

2019

Alliance For Gun Responsibility

ANNUAL REPORT



ALLIANCE
FOR GUN RESPONSIBILITY

THE ALLIANCE SUPPORTED KIM WYATT OF THE REGIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FIREARMS ENFORCEMENT UNIT WHEN SHE TESTIFIED IN DC IN SUPPORT OF EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDERS.

W LEGISLATION

2019: A WATERSHED YEAR FOR GVP IN WASHINGTON

In 2019, we saw evidence of just how far the national gun violence prevention movement has come in recent years. The House of Representatives passed a bill calling for universal background checks—the first time Congress voted on gun safety in 25 years. Walmart took a stand on gun violence in the wake of a tragic shooting at their El Paso store and other companies were quick to follow suit. The field of leading presidential candidates made gun violence prevention a central tenet of their platforms and participated in a six-hour forum on the subject. These activities would have been unimaginable just a few years ago.

Here in Washington state, there was even more reason to celebrate. We helped pass a whopping 10 gun safety laws in Olympia—more than in all our previous years combined! They included groundbreaking policies like prohibiting ghost guns and 3-D printed firearms and strengthening protections for law enforcement and victims of domestic violence. The Washington State Legislature also allocated \$1 million in state funding to Harborview Injury Prevention Research Center for gun violence prevention research, making us only the fourth state in the nation to directly fund this type of research.

This advocacy work prompted the Seattle Post-Intelligencer to proclaim, “The Alliance...has surpassed the Gun Lobby as a player in state politics.”

When Governor Inslee reached out for our help to combat the rise of white nationalism, we provided expertise for his 10-point plan that addressed the intersection of hate and gun violence. We dove even deeper into that topic in the fall and co-hosted a Summit with the Anti-Defamation League.

Earlier in the year, we hosted a Summit focused on the deadly intersection of domestic violence and firearms. It featured the incredible work of our partners at the Regional Domestic Violence Firearms Enforcement Unit who have now secured more than 650 firearms since they formed in 2017. Their multidisciplinary model continues to serve as an example for counties throughout Washington and the nation.

The Alliance for Gun Responsibility Victory Fund received more requests for endorsements than ever before. We were ultimately proud to help 38 candidates—spanning the entire state—win their seats. The importance of local elections like these cannot be overstated. Without local leaders dedicated to prioritizing gun violence prevention, we can’t guarantee that commonsense gun safety measures will be enacted, or that existing gun laws will be adequately funded and implemented.

We were fortunate to return to a gun responsibility majority in Olympia in 2020 and excited to see our long-time champion, Laurie Jenkins, claim her position as Speaker of the House. Our bold policy plans included restricting access to high-capacity magazines, creating a background check requirement for ammunition sales, and protecting our children from gun violence.

As we look ahead, we know that the presidential election could be a major turning point in the gun violence prevention movement. But win or lose, Washington state will continue to lead on this issue. Our road will not be easy, especially as we continue to defend I-1639 in court.

All of our successes this year were only possible because of the strength of our coalition. Together, we are treating gun violence like the urgent public health crisis it is.



Renée Hopkins
CEO, Alliance For Gun Responsibility

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ORGANIZATION SUMMARY



ALLIANCE FOR GUN RESPONSIBILITY
501(c)(4) nonprofit organization: Conducts legislative advocacy and has helped pass three ballot measures and 20 gun safety bills in Olympia.



ALLIANCE FOR GUN RESPONSIBILITY FOUNDATION 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization: Responsible for original research, program work, implementation of laws, summit education series, and grassroots advocacy.



ALLIANCE FOR GUN RESPONSIBILITY VICTORY FUND & ALLIANCE FOR GUN RESPONSIBILITY FEDERAL VICTORY FUND Washington state and federal Political Action Committees: Endorse municipal, state, and federal candidates with an 84 percent victory rate.

