

YUNMUN XXX

Disarmament and International Security Committee

Topic 2: Gun Control

Keith Edwards's tweet at first glance seems fun and colorful. He has many flags in a row with numbers next to them. However, at second glance one realizes that these numbers are counting mass shootings which have happened in 2019 alone. He lists that the United States had 249, Mexico had three, and New Zealand, the Netherlands, Brazil and Canada each had one¹. Gun violence is occurring at an unbelievably high rate and is quickly and unacceptably becoming the new normal. The shooting which occurred at two different mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand killed 50, injured 50, and shocked the world². Some of these shootings have been because of race, some because of religion, some because of a desire for vengeance, and some are simply because a person decided they had the right to kill someone else. Whatever the reason, every single one of these incidents is a tragedy and as representatives of DISEC we have the responsibility to consider taking action, and change what is happening in the world.

I would like you to start your research by assessing the current policies in your country. This does not mean the positions that fringe groups in your country present. This means the actual policy which is put into law by your country in the position which you will present. Some key factors to look into are:

1. Do people have the right to be armed? Do they have this right when it puts others in danger?
2. What types of weapons do civilians have the right to possess?
3. What types of precautions does the government, if this is governmentally regulated, need to take before allowing someone to own a gun? Should guns be regulated by the government? Does the government need to continue to monitor this individual? Should there be a process to obtain a weapon, or should they be allowed to be purchased by anybody without regulations?
4. What about countries facing instability? Do the people have more of a right to protect themselves? Does this make the situation more volatile?

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https://twitter.com/keithedwards/status/1157740352838742016?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etw eetembed%7Ctwtterm%5E1157740352838742016&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.politifact.com%2Ftrut h-o-meter%2Farticle%2F2019%2Faug%2F05%2Fviral-tweet-about-mass-shootings-country-it-needs-%2 F

² <https://www.npr.org/2019/03/16/704133810/number-of-dead-rises-to-50-in-new-zealand-mass-shooting>

5. Are the positions which you are presenting able to be generalized to become a global standard?
Why is your policy efficient?
6. Should there be a global standard for gun control? Does each country have the right to decide this for themselves?

I do not want this discussion to simply be a summary of your countries policy. I would like you to come well versed in the topic and your own country's position so that we are then able to work together and have considerable discussion about what needs to happen in order to change this horrifying reality. This is the starting point of the discussion, not the ending point.

I urge you to research this topic, the various laws your country has passed, and your countries in depth so you can be prepared for the complex discussions we will be having. Please be sure to present your country's position and be familiar with the guidelines listed in the YUMUN Student Handbook, especially those regarding plagiarism, as each paper will be checked for plagiarism through Turnitin.

Best of luck,
Reena Wasserstein
Chair, DISEC