**Research Report**

**General Assembly 1**

***Addressing the challenges and strategies for controlling private gun ownership, in order to enhance civilian safety.***

*Student Officers:*

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**Introduction**

 Gun violence is a pressing issue in many countries, but mainly the Americas suffer from disproportionate gun violence. For example, in Jamaica, 90% of all homicides are committed with firearms. In the entire world, however, 71% of all homicides are committed with firearms. Some root causes of gun violence are gun availability, distrust in law enforcement, alcohol abuse, and drug use. Areas, where people have little trust in law enforcement, are more likely to own firearms to get a feeling of safety.

Some countries that have been heavily impacted have introduced gun reform laws and buyback programs. Most countries that have enacted gun reform have been successful, namely Australia which, despite having more guns in circulation today than before the 1996 gun buyback, still has had declining gun violence.

There are currently 1 billion guns in circulation, and 85% of those guns are in the hands of private owners, 13% are in the hands of military arsenals, and 2% are in the hands of law enforcement.

**The Committee**

General Assembly 1 is a fairly ordinary committee, meaning there are no special Rules of Procedure specific to this committee. In MUNA, General Assembly 1 deals with matters of disarmament and national security, which can include an immense number of topics. In this General Assembly, nations come together to discuss important global issues and collaborate to find solutions in a peaceful and respectful manner. When debating an issue during MUNA, one should be aware of the fact that money is never an issue. Therefore, a delegate should never vote or speak against resolutions because of financial reasons.

**Keywords**

The Americas: the super-continent consisting of North America, Central America, and South America

Homicide: Killing of another person (not necessarily purposeful)

Semiautomatic firearm: a firearm that does not require manual chambering of every bullet

Buyback program: a program where the government gives rewards to people who give up certain items the government wants out of circulation

**Overview**

Explanation of root causes of gun violence

* Gun availability. Studies have shown that countries where guns are more easily accessible, either illegally or legally, have proportionally higher gun-related death rates.
* Distrust in law enforcement. Areas where people have little trust in law enforcement are more likely to own firearms to get a feeling of safety.
* Alcohol abuse. Alcohol lessens one’s inhibitions, can cause random violent outbursts, and can interfere with a person’s threat assessment capabilities.
* Drug use. People who abuse drugs often suffer from paranoia and other delusions, carrying a gun makes them feel more at ease, however, this paranoia may result in drug abusers violently lashing out at the people they believe have ill intent towards them.

**Arguments**

**Against stricter gun control**

**Tyranny**

an argument against stricter gun control is that allowing governments to restrict gun ownership is giving the government too much power, in some liberal countries, having the government restrict what its citizens can and cannot own does not line up with the political beliefs of its citizens and what is written in the constitution.

**Self-protection**

a common argument against gun reform laws is that people feel they can better protect themselves and their families with the help of firearms. In some countries, wildlife may be so deadly that a weapon with high stopping power can be the difference between life and death.

**For stricter gun control**

**Escalation**

in the USA, almost 2/3 of all gun-related deaths were caused by arguments about things like money, love triangles, or even drug or alcohol-fuelled blind rage. Studies have shown that often, the weapon used in violent arguments will be the weapon that is closest to hand. During the Iraq and Afghanistan wars between 2001 and 2015 less American soldiers were murdered with guns than women were killed by intimate partners with guns between 2001 and 2012.

**Accidental shooting**

Because of the volatile nature of firearms, firearms can cause deadly accidents, in the USA alone between 1999 and 2016 approximately 11 thousand deaths were caused by an accident with a firearm. Most unintentional firearm deaths are self-inflicted or caused by family or friends.

Please note that these points are intended as a general framework to guide your preparation for the debate. Delegates are encouraged to tailor their arguments to align with their assigned country’s policies and unique context. Replicating these points directly is discouraged to ensure a constructive and engaging discussion.

**Timeline of events**

1989 – Canada passes gun reform laws requiring a license to own certain firearms and a 28-day waiting period before citizens receive firearms they wish to purchase

1996 - Australia passes major gun reform laws and organizes gun buyback program,

1996 – UK passes gun reform outlawing certain firearms

2018 – Norway passes gun reform laws prohibiting the ownership of semiautomatic firearms

**Resolution**

A delegate should carefully consider their country's perspective and opinion on the matter when writing a resolution. This research report is a good starting point for your investigation. Consider ways to debate on the independence of the non-self-governing territories that benefit the most countries involved. Remember to pay attention not only to the less-developed countries involved in the issue but also to the developed countries. Goals should be realistic and attainable. Furthermore, keep in mind that different countries have different policies, as well as global differences. These differences may be economic, but they are also primarily cultural. Make sure to thoroughly research your country and remember that you are speaking as if you are representing that country. Therefore, before attending the conference, do some research on your country's policies.

For more information on resolution writing, please refer to the MUNA booklet on our MUNA site: <https://munalfrink.nl/>.

**Links and sources**

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_firearm-related_homicide_rates>

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

<https://www.humanrightscareers.com/issues/root-causes-of-gun-violence/>

<https://www.preventioninstitute.org/focus-areas/preventing-violence-and-reducing-injury/preventing-violence-advocacy>

<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/us-gun-policy-global-comparisons>

<https://www.britannica.com/procon/gun-control-debate/The-National-Rifle-Association-NRA#ref394494>