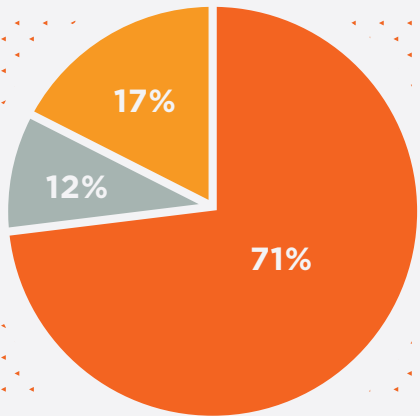


FINANCIALS

AT THE ALLIANCE, WE KNOW THAT OUR SUCCESS IS YOUR SUCCESS. That with each new law, summit, hearing day, rally, and fundraising event, our partners, volunteers, faith community leaders, public health advocates, survivors, donors, and elected officials are the driving force behind making our communities safer.

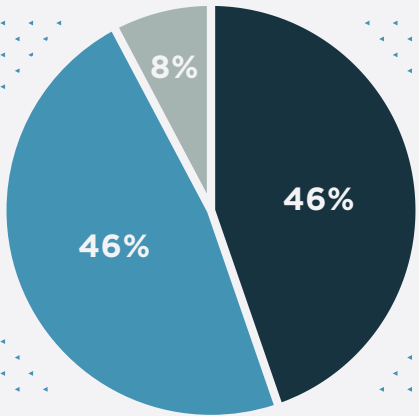
Each year, we reach more passionate advocates like you and we are excited to see where the next year takes us. We know that as long as we have you on our side, we will continue to make progress in this fight. Thank you to the dozens of partner organizations, in Washington state and across the country, who work with us daily. Thank you to the hundreds of dedicated and passionate advocates who give their time and share their stories. Thank you to the thousands of volunteers who show up day after day. And **THANK YOU** to our thousands of donors who make our work possible. Together, we will continue to pass lifesaving laws and support programming to reduce gun violence in our communities.

The Alliance is built on a foundation of supporters from across the state and country who financially support our work every year. We are proud that in 2018 we had **more than 8,800 donors with a median donation of \$25.** Every donation, of every size, is critical to our work. **THANK YOU!**



EXPENSES

- 71% Programs \$1,686,522
- 17% Management \$410,277
- 12% Fundraising \$275,435



REVENUE

- 46% Major Donors \$1,035,447
- 46% Individual \$1,046,862
- 8% Grants \$193,333

IMPLEMENTATION

IMPLEMENTING FIREARM LAWS

The Alliance remains dedicated to ensuring that responsible gun laws are not just passed, but implemented per their intent. In 2019, our implementation work was focused on three primary areas: implementation of the “lie and try” law passed in 2017, protection orders and firearm surrender, and I-1639, which strengthens regulations on semi-automatic rifles, incentivizes safe storage, and requires public health warnings.

PROTECTION ORDERS

- In 2019, the Foundation continued to work on implementation of protection orders and firearms surrender in King County and expanded our work to Spokane, Snohomish, and Pierce Counties.
 - 2019 was the second full year of operation for the King County Regional Domestic Violence Firearms Enforcement Unit (RDVFEU), which takes a multi-disciplinary, regionalized, and dedicated approach to tackling this public health and public safety priority. They maintained the 400 percent increase in surrendered firearms first experienced in 2018.
 - Spokane County added staffing to model aspects of the King County Unit in their work and saw greater than a 50 percent increase in firearms surrendered.

- In partnership with the Alliance, the Spokane YWCA and Spokane Police Department successfully applied to the Federal Technical Assistance Program to receive assistance with the implementation of Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs). Spokane PD is also taking a leadership role educating officers within their department and with other jurisdictions in the area on Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs).
- In Pierce County, the Alliance held our first DV and Firearms Summit in partnership with the presiding judge of superior court and the Pierce County YWCA. Practitioners from both King and Spokane counties provided peer-to-peer training on the implementation of protection orders and firearm surrender.
- In King County, we partnered with the Anti-Defamation League and the King County Prosecutors Office to host a summit focusing on the intersection of hate and gun violence. We provided education and training on policy and programming options, including ERPOs, to address this intersection.

The country reeled from a horrific weekend of mass shootings in El Paso, TX, Dayton, OH, and Chicago, IL in August. In response, Governor Inslee worked with the Alliance to unveil a 10-point plan to curb gun violence and address the rise of white nationalism.

