

Brady Music:	00:09	***music plays***
JJ:	00:09	Hey everybody. This is the legal disclaimer where we tell you the views, thoughts, and opinions shared on this podcast belongs solely to us, the people talking and not necessarily Brady or Brady's affiliates. Please note this podcast contains discussions of violence that some may find disturbing, but don't worry, you're not alone.
Brady Music:	00:45	***music plays***
JJ:	00:45	We're glad you're back with us with "Red, Blue and Brady," the podcast devoted to letting you know what's happened and what's happening and the gun violence prevention world. Today we're talking with Joan Peterson and amazing survivor writer and long-term advocate in the world of gun violence prevention. We're also breaking down books for children that explain lock down drills and honoring an amazing GVP hero and author. So welcome to the Brady podcast. I am so excited to talk to you. You're someone who from the minute we started talking about who to book on this podcast, people were giving me your name. You're beloved Joan! I don't know if you knew that, but.
JJ:	01:26	Oh well that's an honor.
JJ:	01:28	Would you like to introduce yourself for everyone at home listening.
Joan Peterson:	01:32	Sure. My name is John Peterson and I live in Duluth, Minnesota. I just recently completed my many terms as on the board of trustees of Brady, so last week was my last Brady board meeting, but I will still be very involved in a local chapter, which we formed a long time ago and I'm active locally and at the state level and the national level and I have been for many years. I'm, I guess I would call myself a community activist. I'm pretty active here in lots of other things besides the gun violence prevention, but that's my main passion.
JJ:	02:11	I just kind of put that together. Activist, is that just from the word of being active? I didn't even know out of all that we've been S I've been saying this word for 20 years and I didn't even think of that. I literally just had that out. Well, thank you Joan for putting that together for sure.
Joan Peterson:	02:29	Okay. I'd like to think I'm active to physically active and mentally active, but I am an activist.

JJ: [02:35](#) Well we're going to miss you on the board, but we're, I know that you've been doing gun violence prevention work for a long, long time before and after you got involved with the board here at Brady. We know that, that you've had a blog, you've been doing work at the community level and that particular particularly passionate about talking about PTSD and this threat of gun violence has really been causing PTSD for people all across America. Why do you think that PTSD is a symptom that we've been seeing in response to gun violence in America? And can you share us a little bit more of your own story too?

Joan Peterson: [03:18](#) Sure. Well, let me start with your last question first. Um, my own story is that my sister, her name was Barbara Lund, was murdered by her estranged husband in 1992 which is a long time ago. And yet it seems like just yesterday, um, this was during a period of a difficult divorce that had been ongoing, a separation that had been going on for years and things were not going well with the proceedings. And as happens way too often. And as we read about in headlines in the newspaper, I think there was just something yesterday, another woman shot and killed in a domestic shooting. It's, it's in the moment of anger, frustration, um, maybe a little bit of, um, sometimes people have a depression or something else going on in their lives. And if a gun is available, this is the solution I think to what people think are their problems.

Joan Peterson: [04:20](#) And in this case, my, I know deceased ex-brother-in-law said he thought he was shooting her lawyers, my sister's lawyers. So something happens to people in that moment. I can't identify with that. I don't know what it is. But it happens far too often. And guns seem to be the tool or the weapon of choice. And so that brought me to the movement of gun violence prevention and I can talk a little bit more about that. But as to PTSD, I think the whole country is suffering from PTSD right now from all of the mass shootings. I think we are all just in this mode of sort of fearful but also worried. And every time we see another mass shooting on the news or hear about one, we react kind of viscerally. And I know people in my town in Duluth had an event last spring where we had an almost school shooting.

Joan Peterson: [05:25](#) A man threatened to shoot up a school in Duluth. Nobody knew which one. The whole entire school district plus the private schools went on lockdown. Luckily a relative of this man happened to contact the police and so they found out who he was and where he was and arrested him in one of the high schools, the high school where I went to school, where my kids went to school and found a lot of weapons in his car and the whole town I feel suffered from PTSD. It was so shocking that

this happened here and I've talked to parents of kids in some of the other schools that weren't involved who said kids in like one friend of mine had a daughter who sent her a message on her phone. Like, I'm scared and I love you mom. So that to me is, is the PTSD that we're all suffering.

