

JUNIOR MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2018

“Globalization: Creating a Common Language”



Youth and Gender Affairs Committee

*Combatting School Shootings and
Violence In Schools*



**RESEARCH
REPORT**

Recommended by:
Name of the chair



RESEARCH REPORT

Forum: Special Assembly 6

Issue: Combatting School Shootings and Violence in Schools

Student Officer: Alp Altınbaşak

Introduction

Combatting school shootings and violence has become a major issue in the past years all around the world with many major events of school shootings and violence happening such as the Columbine shooting. This problem has gotten more and more dangerous with each attack and each act of violence. Many countries have taken steps in collaboration with schools, families and police authorities in order to prohibit more violence and shootings in schools. Especially governments like the United States of America have been in deep consideration about possible solutions to maintain the safety of their schools and students. While experts suggest many possible solutions the main idea of all the latest solutions are "Creating a safe supportive, school climate". The starting point of many of the latest solutions are preventing the violence and shootings by keeping students safe from weapons, violence and harm so that they feel safe. On the other hand some governments suggest to arm teachers and staff in order to eliminate the problem. Most importantly all these possible solutions aim to eliminate and overcome the problem by making students, parents, teachers and schools collaborate with each other through a common language. Solving this issue with a common language between all parties are essential because even if one groups thoughts remain unrevealed the problem would continue existing.

Definition of Key Terms

School Shooting: "An incident that occurs on school property when students, faculty and/or staff are on the premises. Intent during those times are not restricted to specific types of shootings. Incidents that take place on or near school property when no students or faculty/staff are present are not considered "school shootings."

Massacre: An indiscriminate and brutal slaughter of many people.

Violence: Behaviour involving physical force intended to hurt, damage, or kill someone or something.

RESEARCH REPORT

General Overview

School shootings and violence in schools is an issue that has been continuing to grow since the late 90s. With many major shooting such as Westside Middle School Shooting (1998), Thurston High School Shooting (1998) and the Columbine High School Massacre (1999) this issue transformed into a high priority problem. Especially the Columbine High School Shooting created immense discomfort and unhappiness in the people of the United States due to it being one of the biggest school shootings in U.S. history. In the Columbine High School Massacre in 20 April 1999 12 students and 1 one teacher was killed and 21 people were injured causing it to be called a massacre. After these shootings steps have been taken to prohibit more shootings in the two thousands such as the steps that the White House has taken, however none of them were enough and the school shootings continued to happen in following years with the Red Lake Shooting (2005), Virginia Tech Shooting (2007) and Sandy Hook Elementary School Shooting (2014). Due to the problem not being completely solved school shootings and violence still continue in 2018 with shootings like Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Shooting (2017), and Santa Fe High School Shooting (2018). The continuation of these school shootings are causing stress and worry around the globe especially for school personnel and parents. The parties involved in this problem are still trying to solve the issue with possible solutions however there are still no solutions that end the problem once and for all.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

USA : With many school shootings and violence going on in the country the government is searching for solutions to eradicate the problem. The United States government and President have recently published many orders and acts such as the Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs), Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). The U.S. government is also taking steps to improve investigations and strengthen background checks. By doing all of these the U.S. government is hoping to eradicate the problem in their country once and for all.

Students Against Violence Everywhere (Organization): The Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) is an organization which works against violence of all kinds in any school around the globe particularly focusing on gun violence in the United States. SAVE gives education to children about the consequences of violence in order to prohibit any kind of violence in the future.

United Kingdom: The United Kingdom has faced a school shooting once in 1996 and banned guns right after the incident happened. The country has taken solid steps to prevent any school shooting from happening ever since. There has been no school shooting incident ever since 1996. The British government has taken the necessary steps to prevent school shootings from happening and encourages all other countries to do so.

