

The Inconvenient Truth: How Domestic Terrorism is Tearing our Nation Apart

After the 251st mass shooting of 2019 hit the United States, an article published from an Australian news source struck a chord with me:

[“US in the Midst of a White Nationalist Terrorism Crisis.”](#)

From a United States citizen’s perspective, it’s interesting to see how another country views American gun violence. Regardless, we can all sense a disturbing truth from the Sydney Morning Herald’s headline. As Americans, mass shootings are a part of our regular news cycle. It seems like a “Breaking News” alert is constantly pinging our phones, prayers and demand for policy change flood our social media pages, and within a couple of days the story withers and is out of our mind...until the next one.

American citizens, which only account for 5% of the world’s population, own [“45 percent of all the world’s privately held firearms.”](#) Since the infamous Sandy Hook shooting in 2012, there have been over 2,000 mass shootings on this country’s soil. Despite the demand for change, no substantial plans have been put forth to combat gun violence.

What makes America so susceptible to premeditated shootings?

This issue is more than a lack of firearm policy. It is rooted in a belief system that has been around since the foundation of this country: white supremacy. This idea is so rooted in our foundation that it even appeared in early legislature, such as the 3/5th’s compromise of 1783, which found that African American slaves were only considered to be 3/5th’s of a person. Even after this legislation was repealed, the KKK, an organization used as a vehicle for white southern resistance surfaced and is still alive today. Currently, president Trump bellows, [“Build The Wall”](#) at his rallies in an effort to keep those different from him out of our nation.

Intolerance is everywhere.

Back in 2016, the Pulse nightclub attack in Orlando, Florida shook America. It was one of the deadliest mass shootings in recent United States history and specifically targeted those on the LGBT spectrum. The shooter was open about his dislike towards gay people and [expressed “outrage” after seeing two men kissing](#). In his eyes, his hatred for those different than him rationalized the murder of 50 innocent individuals.

El Paso’s white gunman released an online manifesto just minutes before he opened fire in a predominantly Hispanic Walmart. The manifesto, titled [“The Inconvenient Truth”](#) discussed a “Hispanic invasion of Texas,” and mentioned that “if we get rid of enough people, then our way of life can be sustainable.” In his eyes, he was doing the right thing, by making sure the Aryan race stayed dominant in an everchanging country.

The inconvenient truth is that Americans refuse to take cases of domestic terrorism seriously. According to the Anti-Defamation League, [“right wing extremists were responsible for the vast](#)

[bulk of documented killings by political extremists in the United States in 2018.”](#) Furthermore, FBI Director Christopher Wray released a statement in July saying that there have already been as many domestic terrorism cases in 2019 as there were in 2018 and that most were “motivated by some version of what you might call white supremacist violence.”

Gun violence is one of the largest issues facing our country, but at the end of the day, stricter gun policies are purely a band-aid for a much deeper wound. In order to end this routine tragedy, we must erase the white supremacist American viewpoint. We need to call on our leaders to change and recognize that these offensive views spew hate and make our country dangerous. We need to recognize that domestic terrorism has the potential to tear us apart.

It may be inconvenient to believe that our country is rooted in hate. It may be easier to push it under the rug and focus on the big picture. But until we address the genuine truth, that America is in a “White Nationalist Terrorism Crisis” that has led to mass shootings and a rampage of anarchism, nothing will change.

(<https://www.smh.com.au/world/north-america/us-in-the-midst-of-a-white-nationalist-terrorism-crisis-20190804-p52do1.html>)

<https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2017/10/2/16399418/us-gun-violence-statistics-maps-charts>.

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<https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2019/8/6/20754828/el-paso-shooting-white-supremacy-rise>.

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