Joan Peterson: [06:17](#)

It's sometimes it's more outward, sometimes it's inside and we don't let it out. But it's there and I think it's, it's a phenomenon we didn't use to associate with victims of gun violence, but PTSD is now in the forefront with our veterans and people who have suffered trauma. So we're talking about it more and recognizing that gun violence victims do suffer from PTSD. So we've talked on this podcast before about over 4 million [inaudible] students have been through not lockdown drills, which means 4 million children have been introduced to this idea of dying in a mass shooting. It's very real. I know we had a speaker last June at aware orange event in Duluth, a young girl from Duluth who had, she's the one who texted her mother and she was, was horrified and, and several other students also talked about what it's like to be a student. One young man who is a work I got to know working through March for our lives in Duluth, said that his school actually had another lockdown after the one in April and he really said, am I going to be next? He really feared he was going to be next and that's just no way for our kids to live. It's no way for anybody to live, but what are we doing to our children when, when that's what they're thinking as they sit in in their classrooms every day and not knowing it can happen anywhere. It has happened anywhere and if we don't think it can, we should think again because these shootings do happen anywhere. It's a valid fear for this have. Yup.

JJ: [08:00](#)

And Joan, you mentioned in both the case of domestic violence and the almost school shooting in the Duluth area. You mentioned that often times people, there are some warning signs that some of these tragic shootings can happen. And I know that I've talked to you before about the role of Vicks in extreme risk protection order, right? And how that type of policy solution may save the life of Barbara and others when we possibly see some of these risks signs before a shooting can happen. Can you tell our listeners a little bit about extreme risk protection orders and why you've been advocating for them?

Joan Peterson: [08:47](#)

Well, sure. I think the case of the almost school shooting in Duluth is really like the poster child case for an extreme risk protection order because a relative of this man knew that he had some, actually it turns out he did have some mental health problems and knew that he had guns. Had we in Minnesota had

an extreme risk protection order. It wouldn't be possible for this woman to call on police officers to go to a judge and ask the judge to allow the police officers to remove the guns from the situation at least temporarily to prevent something that can happen. And I can see in many cases how that could work. I understand that people get concerned, you know that somebody is going to my own Congressman said, who is against extreme risk protection orders said, well what if my cousin in the Western part of Duluth calls police and says that I'm a danger or risk to myself or somebody else and the police come to take away my guns?

Joan Peterson: [09:53](#)

And we had a discussion about that because that's pretty rare. It's not going to happen. And I think there's a penalty written into the laws for that. But to me, erring on the side of safety is better than allowing somebody to keep those guns just because we, some people say they have a right to their guns, but they don't if they have the intent to use them to harm themselves or somebody else. And why would we not save lives if we could? So to me, these kinds of laws are of ultimate importance. I believe in, in my sister's case, you know, now that I know we didn't use to talk about that when I first started in this movement, but now that we know what these laws can do, it might've been possible for someone to have said, and even she said she was a little nervous about his guns, which I didn't know until after her death that a lot of things were revealed.

Joan Peterson: [10:51](#)

But could she have called? Could somebody else have called law enforcement and suggested that here was a man who was having a really hard time with this separation and a divorce. And we all know that the hardest time for a woman is when the most dangerous time for a woman is when she's trying to leave a relationship. And if there are guns around, it becomes not only dangerous but deadly because if it could happen in my family, to the person I knew as my brother-in-law who I never thought was dangerous, he didn't seem that way to me, but suddenly he was. And so we need to be thinking about that. We need to be proactive instead of reactive. Instead of saying, Oh my gosh, if only I had done that, I could have saved the life. So I, the whole idea of these laws is to be proactive and save lives rather than to be moaning and groaning and saying, if only I had done something.

