

Moms Demand Action Wear Orange Rally, June 2, 2023

More Guns Than People

There are more guns than people
in the United States,
as if a population of firearms
is vying with humankind.
Pistols, shotguns,
assault rifles, machine guns
flourish at expos and stores,
convention centers and online.
They occupy homes,
closets and drawers,
safes and strongboxes
like an evil army
slowly taking over.

What drives certain people in our midst
to become so soulless,
with guns stuck to their legs,
held against waists,
hoisted over shoulders,
creeping through fingers
and pushing them to aim and fire
and kill?

Fearful children wonder
why the right to carry any gun
is more important than
their safety at school.
What do we answer when they ask us
about Parkland, Virginia Tech,
Sandy Hook, Uvalde, Columbine?

These mass shootings cannot become news
that accompanies morning coffee each day.
The fallen become heroes,
but they should never have fallen.
No one should have to face
an AR-15 at school, university,
shopping center, supermarket,
anywhere.
Ever.

Our solace is that we have each other

to depend on, work together
to halt this army of guns.

Praise those who appeal for gun safety,
background checks, assault weapons bans.

Praise the elected representatives
who join in these demands.

Praise everyone who is guided
by the north star of nonviolence.

We sing songs to honor survivors,
hold hands with grieving families and friends,
light candles to remember the injured and fallen,
struggle together to end gun violence,
write poems to draw each other near.

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