



Inspired by Young Voices

Following the Parkland Shooting

MESA AND JUSTICE TEAM OFFER SUPPORT

We have been reminded over and over again since the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on February 14 that it is the youth of our schools and our country that provide clarity, honesty and leadership at times like this. Watching the words and actions of young women like Emma Gonzales, <http://bit.ly/2BJ1oBB>, offers hope to eliminate the increasing issue of gun violence in our schools.

As Mercy teachers, you are working each day to keep your students safe, answer their questions, and provide comfort and support. The foundation you have laid in classes, campus ministry and engagement around the critical concerns is fostering leadership like Emma's in your own Mercy students. Our Mercy heritage calls us to prayer, continued reflection on root causes and action—which is no doubt being lived out in your classrooms and hallways around gun violence and nonviolence this week.

As your students look for outlets or decide how to participate in some of the upcoming student-led initiatives, MESA and the Extended Justice Team of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas would like to encourage them and offer moral and educative support and resources. We hope to support your students' ability to engage in solidarity and action with the students of Florida.

Specifically, on [March 24](#), the “Never Again” movement has organized the “[March for Our Lives](#)” in Washington, DC, with partner marches in cities across the country. For those motivated to travel to Washington, we recommend:

- **Coordination of Mercy students to meet each other at a designated location, wear their Mercy gear, and march together**
- **Prayer and reflection materials** for any students who travel to DC, march locally or want to express solidarity in another way. These resources can provide shared experiences across Mercy and connect to our critical concern of nonviolence.
- **Training or specific resources around lobbying** that might be useful to your students to support their interests and initiatives

**Please have your student or faculty leaders let us know if they plan to attend and need these resources.
Email mconley@sistersofmercy.org.**

We are ready to serve you and your students. We also look forward to hearing how they are accepting the invitation of their peers to raise their voices and move forward together. **Please send any photos or reflection pieces to mesa@sistersofmercy.org.**

In partnership and hope,

Mercy Education System of the Americas & The Extended Justice Team