

**Forum:** General Assembly I

**Issue:** Regulating the trade and civilian possession of firearms

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## Introduction

According to a June 2018 report from the Small Arms Survey, it is estimated in 2017 that civilians globally possess 857 million firearms while the law enforcement only possesses 22.7 million and the military possesses 133 million. In America alone, there is an estimated 393.3 million civilian-held legal and illicit firearms; more than five times worth than India—the second highest in civilian-held firearms— at 71.1 million. The report also found that Americans owned 120.5 firearms per 100 residents, more than twice the amount of Yemen's rate of 52.8.

However, many of these statistics are estimates and many of the actual numbers may be more than the actual statistics. The issue with documenting civilian ownership of firearms is that they are privately owned which restricts the government's ability in keeping a record of it. For example, the Small Arms Survey previously stated that there are approximately 393.3 million civilian-held firearms in the US, however some American sources imply that the number may be as high as 600 million. This problem also extends internationally. Many nations are not supplying enough information and statistics to organizations regarding firearm standards, resulting in harder time tracking and having definitive information of the global arms trade and possession.

Not only are we unclear on the information for global firearms, we are more uncertain on the illicit trade and possession of firearms. The black market has now become a big supplier in supplying firearms and firearm related services to customers worldwide. With the rise of dark web, the black market can easily form transactions while staying anonymous. Non-state actors such as ISIS and other individual actors can easily obtain weapons on the black market without any other party or government noticing. From there, they can easily enact shootings once obtaining the firearms.

Conflicts have also had a clear correlation with firearms trade. Countries would supply firearms and other weaponry to either sides of the war and some would continue supplying even if the conflict is inhumane. From there, people can obtain scraps from the remnants of war and recycle it so it can be reused and resold. One example is Pakistan where they have been obtaining remnants of war from the ongoing war in Afghanistan.

It can be noted that both the legal and illegal trade and possession of firearms must have increased regulation. There is simply not enough conclusive information on both parties and that international regulation of firearms on a whole is meager. Without clarity on firearms globally, it can result in larger conflicts, additional mass shootings, and further unwanted consequences. In conclusion, the global firearms trade and civilian possession of firearms tackles many legal and illegal issues that both require immediate international response.

## **Definition of Key Terms**

### **Civilian Possession**

A civilian will be defined as a non-militant, non-combatant citizen who is not employed within a state's "security sector" or law enforcement agency. A civilian may possess a weapon, but not as a result of involvement in such a group, but rather for such purposes as self-defense, recreational activities, or to satisfy cultural traditions.

### **Firearms**

The most commonly agreed definition of a firearm is any ranged weapon that propels its projectile using high-pressure gas created through a chemical reaction of propellant by exothermic combustion.

### **Mass Shooting**

In basic definition, a mass shooting is an incident involving multiple victims of firearm-related violence. The United States' Congressional Research Service acknowledges that there is no set definition but defines a public mass shooting as an event where someone chooses four or more victims indiscriminately and kills them, similar to the FBI's definition of "Mass Murder".

### **Small Arms**

Any form of firearm that is small and light enough to be carried and operated by a soldier. The two main types are handguns and long guns. Handguns refers to the smallest of all firearms which include pistols and revolvers. Long guns on the other hand refer to any gun larger than a handgun and is held using two hands. Long guns including rifles, shotguns, machineguns, sniper rifles, and more.

### **Small Arms Light Weapons (SALW)**

Small Arms Light Weapons is the general term used when regulating the trade of firearms. Small arms refer to weapons that normal civilians can usually obtain or can be held. A light weapon usually is found in militaries such as grenade launchers, portable anti-aircraft gun, anti-tank guns, etc.

### **The Gun Control Act of 1968 (GCA)**

The Gun Control Act of 1968 is a U.S. federal law that establishes a key provision in the civil law. Effective since October 22, 1968, the act seeks to regulate the firearms industry and firearm owners by prohibiting the possession or trafficking of firearms, which primarily take the form of interstate firearm transfers.