JJ: [11:52](#)

I think there's a really big misconception. What other groups are, sometimes politicians will call red flag laws where people think that, I don't know that for some reason it's going to be like a national hotline where number gets dials and people pair troop into their house and take all their weapons away. It's not

like that. It's actually, it's a legal procedure so that if someone does make a false claim, you're right actually there is prosecution built in. Yeah. So it would be the same as if you're falsifying a, you need proof that this person is, is a danger to themselves or to others. So if someone is calling from across the state or from across a bunch of States to report if it's a valid claim, then ideally you should be getting then contact from law enforcement. You should be having your guns removed temporarily. You can get them back and, and I would say, you know, you should be then getting access to resources to help you. That seems like that would actually be ideal.

Joan Peterson: [12:50](#)

That would be ideal. But knowing what I know and what probably a lot of people know about our health care system has the resources to help people are few and far between and we aren't providing those resources either. And I know that the folks from the, the gun lobby always talk about mental illness and how we need to do something about mental illness. And I don't disagree with that. Every shooter is not mentally ill and every mentally ill person is not dangerous. But we all, we do have some folks with serious mental illness who shouldn't have access to weapons, but also they should have access to healthcare so they can get help with the illness that they're suffering or the anger issues. Often it's anger more than mental illness that is resulting in these shootings. And so we're not doing enough.

JJ: [13:42](#)

And Joan, I know that you mentioned your conversations with your Congressman in Minnesota and I know that Minnesota doesn't have an extreme risk protection order. So you're having those conversations at the state level. What are the reasoning that you hear from the other side when you are told no, the extreme risk protection order isn't a good idea both at the state level and also at the national level to which we're talking about in Congress right now.

Joan Peterson: [14:14](#)

Well, it's um, I guess similar to what what I said and that is fear that somebody is going to be accused wrongly. And so that's an excuse to me. That is an excuse. But there in fact was an opinion piece in the Duluth news Tribune that really upset me and I, I've already dealt with the editor of the newspaper about this. A man wrote his happens to be a professor or a teacher and he wrote an article about the anti gunners, he called us and he claimed that the red flag laws or an effort, the government to take people's guns away. So that extreme position is sort of the same as the government coming to take your guns, the government's coming to confiscate your weapons. And so that that is sort of an extreme view of things. So that's one. And the

other one is fear that the legal system isn't going to work the way it's supposed to so that the person won't get their guns back. Those are the ones that we've heard from the senators in Minnesota. And by the way, our Minnesota house passed the law in the last session as well as the background check passed the bill I should say. And the Senate refuse to take up the two bills. And so now we are working on the senators and those are the arguments that we're hearing.

JJ: [15:40](#) And you mentioned the, a little bit about Minnesota politics and what you're working through over the last couple of decades. Can you give us some information kind of about the history of gun violence prevention in Minnesota and what your role in it has been?

Joan Peterson: [16:01](#) Well, um, we started our million mom March chapter at the time in 2000 after several, quite a few of us had been to the March in Washington D C and came home inspired to start a chapter. So there was a chapter here in Duluth and in the twin cities as well, very active group of million mom March folks. We had vigils, we had rallies, we had meetings, we went to the Capitol in Minnesota to lobby for background checks. We're back to that background checks, background checks, background checks. We've been doing that for years. And then as happened and then there was a group called citizens for a safer Minnesota, which is not associated with a national group at all. And we, it's now called protect Minnesota. So our chapter did a bit of a sort of a hybrid. We work with protect Minnesota and Brady and so in early two thousands Minnesota brought up the conceal carry law, which started in Florida and then just started making its way around to all the other States and we were able to hold it off.

Joan Peterson: [17:10](#) We worked hard for several years. We managed to stop with our activism, I think stopped the legislature from passing a concealed carry law until a change happen in the leadership and the governor position. So governor Tim Pawlenty Republican and there was a Republican house, I think the Senate was Republican as well, managed to pass the concealed carry law. It, it kind of deflated our balloon in many ways. We had worked so hard to keep that from passing. We even got a local resolution of the Duluth city council. The mayor came to us and said, what can we do? Can't we do something about this? And we got a resolution passed that said that guns could not be carried in government buildings or in the cars of government workers and it passed. But then the concealed carry law passed at the state level. And because Minnesota has preemption, local communities cannot pass a law stronger than a state loss.

