



<b>Forum:</b>	6th Committee of the General Assembly
<b>Issue:</b>	Discussing gun laws in order to eliminate the issue of gun violence
<b>Student officer:</b>	Nane Sophie Widell
<b>Position:</b>	Deputy Chair
<b>Mail :</b>	nane.widell@gym-meiendorf.de

#### Description of the issue:

Gun Violence describes every violent act in which a fire arm or slow arm are used to harm somebody. Depending on the country, gun-related violence can either be seen as a crime or justifiable under the law. Illegal acts include those, in which someone was intentionally injured or killed, whereby the perpetrator was not life-threatening harassed by the victim. Military acts and para-military acts are included as well. Non-criminal gun violence is defined as something that happens unintentionally or by accident.

Gun Violence threatens our most fundamental human right: “The right to live”. According to Amnesty International, 500 people worldwide die every day from firearms (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/arms-control/gun-violence/>). Particularly affected are people of color, women and marginalized groups of society.

Common causes for gun violence are corruption, organised crime and a dysfunctional criminal justice system.

Furthermore, while gun violence is directly threatening lives it can additionally cause serious long-term psychological damage. Therefore, people are also deprived of other human rights if they no longer attend to schools or health-care facilities due to the of fear of gun violence.

One main obligation of the state is to protect, respect and assure the human rights.

Consequently, it is the state’s duty to protect its citizens of gun violence. If this is not the case, the state violates its obligation to comply with the human rights. Governments can undertake certain measures to minimize gun violence. For example, via banning the use of firearms or by making the access to weapons more difficult in the first place. The last measure is specifically encouraged by Amnesty International as they quote; “Easy access to firearms – whether legal or illegal – is one of the main drivers of gun violence. “(Amnesty International)



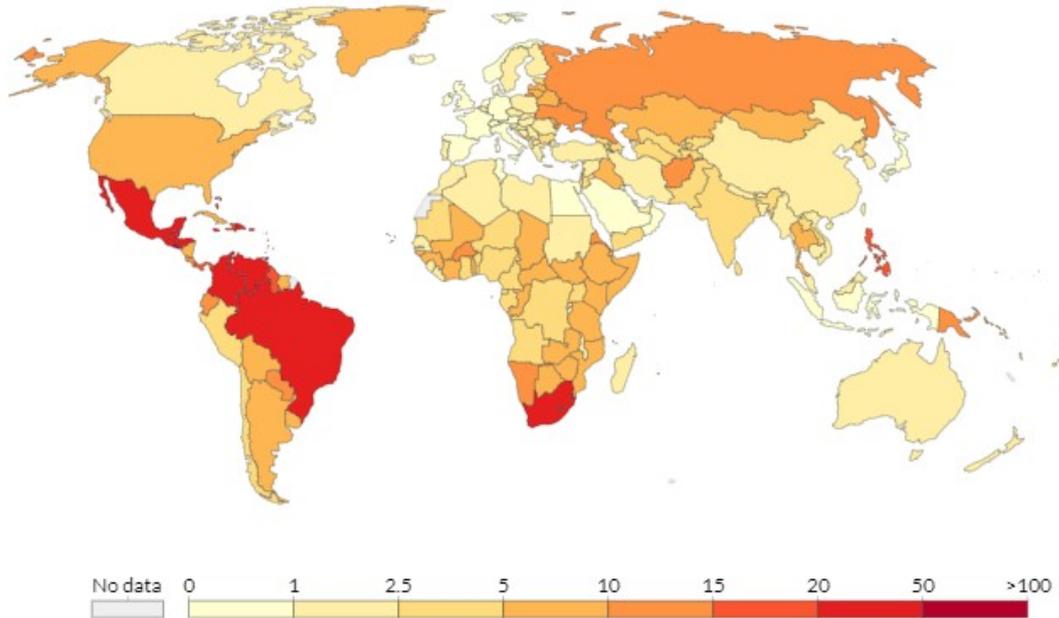
Affected regions:

## Homicide rate, 2017

Homicide rate is measured as the number of homicide deaths per 100,000 people.