### **The Second Amendment**

The Second Amendment was passed by the American Congress on September 25, 1789 as a part of the Bill of Rights, the founding laws of the United States. It states, "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 meaning of this

amendment has constantly brought up disagreement as to whether it is the right of individuals to be able to keep and bear arms or can only be exercised by militia organizations such as the National Guard.

## Background

Since the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, occurrences involving mass shootings and gun violence has become a normalcy around the globe, and even a fact of American culture. There are ongoing debates surrounding the root of this issue: some believe that the romanticization of guns from military museums was the inspiration of the mass civilian acquisition of firearms, while others blame the poor regulations and enforcement methods on the trade of firearms. However, the issue at hand today does not directly concern the violent culture of our global society, but rather aims to tackle the problem of regulating the trade and civilian possession of firearms.

### International Trade of Firearms

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the firearm industry has been increasing with significant increase in exports from P5 nations. These firearms are typically traded through interactions between arms-producing companies and departments of governments; however, there are also black markets and other sites where illicit arms trafficking occurs. In recent figures, major weapon sales in 2017 were 10% more worldwide than of 2008-2012. Many of these arm sales have been a factor in fueling armed conflict around the world such as the fighting in South Sudan and Yemen's civil war. Even with the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) coming into force in 2014 with the aim of monitoring international trade in conventional weapons, critics still state its impact has been limited.

#### *Yemen's Civil War*

The civil war in Yemen has already caused the deaths of more than 60,000 people including more than 6000 civilians. The conflict between Houthi rebels and Hadi's government has also received the attention of nearby nations and foreign powers. Nearby nations supporting Hadi's government include Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, and Sudan. Foreign powers such as the USA, UK, and France have provided resources to Hadi which include small arms. There are certain statistics of certain weapons released such as the number of warplanes and tanks ordered however the number of firearms and ammunition ordered by nations in the war remains unknown. Many countries have now either suspended or revoked arms trade with the conflict however the largest exporters USA, UK, and France continue to sell arms to the coalition even after the wake of the Khashoggi murder and ongoing crisis in Yemen.

Supplier/ Recipient	Bahrain	Egypt	Jordan	Kuwait	Saudi Arabia	Sudan	UAE
<b>USA</b>	Ord: 306 Del: 189 TIV: 48	Ord: 1,863 Del: 2,279 TIV: 1,233	Ord: 1,127 Del: 610 TIV: 326	Ord: 1,563 Del: 1,540 TIV: 532	Ord: 28,206 Del: 13,480 TIV: 10,059	No arms sales	Ord: 2,793 Del: 3,735 TIV: 2,955
<b>UK</b>	Lic: 85 TIV: 28	Lic: 179 TIV: 0	Lic: 49 TIV: 1	Lic: 68 TIV: 0	Lic: 6,846 TIV: 2,095	No arms sales	Lic: 809 TIV: 8
<b>France</b>	Ord: 3 Del: 7 TIV: 0	Ord: 6,898 Del: 4,338 TIV: 2,734	Ord: 4 Del: 4 TIV: 3	Ord: 1,574 Del: 30 TIV: 26	Ord: 1,763 Del: 3,417 TIV: 549	No arms sales	Ord: 1,361 Del: 1,217 TIV: 548
<b>Germany</b>	Lic: 7 TIV: 0	Lic: 1,258 TIV: 427	Lic: 62 TIV: 63	Lic: 221 TIV: 5	Lic: 1,171 TIV: 235	No arms sales	Lic: 546 TIV: 57
<b>Italy</b>	Lic: 65 Del: 23 TIV: 5	Lic: 58 Del: 43 TIV: 11	Lic: 34 Del: 67 TIV: 72	Lic: 8,527 Del: 18 TIV: 0	Lic: 816 Del: 542 TIV: 226	No arms sales	Lic: 436 Del: 365 TIV: 100
<b>Netherlands</b>	Lic: 1 Del: 0 TIV: 0	Lic: 44 Del: 6 TIV: 41	Lic: 107 Del: 111 TIV: 334	No arms sales	Lic: 2 Del: 2 TIV: 25	No arms sales	Lic: 86 Del: 58 TIV: 167
<b>Spain</b>	Lic: 1 Del: 25 TIV: 0	Lic: 313 Del: 375 TIV: 144	Lic: 45 Del: 8 TIV: 0	Lic: 0 Del: 1 TIV: 0	Lic: 1,376 Del: 1,037 TIV: 293	No arms sales	Lic: 114 Del: 93 TIV: 0
<b>Sweden</b>	Lic: 0 Del: 0 TIV: 0	No arms sales	Lic: 5 Del: 2 TIV: 0	Lic: 16 Del: 9 TIV: 0	Lic: 0 Del: 3 TIV: 1	No arms sales	Lic: 1,282 Del: 39 TIV: 87
<b>Russia</b>	TIV: 10	TIV: 2,107	TIV: 60	TIV: 48	TIV: 0	TIV: 125	TIV: 80
<b>China</b>	TIV: 4	TIV: 31	TIV: 24	TIV: 0	TIV: 125	TIV: 103	TIV: 105
<b>Other</b>	TIV: 15	TIV: 282	TIV: 179	TIV: 89	TIV: 521	TIV: 78	TIV: 614