Joan Peterson: [18:09](#) So that just kind of went aside. And so after working that hard, it was really difficult to kind of keep the movement going and keep people active. And so we sort of lost some momentum and lost members. But then, you know, we had the red Lake shooting, I think that was in two, 2005 the red Lake school shooting. And we started to see more and more shootings and so we stayed active and we had many hearings on the background check bill and we're still at it. I mean we keep, we keep going every session but, but we have fought back some really bad bills like stand your ground. That was, there was an attempt to get that to pass and we've managed to keep some of the bad bills from happening. So that's kind of our, our history of working on, um, gun violence prevention.

JJ: [19:04](#) You know. Could you tell us a little bit more about Duluth and why you've sort of chosen to stay there and use that as the sort of the base seat of a lot of your advocacy?

Joan Peterson: [19:13](#) Duluth is an interesting city. Um, I've always thought of it is either the largest small city or the smallest. It's not a large city. It's about 80 to 85,000 people and I grew up in Duluth as did my husband. So Duluth is a very outdoorsy city. We're close to the North where we are on Lake superior and close to the North shore and the boundary waters canoe area where my parents had a cabin. So we're close to Canada. We're close to canoeing and hiking and camping. And so the woods are all around us now. Also be one of those cities where people will say, Oh, you're not from Duluth if you have to live here for a long time to be considered a Duluth lan. It's one of those kind of cities, but it's also a wonderfully active city culturally and politically. It's, it's just a really good place to raise children, man. It's a good place to live.

JJ: [20:13](#) And while you were in Duluth, you've been involved with a bunch of different organizations, both focused on gun violence and domestic abuse. What brought you to Brady?

Joan Peterson: [20:26](#) No, I think initially it was, we used to have a lot of national meetings when we first formed our chapters and so there were several of us from Duluth who fairly frequently traveled to Washington DC for the national meetings of chapters. And it intrigued me. I, I grew up as kind of a shy person, but sort of all of this brought me out a little bit out of my shell. And so I, I really kind of liked the idea of being involved on a national level where lots of things were happening. Eventually I was elected to represent the chapters as the chapter elected member of the board of Brady and we still have people every two years who are elected. And then I was asked to stay on as a board

member. I'm also very involved in the league of women voters and the Minnesota state league had a position on gun violence.

Joan Peterson: [21:19](#)

The league takes, has positions in once everybody votes on a position, that means that the league can lobby. Then on that position at the national level and the state level, the Minnesota league was very instrumental in coming up with a position on background checks and gun violence prevention and at that national convention that I attended, we got the national league to vote in favor by consensus of a position on to support background checks. And Sarah Brady was the speaker and I remember it was just everybody was in awe and a hush grew over the room and you know, Sarah walked on stage and it was like, wow, it's Sarah Brady. She was my hero. I just loved the fact that she worked so hard to pass. This was before actually the Brady background check bill was passed, but it was her. She inspired so many people because she just worked so hard to get that bill passed along with Jim of course.

Joan Peterson: [22:25](#)

And then when I became a board member, I remember the first meeting she attended. I just felt so honored to be in her presence. And the last meeting she attended, I think before she died, she happened to sit next to me at the meeting. Sarah is a feisty, was a feisty woman and word. We've heard she, she was, um, she gave her opinions and they were pretty blunt and there were a couple of times, you know, when she would disagree with something that the rest of the board agreed with or she would, she would provide kind of an impetus to change the way we were looking at things. She was pretty outspoken and I remember that about her, but she was also gracious and she had a great sense of humor. And I remember that about the one time I met Jim Brady too. He had a wonderful sense of humor.

