



## **President Creates Office of Gun Violence Prevention**

*Never Accept Gun Violence,  
Or ANY Violence, as Normal*



Rep. Maxwell Frost, President Biden & Vice President Harris  
at White House ceremony announcing creation of an Office of Gun Violence Prevention.

On International Day of Peace (9/21/2023), Congressman Maxwell Frost (FL-10) announced that the Administration is establishing a federal Office of Gun Violence Prevention to advance common sense policy and coordinate prevention efforts across federal agencies. Rep. Frost's legislation led to the creation of this office. Congratulations to Rep. Frost, his staff and the gun violence prevention community. "This is a win for the gun violence prevention movement and a win for the American public," Rep. Frost said. A ceremony was held at the White House on 9/22/2023.

The Department of Peacebuilding Campaign (DoP) learned this news in a meeting with Rep. Frost's office on 9/20/2023. Throughout that week, the DoP Campaign conducted meetings with Democrats and Republicans promoting the DoP legislation (HR 1111) and other peacebuilding-related bills, including Rep. Frost's legislation for an Office of Gun Violence Prevention (HR 1699/ S 951). This was part of Fall 2023 Advocacy Days for peacebuilding. See DoP Overview.



We discussed this good news with Jon Carter, Rep. Frost's Legislative Assistant. This bill was the first bill ever introduced by Rep. Frost, the youngest member of Congress, and is a major accomplishment. Rep. Frost said gun violence prevention is a matter of survival. He introduced this legislation because he did not want to get shot. Rep. Frost is the former Organizing Director of March for Our Lives, a student-led organization created after the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL in 2018, when 17 people were killed.

on Carter, Rep. Maxwell Frost's Staffer,  
met with DoP Advocates on 9/20/23

“As a life-long organizer and survivor of gun violence, I introduced legislation to create the first-ever Office of Gun Violence Prevention back in March because **I refuse to ever accept that the senseless gun violence destroying our communities is normal ...** This office is the first critical step to tackling gun violence head on and **ensuring that the federal government can lead in the fight to live in a world where we are never losing another life because of gun,**” said Rep. Frost.

During the meeting with Jon Carter, we talked about the **parallels between the Office for Gun Violence Prevention and calls for a cabinet-level Department of**

**Peacebuilding to prevent violence of all kinds.** We talked about the intersectionality of gun violence, school violence, bullying and mental health issues, violence in families and communities, racism, violence at the international level and violence against the earth. AND we talked about the importance of educating our children and ourselves about peacebuilding and violence prevention skills. We should never accept ANY kind of violence as normal.

At the White House ceremony on 9/22/2023, **President Joe Biden said guns are the number one killer of children in this country. “This is totally unacceptable, this is not who we are.”** He urged acting as if we are the **UNITED** States of America and never giving up, never losing hope, that there is nothing we can’t do if we do it together.

President Biden is creating this first-ever White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention by executive order. The office will have **four primary responsibilities**, including 1) overseeing the implementation of last year’s Bipartisan Safer Communities Act; 2) coordinating support for survivors, families and communities impacted by gun violence; 3) identifying new executive acts to reduce gun violence; and 4) expanding the “coalition of partners” to get more state and local gun violence laws. **Together these steps will save lives**, said President Biden.