**Figure 1: Lic:** Value of individual export licenses granted for arms sales 2015-2017, US\$ million (a zero indicates a figure of less than \$0.5 million) **Ord:** Value of orders for arms 2015-2017 (2015-18 for USA), US\$ millions (a zero indicates a figure of less than \$0.5 million) **Del:** Value of delivery of arms 2015-2017, US\$ millions (a zero indicates a figure of less than \$0.5 million) **TIV:** SIPRI Trend Indicator Value of deliveries of major conventional weapons 2015-2018, millions. (See here for definition). A zero indicates that there were no major conventional weapons deliveries during 2015-2018.

## China's growth

Over the past few decades, China's economy has rose dramatically. As of 2019, China has one of the world's largest economy in the world, second to only the USA, with a GDP per capita of over 9,776.375 USD. Its weapons industry has mirrored its economic rise; China "is now the world's fifth largest seller of arms... behind the US, Russia, France, and Germany." China's arms exports rose by 38% between 2008 and 2017, and the country has spent more on its defense industries since. It holds the world's second-largest defense budget of \$150 billion as of 2017. During 2013-17, it is recorded that China sold firearms to 48 different countries, with its top customer's being Pakistan and Russia.

## Mass shootings in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

The global community has suffered from a multitude of mass shootings over the last decade. These mass shootings have come in various forms, including but not limited to school shootings, terrorist attacks, and violent crimes. Due to social media in this digital age, many of these shootings have caught the attention of netizens and media reporters alike, who have in turn showed support to the victims of the shootings.

## Paris attacks

On the night of November 13, 2015, the city of Paris suffered from a series of terror attacks involving firearms which claimed the lives of 129 innocent people. The event provoked responses from many world leaders, most of whom issued statements in support of France. Former President Obama, who was in the US executive presidential office at the time of the Paris attacks, condemned the atrocities on behalf of the White House: “It’s an attack not just on the people of France. But this is an attack on all of humanity and the universal values we share. We’re going to do whatever it takes to work with the French people and with nations around the world to bring these terrorists to justice and to go after any terrorist networks that go after our people.”

In addition to the statements and vows made by world leaders, over 70 million people shared their prayers and support for Paris on social media on the weekend of the shooting. Such proceedings were also taken for the series of terrorist attacks that other countries in Europe suffered in 2016, such as the Brussels and Nice attacks.

