



HTU MUN

TOPIC GUIDE



**Regulations To The Selling Of
Firearms To The General Public**



Topic Overview

What is “Gun Control”?

“Gun Control” covers all the regulations of selling and possessing any type of firearms and what obligations both the buyer and the seller have to report transactions to the government. In recent years, gun control debates have focused primarily on background checks for buyers, allowing people to carry weapons in public, and whether to allow the possession of assault rifles.

Gun control today has limited the possession of firearms and prohibits certain people from owning firearms: those with certain kinds of criminal records or mental illness; drug addicts; immigrants without legal status; veterans who left the military with a dishonorable discharge; anyone with a permanent restraining order keeping them from a partner or a partner’s children. However is that enough?

Many view gun control as an individual right. Those individuals view possession of firearms as a way to protect themselves, for hunting, for sports, or simply because they want to. They argue that possession of firearms actually makes society a safer place, giving people the power of self-defense, and dissuading criminals from victimizing people who might be armed. In particular, they say that an armed citizen can stop a mass shooter. Is that true?





Key Terms

Firearm

A shotgun or rifle having a barrel of less than eighteen inches in length, or any other weapon, except a pistol or revolver, from which a shot is discharged by an explosive if such weapon is capable of being concealed on the person, or a machine gun, and includes a muffler or silencer for any firearm whether or not such firearm is included within the foregoing definition.

Regulation

A rule or order issued by an executive authority or regulatory agency of a government and having the force of law.

General Public

Ordinary people, especially all the people who are not members of a particular organization or who do not have any special type of knowledge.

Background Information

Since the early 1980s, a growing number of gun violence victims turned to the system seeking compensation for their injuries. These victims were not only against their assailants but also against the gun sellers. By suing the sellers, who are more dangerous than the assaulter, victims seek to improve their chances of receiving compensation. Victims also view successful system claims as a way to promote safer protection, to deter future sales to criminals, and to place part of the blame for gun violence on the industry. It is an ongoing debate all over the world whether gun possession reduces violence in a way of self-defense or increases violence in a way of mass shootings.



Countries Involved

USA: Gun control is an ongoing matter in the United States of America, with nearly 280 mass shootings only this year. The last time the mass shooting toll reached this extreme was 2016, which had 382 mass shootings the most in any year since the Gun Violence Archive started keeping track. The past two years came close, with 346 mass shootings in 2017 and 340 in 2018.

France: With an average of 1,800 firearms deaths each year, France is on the verge of becoming a developed country with a gun control problem. It has many illegal weapons, that the number of illegal guns may be twice the number of legal ones.

UK: On the 13th of May 1996, 43-year-old Thomas Hamilton emptied his legally held weaponry of handguns on children and staff at Dunblane primary school. That incident started it all and gun control was the topic of interest to the citizens of the United Kingdom. Overnight, however, almost 200,000 owners of firearms found their weapons banned.

Mexico: Article 10 of the 1857 Mexican Constitution guaranteed that "every man has the right to keep and carry arms for his security and legitimate defense." But 60 years later in 1917, lawmakers amended it following Mexico's bloody revolution. Perhaps the biggest hurdle of all is that there is only one shop in the entire country where Mexicans can go to buy guns, and it's located on a heavily guarded army base in Mexico City. While the store sells 38 guns a day on average, it is estimated that 580 guns are smuggled into the country from the US every day.

Brazil: President Jair Bolsonaro has signed a decree relaxing gun ownership laws. The new measure officially aims to help citizens defend themselves, but it will likely lead to more firearms falling into the hands of criminal organizations. Groups such as the Brazilian Forum for Public Safety (Fórum Brasileiro de Segurança Pública) argue that the decree ignores evidence demonstrating that more firearms do not lead to reduced violence. The organization also questions Bolsonaro's motivations, writing that this



decree helps bolster support among his supporters but does little to improve public safety.

Useful References

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