Joan Peterson: [23:18](#)

I don't know how the two of them did this because I think life was really difficult for them. But somehow Sarah just kept going and going and going until right before her death. And she's so, she's really an inspiration to a lot of us. Well, and now you're an inspiration to a lot of people. I don't know about that. I'm happy if I've inspired people. I'm happy to have done that and I'm, I'm not going away. I'm going to keep doing it. This is because I think one of the things maybe you wanted to talk about was what, what turns victims into, into people who become active like this. And I think it's because it's the memory of the person who was killed. Our loved ones that makes us want to do this for, to keep somebody else from being killed, to keep somebody else's family from experiencing.

Joan Peterson:	24:15	Um, what my family experienced in way too many do. And my sister too was a very feisty woman. She, she was adventurous. She was a pilot, she was a downhill skier, a ski racer. Um, she was a beauty queen, she was an artist. She was like very athletic and, and very outspoken herself. And so I know, and I've said this before and I think others have said it too, that she'd be right there with me, you know, and she, she'd be cheering me on or she'd be doing it for me if it happened to me. So I think, I'm pretty sure that's why a lot of people are active. And because it's our stories that sometimes change the minds of some of our politicians. And I know that from having brought a photo of my sister once when I went to Washington DC to meet with my own congressperson representative Nolan who was supportive of background checks.
Joan Peterson:	25:16	But when I laid a picture of my sister on his desk, it just took him aback because there it is, you say the name, but if you see a face that goes with the name and that person was, was a vital part of your family, it kind of takes them a back and they don't always like to see those pictures because if you see a picture, it makes it too real. And so that's, that's what the voices of victims need to do. We need to keep raising our loved ones in front of people and saying, you know, Hey, this happened to me. She was a a member of my family and she's not here anymore. And it could happen to you. So let's do something.
JJ:	25:59	And then how would you, because you've, you've been involved in this field now for so long, fighting for Barbara, fighting for people like her, you know, and you've been vital to so many organizations as JP has said, you know, not just Brady, but like you're in project Minnesota, you're in the domestic abuse intervention programs, which I believe you even have a meeting for today. So I just, how two to maybe did the young activists, because increasingly, unfortunately we're talking to younger and younger victims who are now becoming younger and younger activists. And I guess what advice would you have for them on how to stay strong and energized but also how to take care of themselves to protect themselves? That
Joan Peterson:	26:42	is a good question. I've now, because of March for our lives after the Parkland shooting, I've had the chance to work with some of the young people in Duluth and they have inspired me actually when we first started, the ones who got involved were very impressive kids and really they needed us for support for the networks that we had for the people we could bring in. But when it came to the actual organizing of the March and organizing of the walkouts, they did it themselves. They wanted to do it themselves. And I was so impressed with that. And I still

am. Two of the young women that have worked with us were just named this week to something that our Duluth community does. Every year they pick 20 people under the age of 40 who are active in Duluth and, and have done something amazing and who will be the movers and shakers and to have these young people who are involved in March for our lives were picked.

Joan Peterson: [27:46](#)

One is still in high school. In fact, she's the youngest one who's ever been picked one of them. One young man is running for city council. Oh wow. So these are people who have such strong feelings at such an early age. I didn't, at that age, I don't think I had, I wasn't active. I didn't feel that way. But I am just impressed and I'm, I'm hopeful that this next generation is going to carry on where we left off. I mean they stand on our shoulders, but I feel like they're just amazing young people. But you'll also have to have a life and do other things and take care of yourself. And that's true. You can burn out. And I can see that some of them did burn out. So it's very important to do what, what charges you, you know, be active, active physically. I think have some hobbies, do other things, which, which I have always been able to do. So I can balance, I think my life of activism and being an advocate with my family, which is very important to me. We have a cabin where my kids and my grand children love to be take vacations, we do trips. I think it's really important you have to take care of yourself. And so I hope, I hope that they will do that.

JJ: [29:02](#)

Well. And you've done quite a bit of writing too, because I stalked your blog a fair bit in preparation for this.