### ISIS affiliation

The attackers for each of the mass murders in the European cities were affiliated to the terrorist organization widely known as ISIS. According to the Conflict Armament Research field investigators and a Belgian research group that studied the issue, “the majority of weapons used by ISIS since 2014 originated in China, Russia and Eastern Europe.” Other items, including “ammunition as well as chemical components procured... to manufacture improvised explosive devices (IEDs)”, were studied and discovered to originate from the same three countries. However, the report also *noted that many of the items were originally supplied from the US and Saudi Arabia. Clearly, the issue not only includes firearm trafficking among civilians, but also has ties to “governments and entities that acquire weapons lawfully and subsequently divert them to unauthorized users.”*

### Las Vegas Shootings

In October 1, 2017, Stephen Paddock killed 58 people and injured hundreds at music concert in Las Vegas. He fired his gun from the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino on that Sunday night. However, another thing that was important from the shooting were the guns itself. The law enforcement obtained 23 firearms and a dozen of them were modified to fire like automatic weapons. In the US, automatic weapons are heavily restricted in the public and many states do not allow the sales of automatic weapons. However, the shooter obtained several semi-automatic guns and modified them using a bump-fire stock. A semi-automatic gun fires one bullet every time the user pulls the trigger while an automatic gun fires a stream of bullets until the user releases the trigger or the gun has run out of ammunition. The bump-fire stock modifies the gun so that the semi-automatic gun fires similar to the rate of an automatic gun. This allowed the shooter to shoot at a faster rate into the crowd and was also much easier for the shooter himself to obtain a more devastating weapon easily.

### School Shootings



School shootings happen when a school is placed as a target for mass murder. Usually, the shooter will target anyone indifferently, causing numerous casualties on all sides. School shootings can happen all around the world, however a majority happen in the US. According to CNN, America alone since 2009 has had 288 school shootings while compared to the other six of the G7 (Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Italy, UK), France and Canada have two, Germany has one, and the rest of the countries have zero school shootings since 2009. This is 57 times the amount than the other six G7 countries combined. If counting countries other than the G7, Mexico at 2nd place only has 8 school shootings, 280 less than the US. In 2018, there were 113 killed or injured from school shootings; some news sources called it the “worst year for school shootings”. There are two reasons why so many school shootings happen in the US. The first reason is the US has weaker gun laws, even compared to developed countries. In a developed country, they at least require one background check or more. In the US, the background check isn’t an absolute requirement because the laws are filled with many loopholes and there is poor enforcement. To add on, different states have varying degrees of gun control. One person in a state with strict gun control can simply cross to another state with looser gun law restrictions. As previously stated by the Small Arms Survey, there are 120.5 guns for every American civilian meaning it is easy for an American civilian to obtain a gun from the sheer number of guns in storage in the US. These two factors are what allow school shooters to be able to obtain guns and commit attacks with ease compared to other countries.

### **Black Market Trade**

The illicit trade of firearms both locally and globally has left devastating impacts throughout many times in history. The Black Market provides a wide variety of services for the trade of small arms such as selling cheap yet useable small arms, unauthorized small arms tutorials, and more. With the rise of the darknet, the black-market trade has prominently grown and become harder to track.

#### **Dark web**

The definition of dark web refers to a part of the world wide web that can be only accessed through special software and contains encrypted content that cannot be indexed by traditional search engines. According to a study by RAND Europe, the dark web not only enables the circulation of illicit weapons already on the black market, it also allows the diversion for legally owned weapons. They also found that the dark web is increasing the availability of more recent, better quality firearms for similar or lower prices than ones that can be found on the street in the black market. The online Black Market is unlikely to be able to fuel a large conflict due to limitations in infrastructure and services in the conflict zone; however, the online Black Market is highly suited at supplying individuals or small groups such as lone-wolf terrorists and small gangs through the anonymity. To add on, the dark web can also be used by vulnerable and fixated individuals to purchase firearms. Not only are firearms listed on the dark web, there were also digital products such as illegal tutorials on making home-made guns and 3D models that can be printed out by a 3D printer.

