



# NCCADV

North Carolina Coalition  
Against Domestic Violence

## **NCCADV Statement On Second Amendment Sanctuary Movement**

As an agency whose mission is to end domestic violence in North Carolina, the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCCADV) is deeply concerned about the Second Amendment Sanctuary movement that has gained momentum in our state recently. To date, 8 counties have passed versions of proclamations that declare the county to be opposed to laws and regulations that the counties themselves deem to violate the Second Amendment Right to Bear Arms, and more are considering doing so.

North Carolina has one of the highest levels of gun-related crime in the country.<sup>1</sup> Victims of domestic violence are five times more likely to be killed by their abuser when that abuser possesses a gun.<sup>2</sup>

Victims rely on local governments, including local law enforcement, magistrates, and judges, to enforce restraining orders, conditions of probation, and conditions of pre-trial release. These orders often contain restrictions on abusers' ability to possess a firearm, or orders that abusers surrender firearms.

Although these Second Amendment Sanctuary proclamations are symbolic in nature, the fact is that local governments make decisions about how to prioritize resources that directly impact whether or not there are available avenues for enforcing court orders for victims of domestic violence, including firearms protections found in those orders. These Second Amendment Sanctuary proclamations are a very real reflection of how communities are resourcing local government and law enforcement officials to do their jobs. It endangers survivors and their children when there are insufficient local resources dedicated to enforcing court orders for abusers to surrender firearms.

It is up to the courts, not local government officials, to determine whether laws violate our state and federal constitutions. NCCADV calls on anti-violence advocates and any citizens within these counties who care about the safety of survivors of domestic violence to join us in sharing these concerns with your local elected officials and educating the public about how they may impact survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children across our state. Here is a list of local governments who have upcoming votes on becoming a Second Amendment Sanctuary in the next few days. We urge local domestic violence and antiviolence activists in these communities to speak out about how gun violence impacts victims of domestic violence in our state.

- **Iredell County**
- **Stanley County**
- **Catawba County**
- **Haywood County**
- **Gaston County**
- **Alexander County**
- **Randolph County**

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<sup>1</sup> Center For American Progress, November 2019 North Carolina Gun Violence Report

<sup>2</sup> Everytown for Gun Safety, <https://everytownresearch.org/reports/guns-intimate-partner-violence/>