



**Church of God in Christ  
Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr.  
Statement on  
Stoneman Douglas High School Shooting**



While it is unfathomable that gun violence massacres would continue to occur in today's society, we must never allow ourselves to become desensitized by the number of acts of violence.

On Wednesday, February 14th, 17 people were killed and 14 others were critically wounded by the hand of a 19-year-old man.

As a country, we owe our children so much more than what has occurred in Parkland, Florida. We owe them environments in which they can feel safe, connected, cared for, loved, and where they can ultimately flourish.

Today, we earnestly pray for the parents and families who must now cope with yet another senseless act of brutality and violence. We grieve and mourn with them for each of the young lives lost, and we pray that Almighty God would comfort their broken hearts forevermore. **We have to do more to prevent these types of senseless acts...**

**These are the names of the 17 victims:**

Jaime Guggenburg  
Meadow Pollock  
Alyssa Alhadeff  
Nicholas Dworet  
Gina Montalto  
Luke Hoyer  
Martin Duque  
Alex Schachter  
Joaquin Oliver

Carmen Schentrup  
Alaina Petty  
Peter Wang  
Cara Loughran  
Helen Ramsey  
Chris Hixon  
Scott Beigel  
Aaron Feis