

Sins of Transgenderism

Mass Shootings

Father Alar to Newsmax: Shooter Made God Himself a Target

"The shooter put a target on God himself," Father Chris Alar told [Newsmax](#) on Thursday, after a transgender gunman murdered two children and injured 17 others during Mass at Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis.

Police identified the attacker as 23-year-old Robin Westman, who opened fire on the church during the school Mass. A video manifesto released by authorities showed Westman had used an image of Jesus Christ for target practice prior to the massacre.

"Well, the reason we're saying that it is [a hate crime] because it was at a Catholic church, at a Catholic Mass," Alar said during an appearance on Newsmax's ["Wake Up America."](#) "That's why we're making the indication that specific Catholicism as a target.

"But you are absolutely right here at the Marian Fathers, one of the main devotions that we promote is called the Holy Face Devotion. It's a devotion in the church that promotes the face of Christ as a light and inspiration to all of us and mankind. And that was what he actually shot at and damaged before the shootings of the children."

Alar, who serves as provincial superior of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception in the U.S. and Argentina, said the massacre was troubling for many reasons. "And so, this in itself is troubling because it's, you're right, a target on God himself, leading down to his church and leading now down to the people in this type of action is troubling on many fronts," he added.

Retrieved August 28, 2025, from [Father Alar to Newsmax: Shooter Made God Himself a Target | Newsmax.com](#)

Report: Minneapolis Shooter Was 'Tired of Being Trans'

The 23-year-old transgender shooter who killed two children and wounded 17 others at a Minneapolis Catholic school Wednesday, reportedly left behind a handwritten journal in which he expressed regret over his sex change.

"I only keep [the long hair] because it is pretty much my last shred of being trans. I am tired of being trans, I wish I never brain-washed myself," the shooter wrote, according to [the New York Post's translation](#) of the manifesto.

The suicidal and homicidal shooter, 23, who was found dead in the school parking lot from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound, wanted to be known as Robin Westman after being born a boy called Robert.

The journal, posted on YouTube before the massacre, also contained further reflections on his identity.

"I can't cut my hair now as it would be [an] embarrassing defeat, and it might be a concerning change of character that could get me reported," Westman wrote. "It just always gets in my way. I will probably chop it on the day of the attack."

In other passages, Westman vacillated on gender identity.

"I don't want to dress girly all the time but I guess sometimes I really like it," Westman wrote. "I know I am not a woman but I definitely don't feel like a man."

The Post further reported Westman's writings revealed violent fantasies, including a desire to be "the scary horrible monster standing over those powerless kids," as well as praise for the Sandy Hook school massacre.

Videos posted under his name also showed phrases like "kill Donald Trump" and "for the children" scrawled on gun magazines.

Authorities say Westman legally purchased the rifle, shotgun, and pistol used in the attack, and the FBI is investigating the case as an act of domestic terrorism and a hate crime targeting Catholics.

Westman's mother was a secretary at the school before her retirement in 2021.

Retrieved August 28, 2025, from [Report: Minneapolis Shooter Was 'Tired of Being Trans' | Newsmax.com](https://www.newsmax.com/minneapolis-shooter-was-tired-of-being-trans/)

4 big questions about the Nashville school shooting (and what we know so far)

MARCH 29, 2023 3:08 PM ET

By

[Emily Olson](#)

Monday's deadly school shooting set in motion a familiar cycle of condolences, calls to action and open-ended questions.

Police have identified Audrey Hale as the shooter who opened fire at the Covenant School, a Nashville, Tenn., Presbyterian school, killing three 9-year-olds and three adults. But the investigation into why and how the violence unfolded is only just beginning.

Here's a look at some of the big queries and where they stand.

What was the shooter's motive?

Hale, a 28-year-old who used he/him pronouns, according to authorities, was a former student of the school, Nashville Police Chief John Drake said at a news conference on Tuesday.

The shooter left behind "a manifesto," Drake said, that included a map of the school, with details about how Hale would enter it and carry out an attack.

But police stressed there was "no evidence" that specific victims, such as the head of the school, had been targeted.

