



# Reconstructionist RABBINICAL ASSOCIATION

Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association Laments SCOTUS's Overthrow of State Gun Bans

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The Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association (RRA) laments yesterday's Supreme Court decision striking down common-sense state laws that prohibit or place limits on the carrying of concealed weapons, handguns, and other killing machines.

With this 6-3 decision, the US Supreme Court has broadly expanded the ability of gun owners to carry their weapons outside of their homes. In light of recent mass murders in Uvalde, Texas and Buffalo, NY and the loss of 20,000 Americans through gun violence just this year, this decision is painful and tone deaf to urgent pleas for action on gun control from a majority of Americans.

Jewish teaching places the preservation of life at the center of all we do. "Do not stand idly by the blood of your neighbor," reads Torah (Lev 19:16) and "Do not be joined with people of blood," comments Rabbi Abraham Ibn Era on this very teaching. "To ignore the current state of American gun culture and its rising toll of deaths by murder, suicide and even accidents is appalling and simply irresponsible," said Rabbi Elyse Wechterman, Executive Director of the RRA. "Our only hope now is that the US Senate will enact some legislation to break the log-jam in Congress and take steps toward a safer, more secure world."

The RRA is [on record supporting common-sense gun laws](#) requiring background checks, waiting periods, and bans on high capacity magazines. The RRA has signed supporting documents in favor of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act that recently passed the Senate and is currently before the House of Representatives that would provide small, but important steps to curb gun violence this country.

The RRA remains steadfast in our rejection of gun culture and the obsession with weapons in this country, which has become, in many cases, akin to idolatry and the worship of death. We understand the Talmud's [warnings about providing material for weaponry](#) to be just that, a warning against the dangerous idolatry of guns.

As faith leaders committed to the preservation of life who mourn the many people lost to gun violence in our communities we are appalled at today's decision and urge the leaders of our nation to find a better way.

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