

END THE HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS OF GUN VIOLENCE IN THE UNITED STATES

ALL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS MUST HELP REDUCE GUN DEATHS BY SUPPORTING THE “ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN OF 2019”.

GUN VIOLENCE IS A HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS

The sheer volume of people killed or injured each year in the U.S. by gun violence is staggering. In 2017, firearms caused an average of 108 deaths every day, and over 133,000 more injuries. Per capita, this is significantly higher than in other industrialized countries.

The disproportionate impact of gun violence on communities of color, women and children is particularly troubling. African Americans are ten times more likely to be the victims of gun homicides than white Americans. Women are 16 times and children are 13 times more likely to be killed by a gun than their counterparts in other developed nations. Even if we can't stop all gun violence, there are basic steps we can take to make a difference.

DESIGNED TO KILL AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE

Shooters using semi-automatic assault rifles with large-capacity magazines can kill many people in a matter of minutes and pose a significant threat to public safety. Despite the dangers posed by these types of weapons and accessories – exponentially increasing potential violations of human rights – there is no federal law regulating them.

Assault rifles are particularly lethal because rounds fired typically achieve a velocity of over 3,000 feet per second, compared to handguns that fire rounds closer to 1,000 feet per second.

Assault rifles have been used in a series of high-profile public mass shootings over recent years, including 20 children and six staff killed at Sandy Hook in 2012; 49 night clubbers dead at the Pulse in Orlando in 2016; 58 concertgoers killed in Las Vegas in 2017; 26 church

members killed in Sutherland Springs in 2017; and 13 students and four adults shot dead at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in 2018.

Most recently, assault rifles were used in the deadly massacres in Gilroy, CA and El Paso, TX. Assault weapons also contribute to the everyday gun violence that plagues many communities across the U.S.

Medical providers explain that unlike wounds caused by bullets from a handgun, high velocity bullets cause damage that extends beyond the bullets' path, causing more harm and increasing the lethality.

Semi-automatic assault rifles and large-capacity magazines also pose a threat to law enforcement officers seeking to protect the public in a live shooting incident. The International Association of Chiefs of Police recommends that the U.S. pass laws banning military-style assault weapons so that officers are not faced with shooters armed with military-grade weapons.

AIUSA RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE U.S. CONGRESS:

The U.S. must enact laws banning semi-automatic assault rifles, semi-automatic shotguns, semi-automatic submachine guns and large capacity magazines.

- Members of the U.S. Senate: Promptly cosponsor and pass S. 66, *Assault Weapons Ban of 2019*.
- Members of the U.S. House of Representatives: Promptly cosponsor and pass H.R. 1296, *Assault Weapons Ban of 2019*.

For more information, please contact Adotei Akwei, Deputy Director Advocacy and Government Relations, at 202-509-8148 or aakwei@aiusa.org