

PAWEEN USA REGION



PAN AFRICAN WOMEN'S ECUMENICAL
EMPOWERMENT NETWORK
WCC Ecumenical Theological Education Program
Pilgrimage for Justice & Peace

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**“We are the 21st century
embodiment of women’s
collective voices for the
empowerment of the
excluded.”**

HOLY WEEK STATEMENT OF LAMENT AND SOLIDARITY

Jeremiah 9:1, NIV

9¹ Oh, that my head were a spring of water
and my eyes a fountain of tears!
I would weep day and night
for the slain of my people (Children).

We, the Women of PAWEEN, cry out to God as the blood of our young people from Trayvon Martin and Hadiya Pendleton to Columbine, to the Chicago Streets, to Parkland Florida and beyond. We cry from the grave to end the gun violence in America.

God’s action in the Scripture points to responsible just actions for survival of the most vulnerable. Yet, in the U.S., in all its power and rich resources, response to gun violence against children is scarce and insufficient.

On this Holiest of weeks, we, the Women of PAWEEN, dedicate our Thursdays in Black (March 29, 2018) to the cause of ending gun violence. We will not remain silent in the midst of this injustice towards our young people who are being sacrificed by a country’s love affair with guns and a complicit Congress that allows the NRA to buy policy.

We, the Women of PAWEEN, stand with our young people and petition Congress, as we all demand an end to gun violence in America by passing Common Sense Gun Laws, title guns like cars, raise the age restriction to purchase guns, ban assault weapons and enforce stricter background check policies.

We, the Women of PAWEEN, pray for the families of the slain, the survivors who cannot un-see such tragedy and atrocities and the friends that are processing the loss. This issue exceeds the color of our skin. This nation should not rest until all of children, Black, Hispanic, Native American, Asian and White are equally protected from the violence of guns.

In solidarity for a peaceful and just society, PAWEEN-North America Region submits this ecumenical statement.