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LEADERSHIP  
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## **The Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance Gun Violence Research Action Team**

12-14-2022

Greetings to the Commission on Community Gun Violence Intervention and Prevention,

The Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA) is 50 diverse multi-faith faith communities and allied institutions throughout Greater Hartford organizing together for justice. GHIAA's interfaith members identify specific social justice issues to work on together using the process and principles of broad-based organizing. We work on issues for which there is common ground theologically; we do not work on issues that divide us doctrinally or otherwise. Our issues have been identified by over 200 house meetings in our congregations this year and we have heard overwhelmingly that the issue of Gun Violence keeps us up at night.

We organized a Gun Violence research action committee that asked ourselves the questions What do we know about gun violence? And what don't we know about gun violence? We set out to get a deeper understanding on the cost of gun violence.

Who are the organizations in the state working to end gun violence and what/who are their opposition. We deepened our understanding of what is needed in our research actions with Hartford Communities That Care, Mothers United Against Violence, Connecticut Against Gun Violence, Hartford Police Department, CT State Chief Prosecutor and Dr. Lisa Barao a criminal justice professor at Westfield State University.

In our research, we have found that funding for gun violence intervention and prevention in the state of Connecticut is not consistent enough to sustain these organizations and move the needle to end gun violence in the state of CT.

The Connecticut Commission on Community Gun Violence Intervention and Prevention launched in August of this year and was tasked to distribute \$2 million to prevention and intervention organizations across the state. This is admirable, but it is not enough.

During our GHIAA Power Summit December 7th, 2022 we had over 1,000 of our membership and Connecticut legislators Senator Doug McCorry, Senator Derrick Slap, Sen.

John Fonfara Rep. Maryam Khan, Rep. Tammy Exum, Rep. Joshua Hall all attended and support our ask to request funding from the state to support the work gun violence prevention and interventions organizations are doing on the ground, on the front lines.

In the 2023 legislative session, the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance will be fighting for \$20 million dollars to fund the on-the-ground, gun violence intervention and prevention work that organizations are doing in our major Black and Brown cities around the state for the next 3 years.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

The Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance Gun Violence Research Action Team.

Pastor AJ Johnson, GHIAA Organizer and Juan Fonseca Tapia GHIAA Organizer

**Rev. A.J. Johnson**  
Community Organizer

Center for Leadership & Justice

Office: 860-527-9860

[ajohnson@cljct.org](mailto:ajohnson@cljct.org)

[www.cljct.org](http://www.cljct.org)

47 Vine Street, Hartford, CT 06112