Fill in the blanks. It's the same mass shooting story, over and over. How long will we let the story repeat itself?

By Manuel Oliver

After we lost our beautiful son Joaquin "Guac" Oliver in the Parkland shooting on February 14, 2018, our life changed forever. We will never be the same family, and instead of fluctuating between grieving, sadness and frustration, we decided to find the most effective way to send the right message to society—a message that could save lives and disrupt the norm of passive activism.

We've been keeping track of each mass shooting. When we started our research in early 2018, there has been an average of a mass shooting every 12 days.

The same horrific scenes, the same broken lives, the same sickening news.

The same nonsense epidemic that only happens in our country.

So, at Change The Ref, we've simplified it for everyone: A mass shooting article that fits every single event that took place in the past two years—and is so generic, it works for any shooting.

All that one has to do is fill in the blanks—that's the point we've reached in this country.

The question is, how long will we allow the story to repeat itself? How many families are wondering and waiting to know if they'll suffer the loss of a loved one like we have?

We refuse to accept this as the inevitable. We won't play this game the way it's been played for decades. We will use the power of creativity and even irony to empower.

In the two years since we lost our son, 80,000 more have lost their lives to gun violence. This fill-in-the-blank article template is our statement.

Our mission is to empower the youth through art and creativity and motivate all to understand the urgency of voting for ethical leaders who can affect gun violence. Not Blue, not Red, but Ethical.

Visit ChangeTheRef.com, donate and learn how you can make a real difference.

Together, we can change the news.

17 dead in shooting at a high school in Parkland, FL. Suspect in custody.

A suspect targeted people and opened fire with an assault-style weapon, according to law enforcement sources.

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February 14, 2018

Another mass shooting took place in America — this time, in Parkland, FL — adding to the list of the deadliest mass shootings in the nation's modern history.

A nightmare unfolded Wednesday at 5901 Pine Island Rd after a former student opened fire with an assault-style weapon, police say, killing 17 people.

It was the 5th American mass shooting in 2018.

Police said the suspect, Nikolas Cruz, was in custody.

At a news conference, local authorities said the motive for the shooting was unclear.

Eyewitnesses recounted a terrifying scene: "When we first heard the shots, we had no idea what was happening until everyone started running," one survivor said.

Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said in a statement, "Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and loved ones of the victims." The Vice President also sent his condolences.

President Donald Trump said he "grieves for the terrible loss of life and sends support and love to everyone affected by this horrible attack."

"In the aftermath of this tragedy, we must come together and take action to prevent these tragedies in the future. We cannot accept this violence as normal," said the Florida Governor, Rick Scott.

Hundreds of Parkland residents stood and bowed their heads together at a vigil for those killed in this high school mass shooting.

This is a developing story.

10 dead in shooting at Santa Fe, TX in a high school. Suspect in custody.

A suspect targeted people and opened fire with a shotgun and a revolver, according to law enforcement sources.

May 18, 2018

Another mass shooting took place in America — this time, in Santa Fe, TX — adding to the list of the deadliest mass shootings in the nation's modern history.

A nightmare unfolded Friday at 16000 Hwy 6 after a student opened fire with a shotgun and a revolver, police say, killing 10 people.

It was the 10th American mass shooting in 2018.

Police said the suspect, Dimitrios Pagourtzis was in custody.

At a news conference, local authorities said the motive for the shooting was unclear.

Eyewitnesses recounted a terrifying scene: "When we first heard the shots, we had no idea what was happening until everyone started running," one survivor said.

Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said in a statement, "Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and loved ones of the victims." The Vice President also sent his condolences.

President Donald Trump said he "grieves for the terrible loss of life and sends support and love to everyone affected by this horrible attack."

"In the aftermath of this tragedy, we must come together and take action to prevent these tragedies in the future. We cannot accept this violence as normal," said the Texas Governor, Greg Abbott.

Hundreds of Santa Fe residents stood and bowed their heads together at a vigil for those killed in this high school mass shooting.

This is a developing story.

22 dead in shooting at a Walmart in El Paso, TX. Suspect in custody.

A suspect targeted people and opened fire with a WASR-10 rifle, according to law enforcement sources.

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August 3, 2019

Another mass shooting took place in America — this time, in El Paso, TX — adding to the list of the deadliest mass shootings in the nation's modern history.

A nightmare unfolded Saturday at 7701 Gateway Blvd after a white man opened fire with a WASR-10 rifle, police say, killing 22 people.

It was the 19th American mass shooting in 2019.

Police said the suspect, Patrick Crusius, was in custody.

At a news conference, local authorities said the motive for the shooting was racism.

Eyewitnesses recounted a terrifying scene: "When we first heard the shots, we had no idea what was happening until everyone started running," one survivor said.

Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham said in a statement, "Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and loved ones of the victims." The Vice President also sent his condolences.

President Donald Trump said he "grieves for the terrible loss of life and sends support and love to everyone affected by this horrible attack."

"In the aftermath of this tragedy, we must come together and take action to prevent these tragedies in the future. We cannot accept this violence as normal," said the Texas Governor, Greg Abbott.

Hundreds of El Paso residents stood and bowed their heads together at a vigil for those killed in the Walmart mass shooting.

This is a developing story.