



Mourning with Newtown stop the violence

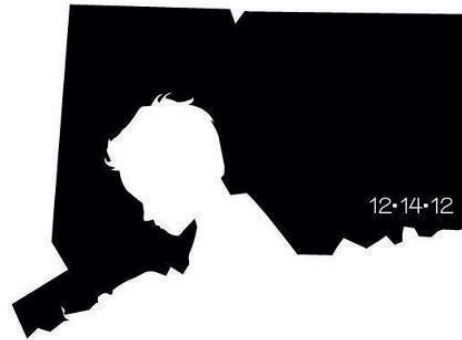
Standing with Newtown, CT

We have to work harder to make the world better. It seems like it's getting worse ... it just means you have to work harder, you have to work smarter, you have to get more people on board.

-Kanwardeep Singh Kaleka, whose uncle was killed during the Oak Creek, WI temple shooting, at a vigil for Newtown, CT victims

Communities around the world are mourning after the mass shooting in Newtown, CT. The tragedy is opening a significant dialogue about how to deal with violence in this country.

The residents of **Oak Creek, WI**, understand the pain these shootings cause. Just four months ago, a white supremacist shot and killed six people at the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin. On Sunday, Oak Creek resident held a vigil for the 26 killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown.



From Newtown, CT supporters Facebook group

Two children whose parents were killed in the Wisconsin temple shooting read aloud the names of the children who died in Connecticut on Dec. 14. For ways to help the residents of Newtown, visit [Newtown Patch for links and suggestions about how to give.](#)

Other towns in the Not In Our Town network like **Billings, MT**, and **Marshalltown, IA**, are planned vigils for the shootings as well. Two Billings churches, the Mayflower Congregational Church and the First Congregational United Church of Christ, co-sponsored "a Taize-style service, quiet and contemplative with prayers and candlelight," on Monday night, according to the *Billings Gazette*. The Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church held its own vigil in Marshalltown.



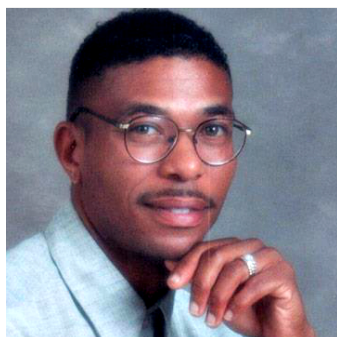
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Horrifically, again, the Kansas hate group known as the Westboro Baptist Church threatened to picket the funerals of the shooting victims. Resistance was swift: 7,500 people came together online to support the victims in a Facebook group, **Counter Action Against WBC Picketing Newtown Shooting Victims**. Members organized a "human wall of love."

In the face of this hate group, communities have developed powerful and innovative ways to respond. See Not In Our Town's video collection, "[Community Responses to Hate Groups](#)."

More Guilty Pleas in Jackson, MS Hate Crime Attacks



Senseless violence should not be tolerated regardless of race. But particularly when individuals are being targeted because of their race, that's a time in history in Mississippi we should move beyond.

-Derrick Johnson, president of the Mississippi NAACP

James Craig Anderson in another act of violence. Two more young men pled guilty on Dec. 5 to the hate crime killing of James Craig Anderson, who was beaten and run over by a gang of teenagers in 2011. [Read more.](#)

Two NIOS Courses for Educators



As the country grapples with how to address violence, Not In Our School Director Becki Cohn-Vargas offers two online university courses to help K-12 teachers create school campaigns to address hate, bullying and intolerance. Learn more about these [professional development opportunities at NIOT.org.](#)

