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Statement of Esta Soler, President and Founder

Futures Without Violence

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## **Mass Murders in San Jose Another Horrifying Reminder of the Need to Keep Guns Away from Abusers**

“This is a terribly sad day for San Jose and for the nation, as another community is shattered by a brutal, senseless mass shooting. We mourn all those lost in the workplace shooting at a rail yard in San Jose yesterday. Nine families will never be the same. We know the pain is felt by victims of past mass shootings as well, that they too are suffering anew because, once again, a man with a history of violence toward women was able to access semi-automatic guns, which can take scores of lives in mere seconds.

“Here at FUTURES WITHOUT VIOLENCE, we used to talk about ‘day three’ – the time when news stories tended to expose the perpetrator’s history of domestic violence, sexual assault, or other violence against women. Now sometimes that information comes to light more quickly, but no less often. As was the case in San Jose, many of those who commit mass murder have a history of gender-based violence that went largely unaddressed.

“If we are serious about stopping these shootings and making our communities safe, we must take reasonable actions to keep guns out of hands of people with documented histories of violence, do more to stop violence against women before it escalates, and help children exposed to violence recover and heal from the trauma. These horrific mass shootings are not inevitable, but we can only begin to stop them if we recognize the correlation between domestic abuse, mass shootings, and gun violence, and respond with bold policies that protect and heal.”

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### **ABOUT FUTURES WITHOUT VIOLENCE:**

For more than 30 years, FUTURES has been providing groundbreaking programs, policies and campaigns that empower individuals and organizations working to end violence against women and children around the world. Striving to reach new audiences and transform social norms, FUTURES trains professionals such as doctors, nurses, judges and athletic coaches on improving responses to violence and abuse. FUTURES also works with advocates, policymakers and others to build sustainable community leadership and educate people everywhere about the importance of respect and healthy relationships.