

# WNDC

# Political Dispatch



JULY 2020

*From Ellen McGovern, Chair, Gun Violence Prevention Task Force*

## PROTESTS, COVID-19, AND GUNS IN AMERICA

Protests, COVID-19, and then add guns to the mix! Simultaneously Americans are in pain from the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, as well as in mourning for the senseless deaths of Breonna Taylor and others, and now most recently Atlanta's Rayshard Brooks, at the hands of police officers and their guns. Yet, still we hope to go forward together to bring justice to Black Americans and people of color. And, then to future-making changes, as we re-imagine new formations for our Democratic institutions, with a renewed and more resilient governance, and new styles of participation with all citizens.

## JUNE—THE MONTH OF GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND

#WEARORANGE

CONGRATS, WNDC MEMBERS!

The GVP Task Force salutes all WNDC members who participated with us and the many, many organizations here and around the country to draw attention to gun violence. We must come together as a nation and restore safety and justice to our neighborhoods and streets for African Americans, People of Color, and all people everywhere.

## 2020 ELECTIONS

The GVP Task Force, with the support of our Task Force member Shelly Livingston, will collaborate with WNDC's GOTV Task Force and Winning Wednesdays in organizing a program that highlights the US Senate PAC. Yes, let's take back the US Senate like we took back the US House in 2018! It can be done. We just need to work together and bring others along with us. GVP + Elections = success! Reminder: key states are Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Maine, North Carolina, and Texas. Check the WNDC website for Election activity updates throughout the summer!

## LEGAL ACTION

As we write this July Newsletter, the Supreme Court has made landmark decisions on LGBT issues: employers cannot legally fire or refuse to hire people LGBT employees for sexual orientation or gender identity, finally offering protections for LGBT employees. However, the Court side-stepped gun rights issues this term. The justices decided not to add "new disputes" under the 2nd Amendment per *The Hill* newsletter (6/15/20) over the right to carry a firearm in public and others. Giffords said, "This is a win for public safety and a loss for the NRA."

## FEDERAL LEGISLATION

To date, no legislation on gun safety has been sent to the Senate floor. Majority Leader McConnell must go! When Joe Biden “surrogate” Representative Abigail Spanberger, D-VA, was asked at our sister organization—Montgomery County, Woman’s Democratic Club—in mid-June, what should be the first bill to go to the Senate floor, she strongly voiced the popular, bipartisan HR 8, the Background Checks bill! We stand together!

## GVP TASK FORCE

The GVP Task Force convenes a Zoom meeting on Thursday, August 13 at 5:30 pm.

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*From Karen Pataky, Chair, Health Policy Task Force*

### THE PUBLIC POLICY AND POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE OF THE WNDC AGREE: RACISM IN AMERICA IS A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.

Black Lives DO Matter:

Too many Black Lives have been extinguished by guns, environmental degradation, lack of health care resources, inadequate healthful food options, and employment that forces people of color to be exposed to COVID-19.

ENOUGH!

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*From Elizabeth Spiro Clark, Chair, Human Rights and Democracy Task Force, Public Policy Committee; and Shelly Livingston, member, Public Policy Committee*

### CALL TRUMP OUT ON FACILITATION OF CHINA'S CONCENTRATION CAMPS FOR UYGHURS

John Bolton's revelations include President Trump telling Chinese President Xi Jinping, in a 2019 G20 meeting in Osaka, that he supported Xi's building concentration camps for the Uyghur ethnic group. Now that Bolton's book with that revelation is coming out, Trump has rushed to call for sanctions in the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2020 he signed June 17. His action—and change in his policy—is obviously to create public amnesia about the murderous cruelty that his friendships with dictators encourages.

The House and Senate approved the Act in May. It directs Trump to identify and sanction individuals responsible for abuses of minority groups. That is a laudable goal, but President Trump is a top suspect. Please let your members of Congress know that you support an investigation of President Trump's support of this human rights disgrace.

You can reach your Member of Congress by calling the Capital Switchboard at 202-224-2131.