Joan Peterson: [29:09](#)

Yes. Well, I have, I have a new platform. I have problems with my, uh, common gun sense.com. So I've, it's on a new platform. It's uncommon. Gun sense.me. So I've kept writing, somebody hacked into my account and it got really messy so I moved it over to a different platform. So I'm still writing and you know, I've, I think I've always been a pretty good writer and I've always wanted to write and I've just had so many thoughts about gun violence that I just felt a need to write them down. And when I first started my blog, I had a lot of like, I call them my gun guy, friends in air quotes who got on the blog and they started attacking me and I fought back and it was really interesting to fight back with them and sometimes they would leave and, and realize, you know, that I wasn't going to just let them run over me.

Joan Peterson: [30:09](#)

Sometimes they were, they would call me names, they would call my dead sister names and I would, I would even say, Hey, do you talk to your sister like this or your wife? Just because you

can put this down in writing doesn't mean you can intimidate me. Don't talk to me like this. And so whenever you put yourself out there, that's what happens in the age of social media is that your people will attack you and attack you viciously. But for the most part, I think they are far and few between. And, and they just, they just like to say things, but I don't consider them dangerous. Although one time I did call the sheriff. So, so yeah, writing does put you out there. And in a way I've kind of enjoyed it because it has honed my skills at talking about the issue and it's, it's made me go and research things and find out if what they're saying is true. And if it isn't, I come back at them and I give them what is true then tell them to come up with something different because what they just told me wasn't true. So I think it's, it's an interesting process to write your thoughts down and write about about, um, gun violence prevention, write about all kinds of issues and then wait and see what, what people are going to say.

JP:

[31:31](#)

And as you've kind of gone through researching, writing, advocating for, for so long in the gun violence prevention movement, what are the big inflection points that you've seen in the movement? What changes do you think have really been impactful for the movement and shifted it in a way that's gaining more traction?

Joan Peterson:

[31:55](#)

Well, I first want to talk about a negative change. I think passing the concealed carry laws and in some States the stand your ground laws was a change that it made a change in the gun culture because it made people think it was okay to carry their guns anywhere they went and sometimes open carrying. And I, I think that that was a change that was a real negative in our society. Um, and as a result by, I believe we have seen more public shootings because you don't know if a person is carrying a gun is the good guy with a gun as Wayne Lapeer likes to talk about or the bad guy with the gun. And so bring their guns into public places because they're allowed to carry. And I think that that was a change in the movement. And of course it was one of the major, um, focus points for the NRA.

Joan Peterson:

[32:54](#)

And the gun lobby is the, that's what they wanted. They want, they really want everybody to be carrying a gun. They want everybody to have one and to be carrying a gun and in their minds that will, that will make us all safer when indeed we know that it's the opposite, that more guns have made us less safe than more guns in public places certainly have made us less safe. So to me that was a turning point. Um, that went the other way. And, and another one was allowing the assault weapons ban to lapse. A lot of people said, well, it didn't make a

difference anyway. So what's the big deal? It did make a difference. As it turns out, crime, gun crimes and shootings using assault weapons went down during the period, that 10 year period. But we hardly had time to assess, um, the success of it before it was done.

Joan Peterson: [33:45](#)

And now we see what happened. As a result, we are seeing many more shootings, mass shootings, and we are seeing a lot of them with air 15 or AK 47 type assault rifles. So to me those were negative turning points, but it was the Parkland shooting. And I'm pretty sure a lot of people will tell you that same thing. I think the Parkland shooting change everything the Sandy hook shooting did in many ways because other groups formed, several other groups formed after the Sandy hook shooting and have made their voices heard, which is fantastic. But it was when the students were old enough to speak up for themselves. And when Emma Gonzales stood up in front of that crowd and said, we call BS, that was inspiring to the adults because we have always felt like, we couldn't say that, but we've always felt like, Hey, we better not talk like that.

Joan Peterson: [34:41](#)

You know, we have to be polite. And those students made it easier for the adults to be more forceful in the way we're talking. And they just, they changed everything I think. I think Parkland has allowed the movement to move forward in ways that I don't think we would have if it hadn't been for that shooting. And that's, that's a terrible health thing I guess to say because a mass shooting has brought our movement to a different place, but it should have brought us to a different place after Sandy hook or after Columbine. And it didn't, but it was maybe the social media too as made a difference. But, um, it was the March for our lives, the Parkland kids. That changed a lot I think.

