

SAFER TOGETHER

Guide for Group Discussion

Following the presentation by Dr. Peterson and Q and A, the launch schedule provides 30 minutes for small group discussion and 15 minutes for reporting out through the chat function of the Zoom webinar.

As you begin the discussion:

Review the ground rules.

Read the “Ground Rules for Conversation,” drawn from the ELCA resource Talking Together as Christians about Tough Social Issues. Some participants may have reviewed them in advance.

Review the social message summary.

Take a few moments to look over the two-page summary of the ELCA’s Social Message on Gun-related Violence and Trauma.

Introduce yourselves.

Share your name, what brought you to this gathering, and what you hope will come from the conversation.

Dr. Peterson’s presentation.

Did her research findings and recommendations surprise, challenge, or cause you to think differently? What are your takeaways from the presentation?

Your context and experience.

How do you experience gun-related violence or risk of harm in your life? Do you feel safe from gun misuse and harm in your community? If not, what needs to change toward greater peace and security?

Common social values and commitments.

Where might Americans find common ground to move beyond stalled debates over government control and personal rights? Why do Americans find it difficult to talk with their neighbors about gun ownership and use? Can the church help to support these difficult conversations?

Called to be peacemakers.

What would it mean for Americans to embrace a “shared responsibility” to greatly reduce gun misuse and related harms? What roles can families, schools, gun owners, healthcare providers, law enforcement, public officials, the media, and others play?

First personal step.

What is one thing you might do to strengthen relationships, reduce harm, and contribute to a safer and more peaceful community?

Continuing the dialogue.

What would help this conversation to continue in your congregation or community?

Wrap up your Discussion

As a group, choose one way to share your conversation:

- **Write a two-sentence summary highlighting the main themes.**
- **Choose five words that describe your conversation.**

Share your response with the other groups at your site and enter it in the webinar chat for all participants to see.

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