Our World  
in Data

World



Source: IHME, Global Burden of Disease

Note: To allow comparisons between countries and over time this metric is age-standardized.

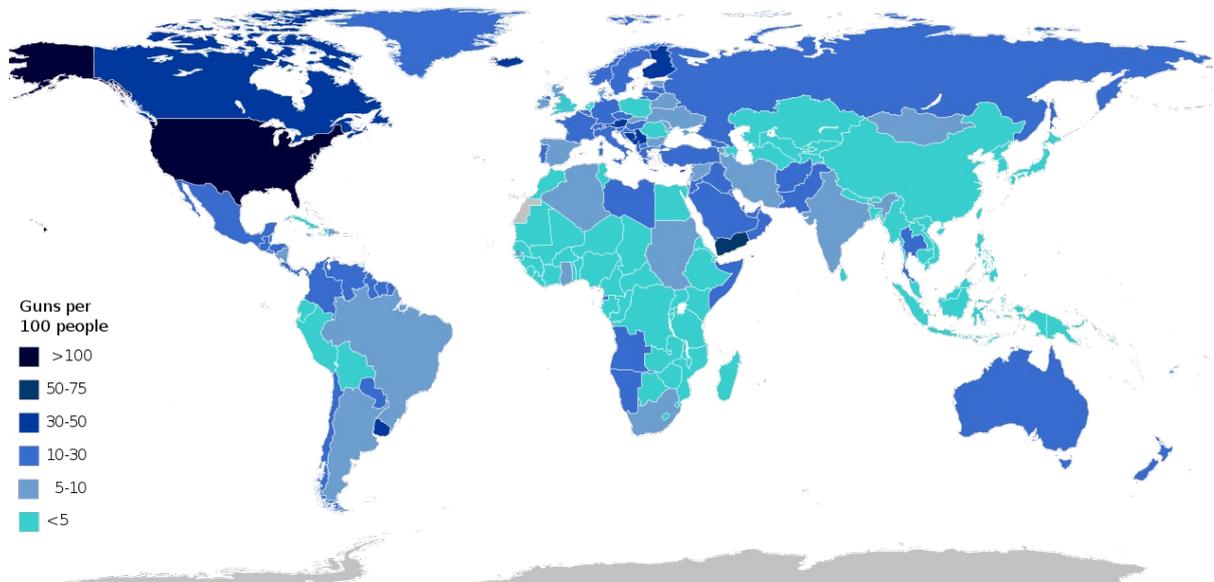
CC BY

This map shows the homicide rate per 100,000 inhabitants in the year 2017. (In order to see the accurate number of your country, by checking the following link:

<https://ourworldindata.org/homicides#all-charts-preview> )

Approximately 75% of all gun related deaths occur in just 15 countries. The three most violent countries by murder rate are located in Latin America (LATAM). The firearms that are used in Latin America are frequently smuggled into these hotspots of gun violence from the USA, because of the easy availability. On average 200,000 guns that were initially bought in the US are smuggled into LATAM per year. This example shows how important it is to work globally on the issue.

In countries like Japan or Hong Kong, it is very difficult to achieve the permission to own a gun. For example, you have to pass a written exam, succeed on the shooting range test, show a stable mental health and hand in a clear drug and criminal record. These regulations can be seen as the main reasons, why in 2017 only 3 people were killed by a gun in Japan.



This map shows the number of civilian guns per 100 people by country. The data has been retrieved from the “Small Arms Survey”, which was conducted in 2017 by the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva.

In Japan, only 0.3 civilian firearms per 100 people own a firearm. It can be assumed, that the presence of firearms alone promotes the illegal use of it.

### Background information:

#### Social issue:

As already previously mentioned, gun violence does not only injure or potentially even kill people, but gun violence additionally restricts other basic human rights. The everyday walk to school is a potential threat for many children, since there is a realistic chance of getting shot. Due to the constant presence of weapons, school might as well not be able to create a decent learning environment or a good quality of education. This can lead to poorer living conditions and perpetuate cycles of deprivation, crime and violence.