"This school — this church building — was a target of the shooter," said Nashville police spokesperson Don Aaron. "But we have no information at present to indicate that the shooter was targeting any one of the six individuals who were murdered."

When asked specifically whether Hale had targeted the school for religious reasons, Drake said he couldn't confirm. He added that police are working with the FBI to fully examine Hale's writings.

Could police have confiscated the shooter's guns?

The shooter's parents believed their child had sold Hale's only gun and didn't have any firearms at home, Drake said.

In actuality, Hale had legally purchased seven firearms from five local gun stores. Three of those weapons — including two assault-style firearms — were used in the shooting.

Hale was under "a doctor's care for an emotional disorder," Drake said, but "law enforcement knew nothing about the treatment."

In some states, "red flag" laws empower law enforcement to confiscate weapons from individuals due to mental illness or concerns from relatives.

That's not quite the case in Tennessee: [Police can take someone's guns](#) if a court deems the person mentally incompetent, if the individual is "judicially committed" to a mental institution or if the person is placed under a conservatorship.

Similarly, being under a doctor's care alone wouldn't have met the threshold to prohibit the sale of weapons to Hale. When it comes to emotional disorders, [Tennessee law prohibits the sale of guns](#) to only those individuals found by a court to pose a danger to themselves or others.

Drake noted the lack of any red-flag laws in Tennessee, but he added, when questioned by reporters, that police would've "tried to get those weapons" had they received a report that Hale was suicidal or threatening to kill someone.

The Metropolitan Nashville Police Department has not yet returned a call from NPR asking for clarification on policies that Drake may have been referring to.

Will the FBI or state agencies investigate this as a hate crime?

Police say that Hale was previously a student of the Covenant School and targeted the building, which is also a church.

On Tuesday, Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., took that to mean the attack was "targeted, that is, against Christians" and began calling for federal agencies to investigate the shooting as a hate crime.

[Hawley also introduced a Senate resolution](#) to formally condemn the shooting as a hate crime.

Hawley's choice in framing caught on quickly with other Republican leaders. In a budget hearing on Tuesday, Sen. John Kennedy, R-La., asked Attorney General Merrick Garland whether he planned to open a [hate crime investigation](#) into the shooting "for the targeting of Christians."

"As of now, motive hasn't been identified," Garland said, adding that the FBI was working with local police on the investigation.

Without a living suspect or evidence of accomplices to charge, authorities would designate this a hate crime largely for data-reporting purposes.

A little over 14% of [hate crimes in the U.S. are connected to religion](#), according to the FBI's most recent data set.

Monday's mass shooting was just one of 130 tracked in the U.S. this year, according to the [Gun Violence Archive](#). And as with these previous shootings, lawmakers were once again quick to concede that Monday's act of violence likely won't be enough to shake off the stalemate on gun reform.

On Tuesday, President Biden followed his consistent call for an [assault weapons ban](#) with a rhetorical question: "Why do I keep saying this if it's not happening?" he asked. "Because I want you to know who isn't doing it, who isn't helping to put pressure on them."

Republican lawmakers, including Rep. Tim Burchett of Tennessee, told reporters that gun laws "don't work" to curb violence.

"I don't see any real role we could do other than mess things up," he said on the steps of the U.S. Capitol. "I don't think you're going to stop the gun violence. You've got to change people's hearts."

Retrieved August 28, 2025 from [4 big questions about the Nashville school shooting : NPR](#)

Nashville shooting suspect's gender sets attack apart from most mass shootings

Several conservative and far-right media figures are using the shooter's reported transgender identity to shift the conversation away from gun control.

Retrieved August 28, 2025 from [Nashville shooting suspect's gender sets attack apart from most mass shootings](#)

U.S. NEWS

Suspect in mass shooting at Colorado gay nightclub is expected to take a plea deal BY JESSE BEDAYN AND JIM MUSTIAN

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COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — The suspect in a mass shooting at a Colorado Springs gay nightclub is expected to strike a plea deal to state murder and hate charges that would ensure at least a life sentence for the attack that [killed five people and wounded 17](#), several survivors told The Associated Press.