- In Snohomish County, we continued to work with law enforcement and prosecutors to implement the model policy for enforcing firearm surrender laws.
- In 2019 we worked with researchers in Washington state and at Johns Hopkins on two publications that provide in-depth analyses of the use of ERPO in King County and Washington state. These will be publicly available in 2020.
- The Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC), in partnership with the Alliance and the RDVFEU, developed and launched online training for law enforcement on DVPO and ERPOs. On early review, more than 1,000 officers—approximately 10 percent of the state—have taken it.
- In 2019 the Foundation partnered with Johns Hopkins, Bloomberg American Health Initiative, and the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence on an ERPO implementation project. The culmination of the project included a meeting with representatives from around the country to discuss best and emerging practices for ERPO implementation and a website representing lessons learned.

LIE & TRY

- In July 2017, Washington became the first state to crack down on prohibited purchasers who attempt to buy firearms in the state, a practice known as “lie and try.” The law requires notification to local law enforcement and victims when felons, domestic abusers, and other prohibited purchasers illegally attempt to buy guns.
- The 2019 report from the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs is here: <https://www.waspc.org/assets/docs/2019%20denied%20firearms%20transactions%20annual%20report.pdf>.

INITIATIVE 1639

- In January 2019, the age requirement for purchase of semi-automatic assault rifles (SAAR) raised from 18- to 21-years-old. On July 1, 2019, the remaining elements of Initiative 1639 went into effect, including training requirements and mandatory waiting periods on the purchase of SAARs, safe storage incentives for all firearms, and public health warnings on purchase of firearms at the point of purchase.
- One additional component of the law, which requires a minimum of annual “re-checks” to ensure that those owning firearms are still eligible, will be incorporated into the centralization of background checks process.



ADVOCACY



2019 LEGISLATIVE LOBBY DAY

CONSTANT PRESENCE PROGRAM

Maintaining a consistent presence in Olympia has been a hallmark of our past legislative successes and 2019 was no different. In the legislature, as well as in coalition building, the Alliance advocacy and field programs continued to lead the way for gun violence prevention. We mobilized our volunteer network to contact legislators in record numbers, across multiple means of communication. Our constant presence no doubt delivered the message that Washington voters are dedicated to preventing gun violence.

VOLUNTEERS IN OLYMPIA

On-the-ground advocacy in Olympia continued to be our most effective method to demonstrate the strength and power of our supporter network. We had supporters in orange on the capitol campus every week during the legislative session. Hearing days had the largest turnouts, with dozens of volunteers traveling to Olympia from every corner of Washington. Our chapter teams provided immense support in recruiting volunteers and organizing capitol visits. Our volunteers regularly outnumbered our opponents and helped drive our legislative success.

HANDWRITTEN LETTERS AND POSTCARDS

Handwritten letters and postcards provided legislators with tangible evidence from gun violence prevention advocates. The time, emotion, and passion put into each letter showed legislators just how personally this issue affects Washingtonians. We thank everyone who wrote their legislators sharing their difficult stories.

10,000+	Constituent Phone Calls By Alliance Team
1,700+	Volunteer Hours At The Capitol
33	GVP Events, Including Hearing Days, Lobby Days, And Town Halls
313	Constituent/Representative In-Person Visits
1,000+	Postcards Delivered To Legislators
72,000+	Emails Delivered To Legislators



LEGAL

Washington voters resoundingly passed Initiative 1639 in 2018. This important law enacts several commonsense gun safety measures, including limiting the ability of 18-20 year olds to own and use semi-automatic assault rifles. In early 2019, the NRA, Second Amendment Foundation, and others filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the law. We anticipated this lawsuit from the get-go and were ready. Working with our outside legal counsel at Pacifica Law Group, we filed a motion for the I-1639 campaign to intervene in the case. The NRA and Second Amendment Foundation tried to keep us out, but the judge agreed with us and made us a formal party. As such, we have been working cooperatively with the Washington State Attorney General's Office to fully and vigorously defend I-1639.

The litigation has been a significant effort. We have deposed all of the individual plaintiffs, including two owners of gun shops in Washington and three other individuals (one plaintiff dropped out of the case once it became clear he would be deposed). We also have deposed plaintiffs' expert witnesses. Through these depositions, we have learned valuable information that will help us demonstrate to the court that I-1639 is constitutional.

