



They See Blue® Texas calls for greater action on gun safety following tragic suburban Dallas mall shooting

DALLAS, MAY 8, 2023 — The mass shooting Saturday at the Allen Premium Outlet Mall in suburban Dallas that killed eight people and injured seven others has greatly distressed the South Asian community. Among those killed was Aishwarya Thatikonda, a 27-year-old South Asian engineer, who came to the U.S. to live her dream.

Our hearts at They See Blue® Texas break for the families of the victims of this senseless tragedy.

"Our state is once again grieving the loss of precious lives lost to gun violence and has left us shaken as this incident has hit so close to home," said Swati Joshi, board member and Texas Chapters Lead of They See Blue®. "The Allen incident brings to the forefront the failure of our leaders to sensibly regulate guns."

This horrific shooting is another failure by Gov. Greg Abbott and Republican leaders in the state legislature, who refuse to enact reasonable gun laws to protect Texans. In fact, they have made it easier for people to buy guns. No questions asked. This year, there have already been seventeen mass shootings in Texas. Yet, lawmakers are sitting on their hands, content with issuing their "thoughts and prayers."

This is not just Texas's problem. Across the United States, Americans have witnessed 208 mass shootings in 2023, according to the Gun Violence Archive. The public — including the South Asian community in Texas — is under threat. We are no longer safe in malls, schools, churches, movie theaters. In fact, we are not safe anywhere!

Enough is enough. We have one solution available to us. Every American citizen of South Asian origin can VOTE in EVERY election and unseat politicians who refuse to deal with gun violence even though the vast majority of the public wants pragmatic regulations. We must become more active in our local, state, and national politics and make an impact by electing Democrats up and down the ticket. This is where They See Blue® Texas can help.

Take your first step now! Join They See Blue® Texas and volunteer at <https://www.theyseeblue.org/join>