Word of a possible legal resolution of last year's Club Q massacre follows a series of jailhouse phone calls from the suspect to the AP expressing remorse and the intention to face the consequences at the next scheduled court hearing this month.

"I have to take responsibility for what happened," 23-year-old Anderson Lee Aldrich said in their first public comments about the case.

Federal and state authorities and defense attorneys declined to comment on a possible plea deal. But Colorado law requires victims to be notified of such deals, and several people who lost loved ones or were wounded in the attack told the AP that state prosecutors have given them advance word that Aldrich will plead guilty to charges that would ensure the maximum state sentence of life behind bars.

"Someone's gone that can never be brought back through the justice system," said Wyatt Kent, who was celebrating his 23rd birthday in Club Q when Aldrich opened fire, gunning down Kent's partner, Daniel Aston, who was working behind the bar. "We are all still missing a lot, a partner, a son, a daughter, a best friend."

Jonathan Pullen, the suspect's step-grandfather who plans to watch the upcoming hearing on a livestream, said Aldrich "has to realize what happened on that terrible night. It's truly beginning to dawn on him."

Aldrich faces more than 300 state counts, including murder and hate crimes. And the U.S. Justice Department is considering filing federal hate crime charges, according to a senior law enforcement official familiar with the matter who spoke to AP on condition of anonymity to

discuss the ongoing case. It's unclear whether the anticipated resolution to the state prosecution will also resolve the ongoing FBI investigation.

Some survivors who listened to the suspect's recorded comments to the AP lambasted them as a calculated attempt to avoid the federal death penalty, noting they stopped short of discussing a motive, put much of the blame on drugs and characterized the crime in passive, generalities such as "I just can't believe what happened" and "I wish I could turn back time." Such language, they said, belied by the maps, diagrams, online rants and other evidence that showed months of plotting and premeditation.

"No one has sympathy for him," said Michael Anderson, who was bartending at Club Q when the shooting broke out and ducked as several patrons were gunned down around him. "This community has to live with what happened, with collective trauma, with PTSD, trying to grieve the loss of our friends, to move past emotional wounds and move past what we heard, saw and smelled."

[Terror erupted](#) just before midnight on Nov. 19 when the suspect walked into Club Q, a longtime sanctuary for the LGBTQ community in this mostly conservative city of 480,000, and fired an AR-15-style semiautomatic rifle indiscriminately. Disbelief gave way to screaming and confusion as the music continued to play. Partygoers dove across a bloody dance floor for cover. Friends frantically tried to protect each other and plugged wounds with napkins.

The killing only stopped after a Navy petty officer grabbed the barrel of the suspect's rifle, burning his hand because it was so hot. An Army veteran joined in to help subdue and beat Aldrich until police arrived, finding the shooter had emptied one high-capacity magazine and was armed with several more.

Aldrich, who since their arrest has identified as [nonbinary](#) and uses the pronouns they and them, allegedly visited Club Q at least six times in the years before the attack. District Attorney Michael Allen [told a judge](#) that the suspect's mother made Aldrich go to the club "against his will and sort of forced that culture on him."

Allen also has said the suspect [administered a website](#) that posted a "neo-Nazi white supremacist" shooting training video. Online gaming friends said Aldrich expressed hatred for the police, LGBTQ people and minorities and used anti-Black and anti-gay slurs. And a police detective testified that Aldrich sent an online message with a photo of a rifle scope trained on a gay pride parade.

Defense attorneys in previous hearings have not disputed Aldrich's role in the shooting but have pushed back against allegations it was motivated by hate, arguing the suspect was drugged up on cocaine and medication the night of the attack.

"I don't know if this is common knowledge but I was on a very large plethora of drugs," Aldrich told the AP. "I had been up for days. I was abusing steroids. ... I've finally been able to get off that crap I was on."

Aldrich didn't answer directly when asked whether the attack was motivated by hate, saying only that's "completely off base."

Even a former friend of Aldrich found their remarks to be disingenuous. "I'm really glad he's trying to take accountability but it's like the 'why' is being shoved under the rug," said Xavier Kraus, who lived across the hall from Aldrich at a Colorado Springs apartment complex.

