiding mental health professionals how to address the trauma and support the complex healing process after such violence ensues. (Please see links below)

We understand that the NADTA community and clients we work with, might have diverse beliefs and backgrounds re: gun rights, gun ownership and gun safety/responsibility. However, it is imperative that we come together as a community to speak out against gun violence. This latest tragedy in Noblesville West Middle School, Indiana marks 23 schools shootings where someone was hurt or killed, averaging one school shooting per week in 2018.

As we work in our own communities, we encourage thoughtful and caring conversations around personal and systemic impacts, while also encouraging ways to advocate for children's physical and emotional safety.

We urge not only taking care of yourself and utilizing your support systems but also finding ways to come together as the NADTA community to advocate and make our voices heard. Many people will also be wearing orange to increase visibility and spark conversations about gun violence and safety. We encourage actions such as attending a local event, calling or writing your representatives, or posting on our NADTA Facebook and Twitter pages with the hashtag: **#DramaTherapistsAgainstGunViolence**

If you have questions or comments please feel free to reach out to our Diversity Committee, or Stephanie Wichmann, Diversity Chair at [diversity@nadta.org](mailto:diversity@nadta.org) and let us know ways you are getting involved.

We are proud to be part of this Drama Therapy Community and appreciate your time and commitment to the social justice mission of our organization.

### **Helpful Links:**

- [\*\*The American School Counselor Association\*\*](#)
- [The American Psychological Association](#)
- [The National Association of Social Work](#) (Social Justice Brief on Gun Violence)
- [Everytown for Gun Safety](#)
- [The Brady Campaign to End Violence](#)
- [USC Rossier School of Education Article](#)