JJ: [35:28](#)

And Joan, one thing that I think as an organization we've been talking more about is trying to help build coalitions and find ways to add value by being intersectional with other issues that really impact on violence, particularly domestic violence, crime and justice, criminal justice reform. Um, and I know that you work across issues and across organizations. What would you say to someone who is newly getting involved in the gun violence prevention movement and the importance of building those coalitions within gun violence prevention and also between issues?

Joan Peterson: [36:16](#)

It's, it's a you, you can't, we can't do it by ourselves. We've been out there trying to do it by ourselves for years and then we're perceived as the anti-gun groups. But once you get other people

to join you who have voices and other parts of the community that kind of disperses that kind of takes away that sort of idea that we're this one group doing things. And so, you know, the league of women voters, which has a lot of other issues but has a position now at least in Duluth and I think in other places helps us to get people to events. They publicize their events, they come out, they speak in favor of them. Faith communities are really important. Um, we've done a lot of work here with the local synagogue and um, my own minister has spoken at many events. The faith community is, is key law enforcement.

Joan Peterson: [37:13](#)

Of course we've had, we had a woman speak from the university here in Duluth who came and spoke at the event. We had an August after the two mass shootings and have veterans for peace in Duluth are very active and support us a lot. Grandmothers for peace. There are all these issues, groups that work on sort of peace issues and gun violence is part of the peace part of it. It's just so important that we reach out so that we get more people in our put what do I have severe have influence and they will help us.

JJ: [37:49](#)

It seems like that really underscores the fact though, and Brady talks about this a lot, that this is a gun violence prevention has become a movement that everyone needs to be participating in and that almost every group or person in the U S is effected by. So whether you're in Brady or not, you're a part of gun violence prevention if you want to live.

Joan Peterson: [38:10](#)

It's coming to the point I read an article somewhere. It's coming to the point where there's hardly anybody who hasn't been affected by gun violence prevention because people know somebody who knows somebody or they have a relative and people will say that at some of the meetings or the vigils that we have.

JJ: [38:28](#)

You want to see Joan moving forward in the us in regards to gun violence. I know that's an unfairly large question and and I think one that that we've been talking about as kind of a little bit more pie in the sky. Even if you weren't constrained by by logic, by certain caucuses and certain state legislators. What, what kind of big chain solutions would you want to see that you think could really help solve and reach our mission to, to end the epidemic of gun violence in America?

Joan Peterson: [39:05](#)

Well that is a loaded question. I obviously think that every person should have to have a background check before they purchase a gun. There is, you have to have background checks for numerous other things. I think to adopt an animal from

animal allies, you have to have a background check for goodness sakes. Everybody should have a background check. There's just no question in my mind about that. In in I think the extreme risk protection orders must take. And then I think changing the conversation and changing the culture around. I think for too long the NRA has, has had the microphone, they're the ones who have gotten into the culture, you know, more guns make us safer. A good guy, you know, with like we need a good guy with a gun to stop a bad guy with a gun. They've gotten away with that for so long that that's become part of the culture. And I think by the things we're doing, we are changing the culture. We are starting to make people understood that gun rights and gun safety reform or gun violence prevention are not mutually exclusive. And it doesn't have to be one or the other. People can own guns, but we can also prevent people who shouldn't have them from getting them. And so maybe that's, that's one thing is that those two are not mutually exclusive. And so we can't let them the talk of the second amendment be the excuse to not do anything or not saying

Brady Music: [40:33](#)

music plays

JJ: [40:36](#)

Today. The one that apropos of a few things you've talked about, I'll, I'll present what I can't believe to you. Two you and JP here, it's that there is a children's book publisher, it's called flower pot press and they have published a series of books, a three book series with a woman from Tennessee. Her name is Becky Cole. She's a share, a deputy sheriff and a school resource officer and in a place called Williamson County. And she had to write these three books, police in our school, the lockdown drill and who let the dog in to try and these are picture books for children with the idea that then these books would lessen fear amongst kids and to train them for emergencies. Now who let the dog in is about letting strangers into the school and police and our school was more of just so that students know if there's an armed officer what that is.