#### **Darra Adam Khel**

Darra Adam Khel is a town located in the mountains of northwest Pakistan. It lies in “Ilaaqa Ghair” where the country’s laws are applied differently. At its greatest peak, Darra was a refuge for vagabonds, drug dealers, and fugitives which is the reason why police were unable to operate efficiently in this area. Nevertheless, Darra is most known for its market of knock-off weapons and ammo. A Chinese imitation of the M16 would cost a buyer around \$1800 to \$2300. In Darra, a replica of the Chinese imitation would only cost \$300 to \$800. Similar with the AK-47, an original would cost \$800 to \$2000 but a Darra copy would cost only \$70 to \$250. Vendors in Darra Adam Khel claim that most of the weapons sold in the town are for self-defense and hunting. Before the increase of army intervention, customers could even buy rocket-propelled grenade launchers and mortars from the town. The sales of the area back then were also higher with a seller claiming he used to sell 10 to 20 pistols per week. Because of increased army intervention, people are more scared of carrying weapons around lowering the demand for firearms. Darra Adam Khel is only one hour away from Afghanistan which provides many benefits to weapon vendors from the conflict going on. One example is a vendor which specializes in selling ammunition. According to the vendor, the best cartridges are used by NATO forces, so scrap collectors collect the empty cases from the conflict in Afghanistan and transport it back to the town. From there, the vendor reshapes, remolds, and resells the ammunition for local use.

## Major Parties Involved

### United States of America (USA)

The USA is arguably the most relevant member state in this issue due the prevalence of mass shootings, and trade of firearms within the country. Gun regulation is one of the most heavily-debated topics in American history. The concept of firearm control has existed within the legislature of the USA since the ratification of the Bill of Rights in 1791, and the understanding of the issue has been ever-evolving since; however, the member state has not considered the issue of firearm regulation to full completion, which has resulted in many mass casualties caused by civilian possessions and operations of firearms.

### National Rifle Association (NRA)

The NRA is an American organization providing services such as funding gun safety, encouraging gun education, and promoting the Second Amendment. The organization was founded in 1871 with the primary intention to “promote and encourage rifle shooting on a scientific basis”. While the NRA has been known to open programs for gun education such as the Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC), NRA Police Firearms Instructor Certification Program, Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program, and more.

### The United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (PoA)

The PoA is a globally recognized framework for activities with the aim of countering the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons and restraining the negative consequences it brings. It was adopted by all member

nations in the UN in 2001. The proliferation of firearms has been the result of several factors in Asia and the Pacific. Parts of the area remain affected by armed conflict, inter-state war, sectarian conflict, and guerrilla warfare. Organized crime, drug trades, and smuggling by illegal actors have also contributed to the illicit smuggling of small arms especially in South and South-East Asia. The implementation of the PoA is judged based upon the basis of national reports submitted by member states. The information provided allows the reinforcement of coordinated action among government agencies on tackling such problems. According to the data from the 2018 national data reports, the quantity of SALWs collected grew from 131,863 in 2016 to 247,090 in 2017. One common pattern that can be seen in their reports is that on average for each category, 80-90 countries failed to submit data. Nevertheless, this is a flaw of the PoA due to the fact it is not representative of every nation. The PoA has also led to the creation of the International Tracing Instrument (ITI).

### African Union (AU)

The African Union's Defense and Security Division (DSD) has made progress in addressing the illicit trade of small arms on the continent. The main policy document of the DSD regarding the illicit trade is the Bamako Declaration. In the declaration, member states undertook to identify, seize, and destroy illicit weapons. The document also provides for the initiation of measures to regulate the circulation, transfer, and use of small arms. The DSD has helped develop documents such as the "AU Strategy on the Control of Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of SALW". To this day, the DSD works with partners to assist other member nations such as working with law enforcement through the "Fight Against Illicit Firearms in Africa Project". In 2013, the African Union also released its project of "silencing the guns by 2020". Member states of the African Union pledged to make Africa a peaceful, prosperous continent rid of conflict, genocide, human rights violation, and humanitarian disasters between the 7 years. On July 2019, it was announced that the AU theme for the year 2020 would be "Silencing the guns: creating conducive conditions for Africa's development".

### Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
<b>December 15, 1791</b>	The Bill of Rights was ratified to the U.S. Constitution. The second amendment, intended to protect the individual right to bear arms, stated: "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."
<b>November 16, 1871</b>	The NRA was founded in 1871 in New York with the intentions of protecting the Second Amendment and teaching firearm safety and competency. Since its founding, it has continued to inform its members about firearm-related legislations and back the legislative regulations it supports, such as the Federal Firearms Act of 1938.
<b>June 26, 1934</b>	The first piece of national gun control legislation, The National Firearms Act (NFA) was passed. It was enacted by Congress due to the frequent uses of the firearm in crimes, particularly the gangland crimes occurring in that time period, such as the Saint



	Valentine's Day Massacre of 1929. The NFA imposed a tax on the manufacturing, selling, and transportation of firearms listed in the law.
<b>October 22, 1968</b>	The GCA was enacted by the 90 <sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress as a response to the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, Attorney General and U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
<b>April 16, 2007</b>	A 23-year-old student named Seung-Hui Cho killed 32 students and faculty members at Virginia Tech. He wounded another seventeen students and faculty members in two separate attacks before committing suicide. This incident is the third-deadliest mass shooting by a single gunman in modern U.S. history.
<b>December 14, 2012</b>	In Connecticut, USA, the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting occurred. 20-year-old Adam Lanza fatally shot 20 children between six and seven years old, and six adult staff members at the school. At the time, it was the second-deadliest mass shooting in the history of the United States.
<b>September 26, 2013</b>	The Security Council resolution 2117 was adopted in 2013. It was the first thematic UN resolution dedicated to the issue of small arms and light weapons. Russia abstained.
<b>November 13, 2015</b>	The city of Paris suffered from a series of terror attacks involving firearms which claimed the lives of 129 innocent people. The attackers were affiliated to the terrorist organization ISIS.
<b>October 1, 2017</b>	Stephen Paddock killed 58 people and injured hundreds at music concert in Las Vegas. He fired his gun from the 32 <sup>nd</sup> floor of the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino on that Sunday night.
<b>May 31, 2019</b>	As of June 28, 2019, the most recent deadly mass shooting was at a municipal building in Virginia Beach. The suspect, DeWayne Craddock, had legally purchased two .45-caliber pistols and killed 12 victims.

## Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

There have been numerous attempts to tackle this issue of the issue of regulating the trade and civilian possession of firearms. Many programs have been created, and many resolutions have been proposed to address this issue. Additional followings are examples of organizations formed to deal with nuclear power and its disposal and recycling. Further research will provide ample explanations.

- Protocol against Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, May 31, 2001 (A/RES/55/255)

- Resolution on Small Arms and Light Weapons, September 26, 2013 (S/RES/2117)

The United Nations has also previously tackled the international trade of firearms through the entrance of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in 2014. One leading factor causing the creation of the ATT is the lack of presence of regulations on the arms trade and the effects that this weakness leads too. The ATT targets to protect the civilian population trapped in situations of armed violence in both crime and conflict, especially in LEDC areas where they are more likely to be on the receiving end of armed forces, non-state actors, and criminal groups. One serious consequence to the lack of control of the arms trade is the disruption of humanitarian aid and development operations because of attacks against humanitarian organizations or the UN. Many of these setbacks have been traced back to the sole problem of lack of transparency in the arms trade. Therefore, the ATT was created as a way of regulating the global arms trade to prevent such a matter. The ATT establishes multiple measures such as restating definitions, establishing implementation requirements, and promoting the cooperation, responsibility, and accountability of nations in the arms trade. Another important implementation is that if a member state knows that the arm will be used for malicious crimes, the country must stop the transfer. However, the ATT has not been completely effective in the whole world. Only 104 nations have joined the ATT which still leaves a significant amount of countries out there that have not signed the ATT. Also, countries have not lived up to their obligations such as China has supplied ammunition and small arms to Sudan where it is being used by militias and security forces in Darfur and the UK has supplied arms to countries with high amounts of human rights abuse such as Sri Lanka.