Another human right, which is restricted by gun violence, is the right to enjoy a healthy life. Firstly, health-related services avoid regions with a high level of gun violence. Also, people find it too dangerous to access local health care facilities.

Moreover, gun violence reinforces violent discrimination. For example, in the USA in 2017 58.5% of the homicides accounted for African Americas, although they make up only 13% of



the US population. “Homicide is the second leading cause of death among black children and 65% of those killings are committed with guns.” (Amnesty International)

In addition, fatal gender-based gun violence is persisting issue in everyday-life. Women get shot by family members or even their intimate partners. The problem is, that women are not part of criminal offences, but are murdered by those they trust most. ”In 2017, some 87,000 women were intentionally killed around the world. More than half of them, 50,000 (58%) were killed by intimate partners or family members.” Studies in the US has as well shown, that the presence of a gun in the household increase the risk of women being killed by their intimate partners. (Amnesty International)

#### Political issue:

Many governments work very closely with the arms lobby. Consequently, they are not willing to restrict gun control laws. If the political system in a country is also rather unstable, it rarely comes to prosecution of criminal offenses related to weapons. The executive cannot adequately take care of criminal offenses related to weapons. On the other hand, the judiciary cannot work without the executive. It is very difficult to improve justice systems in LEDCs, since “a well-functioning judicial system [...] underpins economic development” (European Commission, Quality of Public Administration A Toolbox for Practitioners, [file:///C:/Users/nanes/Downloads/09%20T2017%20Theme%207%20Justice%20systems\\_web.pdf](file:///C:/Users/nanes/Downloads/09%20T2017%20Theme%207%20Justice%20systems_web.pdf))

#### Economic issue:

Although there are efforts worldwide to repay the damage which was caused by gun violence, the revenue of the gun industry easily outweighs the efforts. According to “The Firearm Industry Association NSSF”, sales in the US alone amounted to \$60.02 billion in 2019. “In fact, in 2019 the firearms and ammunition industry [is] responsible for as much as \$60.02 billion in total economic activity in the country.” (NSSF <https://www.nssf.org/government-relations/impact/>)

The Small Arms Survey estimates that 875 million small firearms circulate worldwide, which are produced by more than 1,000 companies from nearly 100 countries.

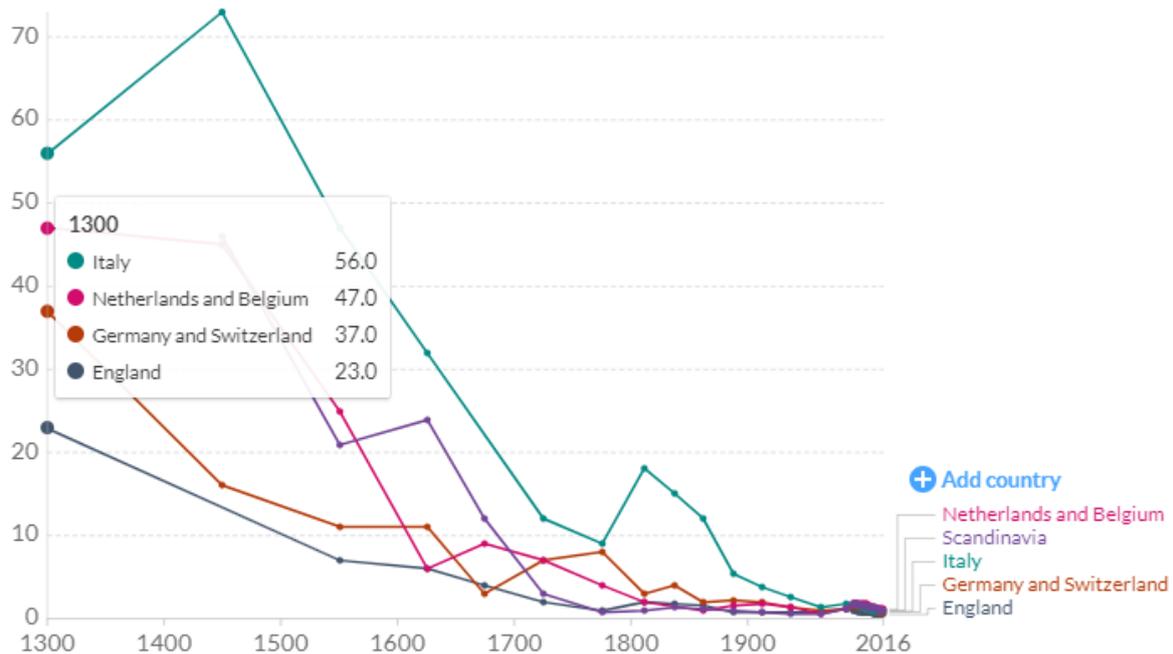
#### Historical Background:



