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In which way would I improve my community?

Currently, at this point in the history of the United States, I believe one of the biggest threats a person may face on a day-to-day basis, is the heavy presence of guns any person who wishes is allowed. Everyday there seems to be a new and even more frightening instance of gun violence somewhere in the country, and it is becoming clearer and clearer that the trend of tragic death is only going to become more frequent. In 2023 alone, there has been 200 mass shootings (in which 4 or more people were injured or killed). In 2021, more than 200,000 of the gun related deaths were homicides, and more than 50 people are killed due to a firearm every day in the US. When compared to other countries in the world, the US is simply the outlier, proving how this is a problem unique to this country.

The data only goes to show how unregulated gun ownership is an anomaly in much of the world. In comparison to countries like England, Australia, and Canada, the US sports a hefty 80% of all homicides being gun killings. On the other hand, these other countries have much lower numbers, England with 4%, Australia with 11%, and Canada with 40%. The US is number one in the world in civilians owning guns, with an estimated number of 120.5 guns per 100 people. This is in comparison with the number two in the world, being Yemen, with 52.8 guns per 100 citizens.

It is clear there is an understanding that other world leaders and policymakers have reached, and that the US seems to be misunderstanding. The US seems to be determined to alienate themselves from the entire of the world, anointing themselves with the grand title of being “land of the free” and “home of the brave”. In reality it is the land of allowing countless child deaths and the home of whoever would like to buy an assault weapon, probably on sale, with zero difficulty. Every day another tragedy takes place at the hands of a dangerous person able to easily acquire a gun, is another day the leaders of this country have failed the citizens who voted for them.

When asked if they feel laws on guns should become stricter, 57% of Americans stated they should be stricter, whereas 32% believe they should be kept the same and 10% think laws should be less strict. Clearly, the everyday citizen does not agree with the gun trotting attitude we currently have, and that more should be done, by those with the power, to protect ourselves from these lethal weapons being so easily acquired. The US is divided in political party, with 91% of democrats agreeing with stricter gun laws as opposed to 24% of republicans. This division can be seen in how only 10 states have banned assault weapons, and only 3 have regulation placed on acquiring assault weapons.

Nowhere is safe to be in this country, not a school, or a quiet suburb, nor even a shopping law. Children go to school every day with the threat of staring down the barrel of a gun, and parents are unable to provide a safer environment for their child. Changes need to be made in the right places, and it has to start with the people who decide much of the important decisions that impact countless lives. If change does not naturally, it needs to be forced, for the good of everyone. More pressure should be put on these policymakers, who out of greed and ulterior motives, are unable to find a meaningful solution to this problem.

One of the most powerful organizations that lobby for guns is the National Rifle Association (NRA), using a deep budget to push their influence on Congress and further the pro-gun message. Through lobbying, it fights against gun controls on the basis of the Second Amendment giving a US citizen the right to bear arms. In 2021, the NRA spent 4.2 million on lobbying and have used more than 140 million on pro-gun election candidates, since 2010. Money loosens morals and the NRA presents a clear depiction of that, calling for arming teachers and more security in schools instead of gun control. I believe more measures should be put into place to prevent against a small group of people from controlling such important decisions, such as the laws that are made regarding firearms.

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