We also have successfully defended against plaintiffs' attempts to take burdensome and unnecessary discovery of the campaign. Initially, plaintiffs sought to take a broad and far-reaching deposition of the campaign. We objected and narrowed the topics. Ultimately, the deposition provided no useful information for plaintiffs.

Currently, we are preparing to file a motion that will ask the court to dismiss the lawsuit in its entirety. We have enlisted an impressive array of experts to support that effort, including Dr. Fred Rivara who heads the University of Washington's Firearm Injury & Policy Research Program and national experts on brain development in minors and firearms practices. Plaintiffs are preparing a similar motion, which we will oppose. After the court rules on those motions, hopefully by this the summer of 2020, we anticipate the case will be appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.



ALLIANCE FOR GUN RESPONSIBILITY VICTORY FUND

While the Victory Fund has been primarily focused on building power for state-level action, local governments are often at the core of implementing the laws we pass. Odd election years are an opportunity to build power and establish footholds in cities, counties, and other local jurisdictions that have their own role to play in reducing gun violence.

This year, the Alliance Victory Fund invited local candidates from across the state to participate in our endorsement process—prioritizing local governments that are well-suited for expanding our work, particularly in implementation. Our endorsement process in these races allowed us to educate candidates about the role local governments can play in preventing gun violence and encourage them to adopt our messaging and priorities.

Additionally, for the first time ever, the Alliance participated in School Board elections across the state.

As School Boards have increasingly engaged in the response to school shootings, it is our responsibility to weigh in, helping voters connect with candidates who support community investments and student-based approaches to reducing gun violence in our schools.

In total this cycle, the Victory Fund interviewed 91 candidates seeking 61 different local offices and endorsed 59 candidates statewide.



LEGISLATIVE WINS

The 2019 legislative session saw a record 10 gun violence prevention priority policies passed in Olympia—more than all past sessions in the Alliance’s history combined. In addition to those priorities, the Alliance supported two successful bills, which, though they were not directly related to firearms, will help prevent gun violence.

Several of our bills enjoyed bipartisan support in both chambers, including **HB 1739**, which prohibits undetectable 3D-printed firearms and untraceable unserialized firearms. Additionally, **HB 1949**, which directs the Office of Financial Management to study centralizing our background check system, passed unanimously in both chambers

We made tremendous progress in addressing the deadly intersection of domestic violence and gun violence this session. **HB 1225** better protects survivors and law enforcement by allowing officers to secure firearms directly from the scene of a domestic violence call and keep possession of those firearms to allow time for victims to file protective orders and prosecutors to decide whether to pursue charges. Likewise, **HB 1786**, better protects all victims of violence and abuse by strengthening Washington’s protective order system and standardizing the way firearms are addressed within those orders.

Other bills addressed the interaction between firearms and our often-underfunded mental and behavioral health systems. **SB 5181** makes it easier to prevent people in crisis from accessing firearms by establishing an automatic, six-month prohibition on firearms possession for anyone held involuntarily for 72-hours because they present a risk to themselves or others. **SB 5205** addressed this intersection by closing a loophole that allowed people with a history of violence, who had been found incompetent to stand trial, to remain legally eligible to purchase and possess firearms.

SB 5508 and **HB 1465** addressed holes in our concealed pistol licensing system. **SB 5508** clarified certain items about how the Washington State Patrol does background checks for concealed pistol license applicants. And **HB 1465** closed a newly-opened loophole that would have allowed anyone with a physical concealed pistol license, regardless of the validity of that license, to acquire a handgun without undergoing a background check at the point of sale.

Two bills made important clarifications to existing law to ensure effective implementation: **SB 5027** established a process for issuing an Extreme Risk Protection Order against a juvenile and **SB 5954** funded the state’s bump stock buyback program.

The Alliance also supported two bills that were not directly related to firearms but that will make our state safer and help prevent gun violence. **SB 5514** requires law enforcement agencies to notify schools of any threats against the school or nearby schools. **HB 1732** re-works how our state addresses bias-based crimes; the bill changed wording to ensure that the court system refers to these crimes as hate crimes, expressly included gender identity and expression among the protected categories in the law, and significantly increased the civil penalty victims of hate crimes can seek.