## Long-term homicide rates across Western Europe, 1300 to 2016

Long-term homicide rates across a select number of countries or regional groups in Western Europe. This is measured as the number of homicides per 100,000 individuals in a given population.

Our World  
in Data



Source: Eisner (2003) & IHME

CC BY

This diagram shows how the numbers of homicides have changed across Europe during the past 700 years. Again, if you want to see more accurate numbers, click on the link:

<https://ourworldindata.org/homicides#all-charts-preview>

Due to this graph we can assume, that restrictions on the possession of firearms and the availability of firearms are decreasing the general number of murders by firearms.

### Glossary:

#### Amnesty International:

“Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 7 million people in over 150 countries and territories who campaign to end the abuse of human rights.”

(<https://www.amnesty.org/en/>)

#### The United Nations Office in Drugs and Crime (UNODC):

“The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime, in addition to being responsible for implementing the United Nations lead programme on terrorism. [...]”



UNODC also works to improve crime prevention and assist with criminal justice reform in order to strengthen the rule of law, promote stable and viable criminal justice systems and combat the growing threats of transnational organized crime and corruption.”

(<https://www.unov.org/unov/en/unodc.html>)

Institutions of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME):

“IHME is an independent population health research center [...] of the University of Washington, that provides rigorous and comparable measurements of the world’s most important health problems and evaluates the strategy used to address them.”

(<http://www.healthdata.org/about>)

Small Arms Survey:

Is an independent research project that “provides expertise aspects of small arms and armed violence” (<http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/about-us/mission.html>)

National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF):

A Firearm Industry Trade Association that has the mission “To promotw, protect and preserve hunting and the shooting sports” (<https://www.nssf.org/>) (Do not wrongly associate with National Social Security Fund)

**How to prepare as a delegate:**

Be aware of the gun control laws of your country and how many homicides take place each year. Find out data on the possession of firearms among your population. All delegates are required to write at least one draft resolution and two/three position papers so that all topics of the forum are covered. Please send in your paper till 23.08.2020 Every paper send in, after the deadline will not be corrected by us.

**UN resolutions:**

UNGA 2001, United Nations against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, UN General Assembly Resolution 55/255 [https://treaties.un.org/doc/source/docs/A\\_RES\\_55\\_255-E.pdf](https://treaties.un.org/doc/source/docs/A_RES_55_255-E.pdf)

**Useful Links:**

<https://ourworldindata.org/homicides#all-charts-preview>



<https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/arms-control/gun-violence/>

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/firearms-protocol/index.html>

<https://thearmstradetreaty.org/>

**Other Sources:**

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/08/gun-deaths-firearms-americas-homicide/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Mv3\\_6YmcyY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Mv3_6YmcyY) (the Economist)

[file:///C:/Users/nanes/Downloads/09%20T2017%20Theme%207%20Justice%20systems\\_web.pdf](file:///C:/Users/nanes/Downloads/09%20T2017%20Theme%207%20Justice%20systems_web.pdf)

<https://www.nssf.org/government-relations/impact/>