

# VIDAS ROBADAS REMEMBERS LIVES STOLEN BY GUN VIOLENCE



Vidas Robadas (Stolen Lives) is a Texas Impact project focused on addressing gun violence. Through memorializing victims of gun violence, Vidas Robadas localizes and makes visual the reality of gun violence for communities across our state.

## 1 CONNECT

congregations, universities, advocates and Texans across the state



## 2 ENGAGE

communities to learn with the reality of gun violence in their neighborhoods



## 3 MOBILIZE

our partners to join city initiatives aimed at reducing gun violence and TO HEAD TO THE TEXAS CAPITOL IN 2025 AND DEMAND LEGISLATIVE ACTION



# ABOUT VIDAS ROBADAS

Vidas Robadas is a state-wide installation campaign, where congregations, universities, and any other interested location display t-shirts that name or represent victims from their community whose lives were stolen by gun violence.

This project seeks to connect the various silos of advocacy and violence prevention and to unite communities of faith with other advocates to create positive change. The project starts with municipal initiatives, connecting city leaders with advocates to enact gun violence reduction measures.

But we can't stop there. Vidas Robadas will be active up until the Texas legislative session in 2025, where all of our partners and allies across the state will head to the capitol to demand legislative change.

Gun reform is hard, especially in Texas. But not impossible. We have seen progress this past session that would have been impossible years prior. We have to capitalize on this moment. Lives depend on it.



# HOW TO HOST AN INSTALLATION

1

EMAIL TEXAS IMPACT AT [BOBBY@TEXASIMPACT.ORG](mailto:BOBBY@TEXASIMPACT.ORG)  
OR SCAN THIS QR CODE



2

DECIDE HOW MANY SHIRT MEMORIALS YOU CAN DISPLAY

- Shirts are usually either hung along clothesline or placed on PVC pipe and rebar frames, but we can change based on needs. Shirts are usually about 3 ft wide. On frames they need about 4x3 ft of cubic space and stand at 4ft tall.

3

CREATE AND INSTALL THE T-SHIRT MEMORIALS

- For victims of homicides and accidents we write their name, date of death, and age on a color shirt.
- For victims of suicide WE DO NOT NAME THEM. Due to the sensitivity of the issue and family's privacy we use white t-shirts and use blue markers (blue is the color of suicide prevention) to write "Otra Vida Robada" or "Another Stolen Life" in leu of their name, followed by "Suicide Lifeline: 988"
- Suicides continue to make up the majority of gun related deaths so we ask locations to display half white shirts and half color.

4

HAVE A PRESS RELEASE

- In order to keep attention on the issue and get more parties involved we ask every location to have a press release to announce the launch of their installation. Texas Impact and local partners will help with logistics.

5

CONNECT WITH OTHER INITIATIVES

- There are often other events by Texas Impact or other partners related to gun violence happening at the same time. STAY INVOLVED. A major part of this project is to connect with other advocates and city initiatives. See what your city officials and other organizations are doing to reduce gun violence.

6

GO TO THE CAPITOL

- The culmination of all of this work will be in 2025 when WE WILL TAKE ALL THE SHIRT MEMORIALS FROM ACROSS THE STATE TO DISPLAY AT THE CAPITOL. City initiatives are great, but we have to advocate for legislative change at the state level. The exact date will be determined later.





## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### Where do the names on the t-shirts come from?

Usually from the County Medical Examiner's office. Texas Impact usually asks for names from 2018-Present

### Where do the materials come from?

The t-shirts are typically ordered online by Texas Impact. The materials for the display stands (rebar, PVC, clothesline) come from local building suppliers.

### How much does it cost, and who pays?

Each t-shirt and display-post set costs about \$10. The project is funded by donations.

### How long does the installation stay up?

Typically a host congregation would keep a display for 6 weeks and then rotate it to another host congregation. The city-wide installation is intended to stay up for several weeks, rotating through many congregations. Typically a congregation displays 50-100 t-shirts, but it is up to the congregation how many they want.

### How many congregations can participate?

As many as possible from every faith and every corner of the state.

### Is it just the installation? Or are there other actions for congregations?

Texas Impact is seeking to create opportunities for education and engagement. Forums and event are in the works and partnerships are welcome. The end goal is to rally all partners, friends, allies in Austin for the next Texas legislative session in 2025 to demand legislative action to reduce gun violence.

### How does the installation help drive change?

Making the specificity (names), magnitude (number), and bodily reality (shirts) of gun violence victims visible to community members opens new avenues for conversation. As Houston continues a multi-pronged effort to reduce gun violence and promote responsible gun ownership, the installations can give residents a point of intersection.

### What are congregations responsible for?

Congregations are responsible for set up and tear down of installations, care of the installations, and to hold a press release for the installation. Texas Impact will help with press releases.

### When is this installation proposed for?

October 2023 - January 2025

