

# National Black Church Initiative

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July 23, 2012

**For Immediate Release**

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## **National Black Church Initiative Joins Michael Bloomberg, Federal, State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies, The Brady Center, The Police Foundation and Scores of Others Who call on this Nation to Create a Comprehensive Gun Control Policy**

*We denounce President Obama and Mitt Romney for having no gun control policy*

**Washington, D.C.**— The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) a coalition of 34,000 churches spanning 15 denominations and representing 15.7 million African Americans joined with law enforcement and advocates to call for a comprehensive gun control policy to help stop the slaughter in our community. The Black Church provides instant credibility to this debate on gun violence because of the amount of carnage that we see on a daily basis in and around our communities. According to the Bureau of Justice, the Black community loses more than 9,000 men and woman each year to gun violence. And young black males die from gun violence at a rate 2.5 times higher than Latino males and eight times higher than white males. Additionally, gun injuries are suffered by black teens at a rate ten times higher than white teens. No community can take this violent assault on its character and soul and remain hopeful in the future. The reason why the Black community continues to be ignored on the issue of gun violence and other issues is because the general public is comfortable with the suffering and the humility that the Black community suffers on a daily basis.

We will not take this any longer.

President Barack Obama, Mitt Romney and every administration since have tolerated the senseless violence in the African American community. We denounce America for its cold heartedness towards gun violence in the African American community. There has been no comprehensive plan by any Federal or state agency to stop black on black crime because they simply do not care.

We are particularly ashamed of President Obama and his lack of a comprehensive gun policy on this issue. The Brady Center gives the President a “F”. The Black community may not vote for him during the 2012 Election because he has allowed the carnage to continue and supports those who buy assault rifles that have 100 clips of ammunition to them—like James Holmes, the admitted gunman in the Aurora, Colorado massacre on July 20.

This is an opportune time to call for a three-point plan to stop gun violence in the African American community:

1. We need a comprehensive plan over the next 10 years to stop this violence.
2. We need to make mental health services available to intercity youth on how to work through their anger.
3. We need a ban on all assault weapons.
4. We need \$300,000,000 to deal with intercity violence throughout the country.

The Rev. Anthony Evans, President of NBCI says, “We have seen this carnage before. America has and always will be the most violent society in the world while claiming to be the most civilized. This is moral hypocrisy on behalf of this country. Violence and being civilized are philosophically opposite to one another. We have warned America before<sup>1</sup> that they must take a hard look at their young white males who have consistently over the last 100 years of this country’s history committed some of the most heinous mass murders the world has ever seen. The young white male must become an object of concern for all of us. He needs help.”

### **About NBCI**

NBCI is a coalition of 34,000 African American churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI’s mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches and the public. The National Black Church Initiative’s methodology is utilizing faith and sound health science. The National Black Church Initiative's purpose is to partner with major organizations and officials whose main mission is to reduce racial disparities in the variety of areas cited above. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the-box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI’s programs are governed by credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work.

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<sup>1</sup> Press Release, NBCI Mourns the 68 Lives Lost in Norway: The Black Church Stands with the Citizens of Norway, Aug. 4, 2011.