In 2005, governments under the PoA adopted the International Tracing Instrument (ITI). This instrument requires that member nations ensure that weapons are properly marked and that records are kept. This provides a framework for cooperation in weapons tracing. However, there are flaws that need to be fixed. The ITI suffers from issues such as inaccurate identification of certain weapons, lack of an import marking, unmarked weapons, the rise of self-crafted arms such as 3D printed guns, not covering ammunition and associated materials, to the lack of a universal record keeping method. Now, improving weapons tracing is a part of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

Gun culture has also been a heated topic recently in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. There are constant debates about the possession of guns of certain civilians and whether possession should be legal or not. For example, in the US, there has been a recent debate on whether the school staff should be able to bear arms to protect their students. After the February 2018 shooting in Florida at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School leaving 17 dead, Florida passed its guardian program which allowed some school staff to carry guns on campus. However very recently, Florida has updated the law allowing classroom teachers to be armed to. This has become a very controversial topic with the issue of public safety and trust. The law was passed to prevent another school shooting however citizens are genuinely concerned with the racial-bias and possibilities of mistrust this situation could lead to.

## Possible Solutions

- To tackle the issue of the illegal trafficking and trade of firearms, delegates should aim to propose solutions that encourage member nations to work at local, national, and global levels to create law-enforcing frameworks, such as but not limited to:
  - Implementing stricter security and management measures on their government stockpiles of firearms,
  - Increasing surveillance of the movements of the firearms trade in the dark web especially for small parties such as lone-wolf terrorists and small gangs,
  - Tackling non-licensed suppliers of firearms, ammunition, or firearms related services and any other operators partaking in this action such as the middleman or transporter,
  - Reducing the accessibility of such firearms by implementing stricter methods in the procedure for civilian ownership and possession of guns.
- To ensure the welfare of future civilian populations, delegates must aim to reform the perspective that global citizens have on small arms and light weapons by means such as, but not limited to:
  - Reforming the education system to change the youth's understanding on the proper use of firearms and the mass danger a firearm can cause,
  - Reduce the normalization of violence, which includes the misuse of a firearm.
- To reach a global consensus on the methods of combatting the issue at hand, delegates could create a peaceful framework which calls for member states, and other relevant entities, to cooperate in policymaking and enforcement processes to eradicate the illicit transfer and misuse of all forms of firearms.
- Delegates should also implement a method of tracking all firearms in a member nation to better provide data and transparency of the arms trade in the state including ways such as:
  - Ensuring a national record of all registered weapons with serial numbers to be able to better track the location and ownership of weapons in the member state,
  - Providing data on certain areas where there are a high number of unregistered, illicit weapons and use the data to better provide a map where illicit trade of small arms can be happening in the nation,
  - Improving the surveillance of imports and exports of small arms in the member state to reaffirm the shipment and that no arms has fallen into outside hands.
- Another part delegates should also focus on is ammunition and modifiers to firearms to ensure that current civilian firearms will not be modified to become even more deadly and result in more loss of lives through ways such as:
  - Restricting the buy/sales of certain ammunition and modifiers that can result in the gun becoming more powerful,
  - Limit the number of unofficial vendors from reusing used ammunition or custom modifiers,
  - Modifying the ITI to expand its services to include ammunition and modifiers.

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