

# The National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc.

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## Press Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### NCBW Supports Common Sense Gun Legislation

Following the recent shooting at a Knoxville, Tennessee high school

ATLANTA, GA, April 14, 2021 – In the aftermath of the recent shooting at Austin-East Magnet High School in Knoxville, Tennessee, more attention needs to be placed on enacting tighter gun laws to address an even more alarming public health epidemic.

This latest shooting comes in the wake of the mass shootings in Boulder, Colorado and the Atlanta, Georgia area last month. Our condolences go out to the families that have been impacted by all of the shootings.

Unfortunately, Monday's shooting in Knoxville is just the latest incident connected to Austin-East High School this year. Since February, three current or former students have been shot and killed. Gun violence disproportionately impacts black and brown Americans.

NCBW has a chapter in Knoxville (NCBW Greater Knoxville Chapter). Our initiatives and programs are designed to make a difference. We partner with other local organizations and groups who share a common vision. Our local chapter is here to assist the community groups in Knoxville that are focused on putting a stop to this ongoing violence.

According to the Gun Violence Archive, a nonprofit organization that tracks gun violence in the U.S., last year more than 19,000 people have died in gun homicides. That's an increase of nearly 25-percent from 2019!

NCBW supports the executive actions to curb gun violence that President Biden rolled out last week. We think the President's actions are significant and important and will have an impact, but more congressional action is needed for substantial changes. We agree with the President that immediate action must be taken to reduce gun violence, domestic violence, and suicide by firearm.

*"There is a real need for community violence intervention and prevention programs. We are glad President Biden supports these programs and is actively seeking funding from federal agencies. In the meantime, passing legislation that will help to curb gun violence has to be a top priority for lawmakers on Capitol Hill,"* said Virginia W. Harris, NCBW National President.

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The National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Incorporated is a 38-year-old advocacy organization whose vision is that black women and girls will live in a world where socio-economic inequity does not exist. Thus, we advocate on behalf of black women and girls to promote leadership development and gender equity in the areas of health, education and economic empowerment. As a voice for millions of black women and girls in the United States, the Coalition believes in inclusion, respect, racial and social justice, integrity, accountability and collaboration.

*We operate as a not-for-profit organization exclusively for charitable, educational, and social purposes and are organized for tax exempt status under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code of 1954.*