These legislative successes, alongside the changes enacted after the passage of I-1639, will make our communities safer. Most notably, these evidence-based policies will impact two of the most troubling types of gun violence in Washington: firearms suicide and gun violence related to domestic violence. The tide continued to change in Olympia, demonstrating that the “orange wave” is here to stay.



WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS



BRANNON, SCHENTRUP, HAYES, & JOHNSTON

The Alliance, Foundation, and Victory Fund Boards guide all the work we do. The Alliance for Gun Responsibility's 501(c)(4) board of directors governs our legislative advocacy programs while the Foundation's 501(c)(3) board governs our research, implementation, education, and programs work. The Alliance for Gun Responsibility Victory Fund board governs our Political Action Committee which oversees candidate endorsements and political spending. Together, our volunteer board members serve as advisors, experts, spokespeople, and decision-makers for the organizations. This year, we were lucky to welcome five new members to the Foundation Board: Kevin Brannon, Sue Cary, Shalisa Hayes, Drew Johnston, and April Schentrup.

Kevin Brannon is a Special Agent with the Department of Homeland Security. He is also an Army veteran, serving with the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command and the U.S. Army Special Operations Command, earning a Bronze Star Medal.

Sue Cary is a founding member of Grandmothers Against Gun Violence, formed in 2013 in response to the horrific shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Sue retired in 2012 after a 25-year career developing affordable housing in both the nonprofit and private sectors.

Shalisa Hayes is the Executive Director of The Billy Ray Shirley III Foundation and is a Consultant at Shalisa Hayes, LLC. She also works full time in the healthcare industry. Shalisa lost her 17-year-old son Billy Ray to gun violence in 2011.

Drew Johnston is the Senior Government Affairs Manager at Vulcan, which was founded by the late Paul Allen. He served on the steering committee for the Initiative 1639 campaign in 2018 and continues to be a great advocate for the Alliance.

April Schentrup is an educator. She was a school principal in Florida before relocating to Washington. April lost her 16-year-old daughter Carmen in the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida in 2018.



501(c)(3) BOARD MEMBERS

Meredith Goldstein, President
 Matt Bellew, Vice President
 Cheryl Berenson, Secretary
 Sally Clark, Treasurer

Stacy Andersen
 Kevin Brannon
 Emily Cantrell
 Ben Carr
 Sue Cary
 Adrian Diaz
 Rory Graves
 David Hackney
 Shalisa Hayes
 Drew Johnston
 Linda Parrish
 April Schentrup
 Zach Silk
 Daniel Weiner

501(c)(4) BOARD MEMBERS

Leesa Manion, President
 Sally Clark, Treasurer

Steve Kessel
 Zach Silk
 Jaime Smith
 Scott Wang
 Caleb Weaver



INTERN & FELLOW PROGRAM

Our intern and fellow program introduces students and community members to the workings of a nonprofit, while also giving them experience on grassroots field campaigns. We recruit for this program from various community organizations like Community Passageways and universities across our state. Fellows and interns help with phone-banking, data management, communications, grassroots mobilization, event planning, video production, and many other projects during their time with the Alliance.

In 2019, the Alliance worked with 14 interns and fellows. Many interns remained post-internship to continue as a fellow with the next cohort. As our fellowships and internships come to a close, we work with participants to help find positions outside of the Alliance. Previous interns and fellows have gone on to start their own business, work in the legislature as a session aid, or work on electoral campaigns. One intern, Kaeshon Adams, went on to create his own transportation business, which we hired to transport volunteers from across the state to and from the capitol.



Interns & Fellows Meeting Rep. Shewmake



Youth Consortium Candidate Forum



Interns & Fellows At The 2019 Lobby Day



Interns Assisting At The H&GV Summit

“Over the year I spent at the Alliance, I experienced the majority of what advocacy has to offer. Speaking with volunteers, meeting with elected officials, canvassing to Get Out the Vote were the highlights of my time at the Alliance.
- Simreet Dhaliwal, Fellow



CHAPTER TEAMS

In 2019, we revamped our chapter team program by working with leadership from each team to identify interests and strategies for engagement. Our chapters provided integral support during the legislative session by recruiting volunteers in their respective areas, contacting legislators throughout the session, and traveling to Olympia to advocate for gun safety. Throughout 2019 we were able to establish six new chapters across the state; three on university campuses and three within our communities. University of Washington, Seattle University, and Gonzaga University all have student-based chapters working to engage their communities and campuses in gun violence prevention. Cowlitz County, Whatcom County, and East King County are now home to regional community teams working with their local governments to push for action on gun safety. Current development efforts are focused on starting chapters in Spokane, Yakima, and Vancouver.