The AP sent Aldrich a handwritten letter several months ago asking them to discuss a [2021 kidnapping arrest](#) following a standoff with a SWAT team, a prosecution that had been dismissed and sealed despite video evidence of Aldrich's crimes. In that case, just months before the Club

Q shooting, they threatened to become “the next mass killer” and stockpiled guns, ammo, body armor and a homemade bomb. The incident was livestreamed on Facebook and prompted the evacuation of 10 nearby homes as authorities discovered a tub with more than 100 pounds of explosive materials.

The alleged shooter, who lived with their grandparents at the time and was upset about their plans to move to Florida, threatened to kill the couple and “go out in a blaze,” authorities said. “You guys die today and I’m taking you with me,” they quoted the suspect as saying. “I’m loaded and ready.”

The charges were dismissed even after relatives [wrote a judge warning](#) that Aldrich was “certain” to commit murder if freed. District Attorney Allen, facing heavy criticism, later attributed the dismissal of the case to Aldrich’s family members refusing to cooperate and repeatedly dodging out-of-state subpoenas.

In response to AP’s letter, Aldrich first phoned a reporter in March and asked to be paid for an interview, a request that was declined. They called back late last month, days after prosecutors wrote in a court filing that there was “near-unanimous sentiment” among the victims for “the most expedient determination of case-related issues.”

In a series of six calls, each limited by an automated jail phone system to 15 minutes, the suspect said: “Nothing’s ever going to bring back their loved ones. People are going to have to live with injury that can’t be repaired.”

Asked why it happened, they said, “I don’t know. That’s why I think it’s so hard to comprehend that it did happen. ... I’m either going to get the death penalty federally or I will go to prison for life, that’s a given.”

While the AP normally would not provide a platform to someone alleged to have committed such a crime, editors judged that the suspect’s stated intent to accept responsibility and expression of remorse were newsworthy and should be reported.

Former Club Q bartender Anderson was among survivors who told prosecutors they wanted a fast resolution of the criminal case.

“My fear is that if this takes years, that prevents the processing and moving on and finding peace beyond this case,” he said. “I would love this wrapped up as quickly as possible under the guarantee that justice is served.”

Retrieved August 28, 2025 from [Suspect in mass shooting at Colorado gay nightclub is expected to take a plea deal | AP News](#)

Murder-obsessed teen jailed for plotting mass school shooting

30 July 2025

A murder-obsessed teenager who spoke of carrying out a mass shooting at an Edinburgh school has been jailed for six years.

A court heard Felix Winter, who is now 18, “idolised” the killers behind the 1999 Columbine High School massacre in the US.

The pupil repeatedly spoke about mounting a similar “Doomsday” attack to the one which claimed the lives of 12 students and a teacher in Colorado.

Winter, who also held racist and pro-Nazi views, admitted two charges at a hearing in February.

The High Court in Glasgow heard the offences - a breach of the peace and a charge under the Terrorism Act - were committed when he was aged 15 and 16 between June 2022 and July 2023.

Shelagh McCall KC, defending, called for a strict alternative to custody as her client was a "vulnerable young person" with mental health issues.

But the court was told Winter had been "radicalised", having spent more than 1,000 hours in contact with a pro-Nazi online Discord group.

The judge said it appeared Winter had been in contact with the extremist online group for two hours a day for two years.

Lord Arthursen told the court the teenager had also discussed with fellow pupils his "visceral, violent and graphically detailed plan" to carry out a massacre.

In a January 2023 journal entry he described his school as a "virus upon this earth" and added he would soon prove that "I am a God".

Lord Arthursen added: "The whole material available to me indicate that you were progressing towards the brink of perpetrating a mass school shooting, you were radicalised and your statement of intent could not have been clearer."

Winter had been referred to the UK-wide Prevent counter terrorism programme four times.

It places public bodies, including schools and the police, under a legal duty to identify people who may turn to extremism, and intervene in their lives before it is too late.

Police Scotland launched an investigation in the summer of 2023 after a social media photo of Winter at school wearing combat gear and carrying an imitation gun caused panic among pupils and parents.

It emerged the clothes and prop gun were issued to him for a video being made in a drama class in which he had been cast as a kidnapper.

