



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York State shares a vision for a better world for all people and is committed to making our communities safer places to live – where crime, violence, and hatred have no place – and New Yorkers join with our nation and the global family of humankind to reaffirm the fundamental belief of all free and civilized societies that any act of violence committed by a person against another person, cannot and will not be tolerated; and

Whereas, our nation is too often horrified by news of tragic incidents that involve gun shooting, with many taking place in schools and on college campuses – and other large venues with open access to the public, such as night clubs, movie theaters, and shopping malls; names like Orlando, Newtown, San Bernardino, and Aurora evoke recent memories of tremendous losses for hundreds of families in these communities; and

Whereas, the issue of gun violence presents a growing problem and, each year, approximately 32,000 people in the United States are killed as a result of gunfire, with 11,000 of them victims of homicides involving firearms and 21,000 of them committing suicide by use of firearms; another 500 people in the United States are killed in accidental shootings and approximately 80,000 individuals are injured by gunfire; and

Whereas, by one count, in 2016 there were 384 mass shooting incidents in the United States, where no fewer than four people were killed or wounded by gunfire, with a staggering number of 48 gun shootings occurring in schools; and

Whereas, every 70 minutes, one person under the age of 25 in the United States dies because of gun violence and more than 6,300 such individuals die annually, including Hadiya Pendleton, who, in 2013, was killed at the age of 15 years while standing in a Chicago park; June 2, 2017, would have been Hadiya Pendleton's 20th birthday, and people across our country will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and pay tribute to Hadiya and other victims of gun violence, as well as their loved ones; and

Whereas, here in New York, we witnessed the tragic aftermath of gun violence that occurred on April 3, 2009 when 13 people were killed and four others were wounded as a result of a gunman opening fire at the American Civic Association, an immigration center in the City of Binghamton, in our state's Southern Tier region; and

Whereas, New York State has taken historic measures to combat gun violence with the enactment of the NY SAFE Act, giving the people of our state the toughest protections against firearms in the nation; other steps are being taken to safeguard people and communities across New York State, including the Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) initiative, which funds law enforcement agencies in 17 counties so they can reduce shootings and save lives, and 11 SNUG street outreach programs, which employ specially trained individuals and engage communities to disrupt the cycle of gun violence; and

Whereas, improving the safety and quality of life in our communities is a priority and all New Yorkers are encouraged to join in supporting the goals of National Gun Violence Awareness Month to focus attention on gun violence and the importance of gun safety; to wear orange – the traditional color of hunters' attire – to show that they are not targets; to concentrate on way to decrease gun violence during the summer months, when gun violence typically increases; and to call upon all citizens and community leaders to come together to discuss ways to make our communities safer;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim June 2017 as

GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this second day of June in the year two thousand seventeen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor
Melissa DeRosa