



INDIVIDUALLY WE POWER CHANGE.
TOGETHER WE POWER A MOVEMENT.

Statement from the Texas Council on Family Violence on the Worst School Shooting in Texas History

In the wake of another tragedy, we stand yet again in shock, outrage, and mourning. The shooting and killing at an elementary school in Uvalde insult our humanity and taint the safety and sanctity a school campus invokes.

Instead of a joy-filled summer break, the families of 19 young students and two teachers who were shot and killed in an act of senseless violence will grapple with an unimaginable grief. Their classmates and community will struggle to find a sense of normalcy in a place that feels forever changed.

We at the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) grieve the loss of life, send our most heartfelt condolences to the families who lost loved ones and redouble our commitment to work towards a safer Texas. Our hearts go out to these families, first responders, and to the community who will never be the same.

Our hearts break for the reality of what is lost. A son, a daughter, a grandchild, niece or nephew, a neighbor, a friend. A promise for tomorrow that is now a memory of a day frozen in time.

Our hearts break because we know this violence was preventable. However, we know to sit with our grief is not enough. We must channel this outrage and pain and lead the charge for change.

We know there is a link between mass gun violence and family violence. We know that the majority of mass shootings, just as this shooting in Uvalde, grow from a history of family violence. We know the risk of family violence homicide increases 500% with the presence of firearms.

And we know the most the most common victims in domestic mass shootings are children.

If this atrocity does not catapult us all to action, the murders will continue, and we will maintain a firm and resolute commitment to three key realities behind mass shootings:

- 1) There is an intricate link between family violence and mass violence.*
- 2) Policy and access to firearms contribute to the frequency and predictability of these tragedies.*
- 3) Prevention can make a difference in the root causes of violence.*

Words cannot adequately convey the shattering weight of this tragedy. For families, their community, and our society. But it will not break our strength and unwavering commitment to bringing an end to this vicious cycle of violence.

TCFV is committed to investing in violence prevention and we urge all Texans to join us.

If we can imagine a safer Texas, we can create it.