“

The Alliance recognizes that we need to maintain a relationship with grassroots volunteers and supporters throughout the year, rather than just activating them when we need them during a legislative session or an initiative campaign. By keeping people informed, involved and engaged year-round, we keep our existing volunteers and we grow their ranks.

- Paula Barnes, Olympic Peninsula Chapter Lead



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Interns & Fellows At The 2019 Lobby Day



Interns Assisting At The H&GV Summit

SUMMITS



Domestic Violence & Firearms Summit



KCBH - Gun Violence Prevention Summit

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & FIREARMS SUMMIT - MAY 10th 2019
The Alliance hosted, in collaboration with the Regional Domestic Violence Firearms Enforcement Unit (RDVFEU) and the YWCA Pierce County, a Summit in Tacoma focused on the intersection of domestic violence and firearms. We welcomed speakers from the Spokane Police Department (SPD), the Crystal Judson Family Justice Center, and the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence.

The RDVFEU led two in-depth presentations on Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) and Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs) as well as a panel discussion on how they work together to secure and execute those orders.

The heads of the YWCA Pierce County and the Crystal Judson Family Justice Center spoke about their respective services and how Pierce County leads Washington state in instances of domestic violence.

To close out the day, Sgt. Ferguson of the Spokane PD and Theresa Phillips of the RDVFEU, led a session to identify barriers to replicating an enforcement unit similar to King County’s RDVFEU in Pierce County.

More importantly, the workgroup brainstormed many high-impact changes that could be implemented in the short term.

KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH - GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION SUMMIT - JULY 16th 2019

The King County Board of Health, in consultation with the Alliance, hosted a three-day summit to discuss taking a public health approach to addressing gun violence. The first two days of the summit took place in White Center and welcomed a diverse crowd, including many people living at the epicenter of gun violence in South King County.

The first night focused on the personal nature of gun violence. The first panel featured survivors who had lost loved ones in mass shootings, homicides, and firearm suicides. These survivors live with the trauma of gun violence every day and drove home the point that victims of gun violence are not only those that have been struck by bullets.

The Alliance for Gun Responsibility Foundation continued its tradition of hosting day-long Summits focused on a particular aspect of the gun violence crisis. In 2019, we also served as a lead advisor on a King County Board of Health Summit.

The second panel focused on youth, especially in black and brown communities, who are disproportionately the victims and perpetrators of gun violence. These experts work in the community to disrupt the cycle of gun violence.

The second night had more of a data-driven focus, and panels featured public health experts, law enforcement professionals, researchers, veterans, advocates, and leaders in the broader GVP movement.

The summit concluded on the third day at the Board of Health’s regularly scheduled meeting. The board reviewed the previous two days of testimony and heard from a panel of attendees, including the Alliance’s Program Director, Brandy Grant. The panel focused on next steps that community members and the King County Board of Health can take to help reduce gun violence in our neighborhoods.



HATE AND GUN VIOLENCE SUMMIT



HATE AND GUN VIOLENCE SUMMIT

HATE AND GUN VIOLENCE SUMMIT - NOV 12th 2019

With the threat of hate-based violence rising, the Alliance and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) co-hosted a summit addressing the intersection of hate and gun violence.

Joanna Mendelson, Senior Investigative Researcher and Director of Special Projects with the ADL’s Center on Extremism gave the keynote address. One of the biggest takeaways of her presentation: the vast majority of domestic terrorism murders in recent years have been carried out by right-wing extremists and guns are their weapon of choice.

The summit featured three diverse panels, which tackled various strategies for addressing the intersection of hate and gun violence: Creating Space in the GVP Movement, Policy Solutions to Gun Violence, and Program Solutions to Interrupt Cycles of Violence.

A few weeks after the Summit, an anti-Semitic shooting at a deli in Jersey City left six people dead including a police officer.

