

VOICES OF THOSE AFFECTED BY GUN VIOLENCE: (National Vigil for Victims, Families, and Survivors of Gun Violence, Washington National Cathedral, March 23, 2018)

*Voice 1: We gather on this day to remember people throughout our nation who have been affected by gun violence. Tears have been shed and communities have been shattered. We gather to remember and to weep and to declare that the time for change is now. You are invited to name your town, city or state at this time.*

*Voice 2: We gather to remember and to stand in solidarity with survivors and to declare our support for those who still struggle in the face of such trauma and grief. For their sake and for ours, we commit ourselves to building each other up and to moving forward towards a more peaceful world.*

*Voice 3: We come here to affirm that we are connected by an “inescapable network of mutuality” and “tied in a single garment of destiny. And whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.” For too long tears of frightened children, the cries of inconsolable mothers and fathers and the weariness of long suffering neighborhoods have been ignored. WE declare on this day that our nation must turn from this path of fear and destruction.*

*ALL: From so many heartbreaks comes forth a united commitment to go into the streets of our cities and towns and promote a way of peace and well-being for all people. With compassion sewn from the threads of sadness and horror, we will mend a nation tattered by gun violence and weave a new cloth of hope and peace together.*