



## **SCIC STATEMENT ON GUN VIOLENCE**

The South Coast Interfaith Council is committed to removing gun violence from our communities. While we support the second Amendment of the Constitution, we also recognize the need for common-sense legislation and a change in the national mindset surrounding gun ownership and the acceptance of a healthier public perception of the responsibilities and issues associated with gun ownership.

We acknowledge that a majority (67%) of gun owners do so for their own protection, and of that the majority of all gun owners keep a handgun. But, we also acknowledge that the pervasive “gun culture” seems to have a greater influence over society’s approach to conflict resolution than does non-violent or non-threatening means.

We therefore proclaim that if America is to lower the acts of violence involving guns, we must change the “gun culture” mindset while restricting the availability of guns for those who have previously committed violent crimes or have a history of mental illness that involves violence toward others.

We affirm that violence in all forms is anathema to religious doctrine and thought. And, that guns of all types in the hands of violent persons can only increase the chances of a gun-related death or injury. We therefore support the Brady Campaign ([bradycampaign.org](http://bradycampaign.org)) and its mission “to create a safer America by cutting gun deaths in half by 2025.”

The Brady Campaign seeks to reduce gun deaths by “keeping guns out of the wrong hands through three impact-driven, broadly engaging campaigns: (1) a policy focus to "Finish the Job" so that life-saving Brady background checks are applied to all gun sales; (2) to "Stop 'Bad Apple' Gun Dealers" – the 5 percent of gun dealers that supply 90 percent of all crime guns; and (3) to lead a new national conversation and change social norms around the real dangers of guns in the home, to prevent the homicides, suicides, and unintentional shootings that happen every day as a result.”