But detectives established Winter, of Kirknewton, West Lothian, frequently spoke to other pupils about carrying out a school attack.

He also "exhibited a variety of alarming behaviours" over a 13-month period.

Winter spoke 'excitedly' about Columbine

Classmates recalled how the teenager spoke "excitedly and with considerable enthusiasm" when he talked about Columbine and other school shootings.

Witnesses told police he "sympathised" with the Columbine killers, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold.

Harris, 18, and Klebold, 17, both took their own lives in the library of the school after the attack.

Winter was also said to be so fascinated by the mass shooting that he wanted to change his name in an "act of homage" to Klebold.

A female pupil told officers he planned to start on the second floor and "clear it out" before continuing the shooting spree downstairs.

Winter was stopped by police under the Terrorism Act as he returned from holiday with his family on 9 July 2023.

Officers discovered that the schoolboy had a TikTok account which had footage of him wearing black combat clothes as well as a skeleton mask.

When his electronic devices were seized, they were found to contain files on "homemade" firearms and poisons.

The court heard he had 65 videos of Columbine and had added music which appeared to "glamorise" the mass killing.

Accused hoped to make gun with 3D printer

Other pupils told how he had spoken of wanting to carry out attacks on students and teachers using guns, explosives or poison.

He also claimed he would buy a 3D printer to help construct a firearm.

At a previous hearing, Winter's lawyer said that the teenager was vulnerable and a transgender person and that would need to be taken into account.

After the sentencing Assistant Chief Constable Stuart Houston said: "This was an extremely complex and fast-moving investigation, and I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the diligence and hard work of the officers who worked tirelessly to gather the evidence and bring the perpetrator to justice."

The senior officer added the case underlined the advantages of working in partnership as part of the Prevent programme.

He said it "promotes early intervention through tailored, diversionary support".

James Dalglish, City of Edinburgh Council's education convener, said: "While we are unable to comment on individual cases, we want to reassure the public that we have robust safeguarding procedures in place.

"We work closely with partner agencies to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all pupils and staff, and take any matters involving violence extremely seriously."

Retrieved August 28, 2025 from [Teenager jailed for plotting mass shooting at Edinburgh school](#)

The Colorado STEM School Shooting Suspects Have Been Charged With Murder

The **two students accused of opening fire at the STEM School in a Denver-area suburb**, killing one classmate and injuring eight others May 7, were charged with murder and multiple counts of attempted murder Wednesday.

The suspects, Devon Erickson, 18, and Maya McKinney, a 16-year-old transgender student who goes by the name Alec, were formally charged in court with more than a dozen counts, including first-degree murder, attempted murder, theft, arson, and possession of weapons on school grounds.

Prosecutors charged the 16-year-old suspect as an adult. However, his attorneys asked the judge to set a hearing to move the case back to juvenile court, a spokesperson for the court told BuzzFeed News.

Retrieved August 28, 2025 from [The STEM School Highlands Ranch Shooting Suspects Have Been Charged With Murder](#)

The Wisconsin shooting suspect is female. That's rare, data says

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By

[Rachel Treisman](#)

A suspect opened fire at the Abundant Life Christian School in Madison, Wis., on Monday, killing two people and injuring six more before dying of what police believe to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

It's one of more than 320 shootings that have taken place on school grounds this year alone, according to the [K-12 School Shooting Database](#).

While school shootings are widespread in the U.S., this one is unusual because of the identity of the suspected perpetrator: Authorities have identified her as a 15-year-old girl.

Data shows that female shooters — at schools and in general — are relatively rare.

An FBI review of active-shooter incidents [from 2000 to 2019](#) found that of the 345 total perpetrators, 332 were men and just 13 were women.

Similar statistics bear out when it comes to mass shootings, which the FBI defines as any incident in which at least four people are killed with a gun (so Monday's does not meet that criteria).

A staggering 97.7% of perpetrators of mass shootings from 1966 to 2019 were male, according to a [Justice Department database](#).