JJ: [41:27](#)

But this one in particular to go back to the sort of the PTSD and the, in the normalization conversation had is called the lockdown drill and it teaches students the importance of listening to their teacher and the school resource officer during the drills. Okay. And it's, I mean we read it actually, we had sort of a reading rainbow moment here at brainy and it is really, it is really useful I think. But what do you think about the fact that, you know, you have children, you have grandchildren now about the fact that there are numerous actually picture books and series of books and things to, to teach kids how to handle lockdown drills in school.

Joan Peterson:

[42:05](#)

Oh, I have my, I have my problems with all of it. There are companies that are training kids to fight back. In fact, I have a little anecdote, a friend of mine told me that her grandson, I think it was, was an actual lockdown drill in, um, in a school in Minnesota. And the kids, first they couldn't leave the school and then, then they were allowed to leave and he was at his locker. And a voice came over the speaker system saying, this is a lockdown, this is a lockdown. Get into your classrooms and take off your shoes. And, and this was in order to get ready to throw them at the shooter. This is something that we shouldn't be asking our kids to do. Kids should not have to be defending themselves with pencils and shoes and books and whatever else we are asking them to throw at a shooter. I, I just can't imagine that that would work. And I don't know what's worse. Some people say it's worse to hide behind a closet, you know, with the kids or hide wherever people have hidden before or is it, is it right for a child to have to throw something at a shooter and take the chance that the shooter would turn toward the child and actually shoot that person. So I'm, I'm having trouble with the way in which we are dealing with lockdowns and, and school shooters.

JP:

[43:33](#)

As we've mentioned, this is a rough space, but there are so many amazing people in it and that makes it much, much easier to work in and and really helps us get through day to day in the gun violence prevention movement today in recognition of domestic violence awareness month, we would, we would like to honor survivor and advocate Kate Ranta.

JJ:

[43:56](#)

About seven years ago, Kate was shot at point blank range by her estranged husband and this happened in front of their four year old son. However, she's managed to turn tragedy into triumph by testifying before Congress, by working with gun violence and domestic violence prevention groups and by sharing her story with the whole world, she's even featured in Brady's report on guns and domestic violence and in this week's newsletter.

JP:

[44:23](#)

Moreover, she has a book out, a really good book. It's called killing Kate, a story of turning abuse and tragedy into transformation and triumph written by herself with Elisa divine. The foreword was written by Evan Rachel Wood, who some of you may know from Westworld. That's where I know her film and I have to say the book is really, really good. We will actually have Kate on for a future episode to talk about the book and her story, but for now let's just say go to the link, get the book and get ready and we'll be sharing the link. You can check it out

on Brady united.org/podcast as well as you'll see it all over our social media too.

- JJ: [45:04](#) Yeah, which is at Brady buzz JPE get your plugs correct please. Now finally, if you have someone that we need to know about like an organization and individual, Hey, even you again, we take self promotion, we love it. Please let us know by going to Brady united.org/podcast and just filling out the little form we have there. You can also direct message us at Brady buzz. We want to hear about your work and if you let us know about it, there's a solid chance you just might win. GVP hero of the week.
- Brady Music: [45:34](#) ***music plays***
- JP: [45:37](#) Thank you for listening. As always, Brady's lifesaving work in Congress. The courts and communities across the country is made possible. Thanks to you. For more information on Brady or how to get involved in this fight against gun violence, please like and subscribe to the podcast. New full length episodes. Drop every Monday weekly wrap-ups drop on Fridays and many sides come. Whatever we can fit them in. You can also get in touch with us@bradyunited.org or on social and I'll get it right this time. Pat Brady, buzz, thank you. And be safe. Take action. Not sides.
- Brady Music: [46:32](#) ***music plays***