RESEARCH REPORT

Timeline of Events

<u>Westside Middle School Shooting, 24 March 1998</u>	Andrew Golden and Mitchell Johnson, killed five people, and wounded ten others, as Westside Middle School emptied during a fire alarm intentionally set off by Golden
<u>Columbine High School Massacre, 20 April 1999</u>	18-year-old Eric Harris and 17-year-old Dylan Klebold, students at Columbine High School, killed twelve students and one teacher. They injured 21 additional people, and three more were injured while attempting to escape the school. The pair committed suicide in the library after a brief gunfight with police at the end of the massacre.
<u>Red Lake Shooting, 21 March 2005</u>	16-year-old student Jeffrey Weise, killed his grandfather and grandfather's companion at their home. He drove to Red Lake Senior High School. Armed with his grandfather's police weapons, Weise killed five students, one teacher, and one security guard, wounding seven others, before committing suicide
<u>Virginia Tech Shooting, 16 April 2007</u>	Virginia Tech shooting: 23-year-old student, Seung-Hui Cho, killed thirty-two students and faculty members at Virginia Tech, and wounded another seventeen students and faculty members in two separate attacks before committing suicide
<u>Northern Illinois University shooting, 14 February 2008</u>	27-year-old Steven Kazmierczak, shot multiple people with a shotgun in a classroom of Northern Illinois University, killing five and injuring 21, before taking his own life.
<u>Sandy Hook Elementary School Shooting, 14 December 2012</u> <u>Extra Information Link</u>	20-year-old Adam Lanza, killed twenty-six people and himself. He killed twenty first-grade children aged six and seven during the attack at school, along with six adults, including four teachers, the principal, and the school psychologist. Two other persons were injured
<u>Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Shooting, 14 February, 2018</u>	Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting: A 19-year-old former student Nikolas Cruz allegedly began shooting students and staff members. 17 people were killed, and 17 others were injured.
<u>Santa Fe High School Shooting, 18 May, 2018</u>	School was evacuated when fire alarms pulled at 7:45 am after students said they had heard gunshots. Shooter Dimitrios Pagourtzi killed 10 people while wounding another 10.

RESEARCH REPORT

Treaties and Events

[The Second Amendment](#) : The Right To Bear Arms

Passed by Congress September 25, 1789. Ratified December 15, 1791. The first 10 Amendment from the Bill of Rights. "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

[The Actions of The White House on March 12, 2018](#) : National Security and Defense

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

There has been debates for a stricter regulation of the right to bear arms in the United States after the Columbine School shooting but these debates failed to produce the solution that was needed and the necessary actions weren't taken. At 12 March 2018 the White House published a [new strategy plan](#) and new actions that were going to take place in order to prohibit future school shootings. This new plan includes Acts and Orders that aim to eradicate the problem by strengthening background checks and creating an order that gives the court and law enforcement the right to remove firearms from individuals who are a demonstrated threat to themselves or others.

Possible Solutions

Just like the White House did governments can create new orders to interfere with the right to bear arms of individuals if the individual is posing any threats to the outside. This is a possible solution because if regular check ups are made and the individuals who pose threat to society are spotted this orders could help the federal forces to prohibit a possible shooting outcome by taking the firearm.

Creating a supporting, safe and caring school environment by giving positive psychological support, helping and caring for and providing mental support for the students who are in need. By doing so this solution could eradicate the cause of the problem. Students will be in an environment safe of violence, discrimination and all kinds of hatred and due to that the tendency to form a similar harmful behaviour will drop significantly.

RESEARCH REPORT

Bibliography

1. “Timeline: School Violence in the U.S.” CNN, Cable News Network, 14 Dec. 2012, www.cnn.com/2012/12/14/us/timeline-school-violence/index.html.
2. “President Donald J. Trump Is Taking Immediate Actions to Secure Our Schools.” The White House, The United States Government, www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trump-taking-immediate-actions-secure-schools/.
3. “The 2nd Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.” National Constitution Center – Constitutioncenter.org, National Constitution Center, constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendments/amendment-ii.
4. Sun-Sentinel, South Florida. “How the Marjory Stoneman Douglas School Shooting Unfolded | Graphic.” Sun-Sentinel.com, 26 Apr. 2018, www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/parkland/florida-school-shooting/sfl-florida-school-shooting-timeline-20180424-htmlstory.html.
5. “Sandy Hook Shooting Victims Remembered.” CNN, Cable News Network, 14 Dec. 2017, www.cnn.com/2017/12/14/us/sandy-hook-newtown-shooting-victims-profiles/index.html.
6. “6 Shot Dead, Including Gunman, at Northern Illinois University.” CNN, Cable News Network, www.cnn.com/2008/US/02/14/university.shooting/.
7. “Virginia Tech Shootings Fast Facts.” CNN, Cable News Network, 2 May 2018, www.cnn.com/2013/10/31/us/virginia-tech-shootings-fast-facts/index.html.
8. Enger, John. “The Shooting at Red Lake: What Happened.” Minnesota Public Radio News, 18 Mar. 2015, www.mprnews.org/story/2015/03/18/red-lake-shooting-explained.
9. “Columbine High School Shootings Fast Facts.” CNN, Cable News Network, 25 Mar. 2018, www.cnn.com/2013/09/18/us/columbine-high-school-shootings-fast-facts/index.html.