



A Resolution on Gun Safety

Committee: Social and Economic Justice

Resolution: SEJ-20-08

1. **WHEREAS**, According to Everytown For Gun Safety, on average 52 women, disproportionately black and brown, are shot and killed every month by an intimate partner;
2. **WHEREAS**, Nearly 1 million women alive in the United States today have reported being shot by an intimate partner.
3. **WHEREAS**, States with higher rates of firearm ownership have reported a 65 percent higher rate of Intimate Partner Violence Homicide than states with lower rates of gun ownership.
4. **WHEREAS**, Public health researchers have established that in relationships where violence is present, abusers access to guns causes a significant increase in the risk of death for women. Access to a firearm makes it five times more likely for the abuser to kill their victim.
5. **WHEREAS**, The Gun Control Act of 1968 signed by President Richard Nixon banned cheaply-made handguns associated with crime in minority communities and felons as well as the mental ill from owning a firearm.

6. **WHEREAS**, The Gun Control Act of 1968 was passed during a time where African Americans were beginning to portray “militancy” through open and legal carry of firearms at Black Panther Party demonstrations.
7. **WHEREAS**, The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund argued in Heller amicus brief that because people of color are particularly African Americans are disproportionately victims of handgun violence. Legislation restricting handgun access benefits their communities.
8. **WHEREAS**, The National Rifle Association had to be prompted by grassroot organisers to issue a statement of support in 2016 when Philando Castile was fatally shot by officer Jeronimo Yanez after explaining he was traveling with a licensed firearm.
9. **WHEREAS**, The notion of openly carrying firearms is a new dimension of gun ownership that is increasingly becoming available to African Americans when it was once explicitly a privilege to white americans.
10. **WHEREAS**, In 2018 there were a total of 996 fatal shootings caused by the police in the United States and the following year that number rose to 1,004 people dying at the hands of the police.
11. **WHEREAS**, On a voluntary basis police departments report the number of justifiable homicides by on-duty law enforcement officers. These reports ultimately do not provide much information surrounding the officers, evidence of circumstances of the homicide.
12. **WHEREAS**, African American men fatally shot by the police are more likely to be unarmed and less likely to pose an immediate threat to officers or society. Whereas white Americans are nearly three times more likely to be shot by the police due to a mental health reason.

13. WHEREAS, African American gun owners have been exemplified through mainstream media as criminals and thugs. While white gun owners are seen as protectors of their families or hunters and fishers in “great american tradition”.

14. WHEREAS, Americans are ten times more likely to be killed by a gun than people in other developed countries.

15. WHEREAS, African American children and teens were four times more likely to be killed or injured by a firearm than their white peers.

16. WHEREAS, According to The Gun Violence Archive there were 417 mass shootings within the United States in 2019.

17. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NOBEL Women encourages equal enforcement of the law when it comes to gun safety for all american citizens.

18. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NOBEL Women encourages an increase in the funding for the Victims of Crime Act towards street-based programs and gun violence intervention programs.

Introduced by the Honorable Sonya Harper

Illinois General Assembly