The nonprofit [Violence Prevention Project](#) says that out of the 200 shooters involved in mass shootings [between 1999 and 2024](#), only four identified as female and one as transgender — referring to the attacker in the 2023 shooting at a [Christian elementary school](#) in Nashville, Tennessee.

What makes female shooters rare — and different

Violence Prevention Project co-founder Jillian Peterson, a forensic psychologist and professor of criminology and criminal justice at Hamline University, says many school shooters "see themselves" in the perpetrators behind other tragedies — who have historically been men. Only nine female students have committed a school shooting since 1999, according to [an analysis](#) by the *Washington Post*.

"Many school shooters study Columbine, for example," Peterson [told NPR](#) in 2021. "Other university shooters study the Virginia Tech shooting. And they really are kind of using those previous shootings as a blueprint for their own."

More broadly, as NPR has reported over the years, [experts say](#) men are more likely than women to place blame on others (rather than on their own shortcomings), which could translate into anger and hostility.

And men tend to be more comfortable firing guns than women, who, studies show, are [more likely to choose a knife](#) if they do turn to violence.

Researchers Jason Silva and Margaret Schmuhl explored the demographics, motivations and incidents of female shooters between 1979 and 2019 for an [article published](#) in the *Journal of Mass Violence Research* in 2021.

They said existing studies attribute male mass shootings to "some form of male aggrieved entitlement or crisis of masculinity," often "motivated by grievances with women."

In contrast, they found that female mass shooters are not motivated by relationship disputes, often target workplaces and are more likely to work as part of a pair, "especially when [engaging in ideologically motivated attacks](#)."

"Just as women have exhibited distinct trends and patterns in homicide offending ... it is important for research to also distinguish and understand female mass shooters," they wrote.

Examples of female shooters in recent U.S. history

Shootings carried out by female suspects have dotted the headlines in recent years, particularly within the last decade.

In 2006, a former U.S. Postal Service employee fatally shot six people [at a postal facility](#) in Goleta, Calif., before taking her own life. Authorities said writings later found at the home of the woman, who had struggled with [mental illness](#), indicated she believed she was threatened by a conspiracy involving postal employees.

In 2018, a woman with an apparent [grudge against YouTube](#) opened fire at the company's San Bruno, Calif., headquarters, wounding several people before fatally shooting herself.

That same year, a temporary employee fatally shot three people and then themselves at a [Rite Aid distribution center](#) in Aberdeen, Maryland. While authorities and some friends initially identified the perpetrator as female, some media outlets later reported the shooter had started [identifying as transgender](#) in the years before the shooting.

Women were also part of pairs that carried out shootings, like the [2015 terrorist attack](#) in San Bernardino, Calif., and the 2019 shooting at a [kosher supermarket](#) in Jersey City, N.J.

A teen girl was behind the 1979 school shooting that inspired a hit song

An infamous school shooting perpetrated by a girl happened in [January 1979](#), when 16-year-old Brenda Spencer fired out of the window of her San Diego home at children arriving at the elementary school across the street.

Nine people, including children, were wounded, and two adults — the principal and janitor — were killed in the attack.

Steve Wiegand, a reporter with the *San Diego Evening Tribune*, began randomly calling homes near Grover Cleveland Elementary School to talk to potential eyewitnesses. He connected first with Spencer and, after talking for a while, got the sense the shots had come from her house. Wiegand asked why she did it.

"She said, 'Because I just don't like Mondays. Do you like Mondays? You know, it just livens up the day,'" [he recalled](#).

On the other side of the country, Bob Geldof, the lead singer of the Irish new wave band Boomtown Rats, was being interviewed at a radio station in Atlanta when he saw a news story about the incident come across the wires.

Struck by Spencer's phrasing, he went back to his hotel room and penned "I Don't Like Mondays." The song, released in July 1979, spent four weeks at the [top of the singles chart](#) in the United Kingdom.

Spencer, meanwhile, was charged as an adult, pleaded guilty to two counts of murder and assault with a deadly weapon and was sentenced to life in prison.

She will be eligible for [parole](#) in 2025, and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation records show she has a [hearing scheduled](#) for February.

Retrieved August 28, 2025 from [The Wisconsin shooting suspect is female. That's rare, data says : NPR](#)