



**Welcome to Stand-Up Sunday, a day when faith congregations all across South Carolina are standing up for the 9:** the 9 killed by a gun bought with an uncompleted background check at Emanuel AME church, the 9 killed by guns in our state every five days, and the 9 out of 10 South Carolinians who want background checks on all gun purchases, according to Public Policy Polling's statewide poll published in September, 2015.

We know it's time to act when churches are hiring armed security to guard their congregations, when our teachers and children are hiding in lockdown drills to prepare for a gunman on the loose in our schools . . . and when families in some communities are fearful to walk to their neighborhood parks or corner stores. ***All this can continue only when moral people are silent.***

***Currently, background checks are not mandatory for guns sold online and at gun shows, about 40% of guns are being sold without a background check, and prosecution of guns sold illegally is slack.*** Bills have been proposed in our state legislature calling for extending the waiting period to make sure those with red flags can be vetted, and calling for thorough background checks to close the dangerous loopholes. Funding for the president's recent action will likely be tied up in Congress, leaving the fate of background checks once more in the hands of the states.

**Background checks work and don't impact the 2nd Amendment right to lawfully own guns.** States with thorough background checks see 46% fewer women killed with guns by intimate partners, 48% fewer law enforcement officers killed and 48% fewer suicides with guns.

**South Carolina is 11th in the country in gun deaths per capita and the sixth-leading supplier of crime guns to other states.** Thirty-two thousand Americans die each year from gunshot. This public health crisis is a moral crisis if the 90 percent remain silent, guns keep falling into the wrong hands and people keep dying.

Today we'll synchronize our hearts and voices, sign letters to our legislators and sign up to travel to the State House for a gathering of our state's faith communities when the critical moment comes in the legislative process. Please visit [www.standupsunday.org](http://www.standupsunday.org) and sign up to be contacted for the rally, and go to [www.gunsensesc.org](http://www.gunsensesc.org) to learn more and get involved.