

Three hundred and forty six mass shootings occurred in the United States in the year 2017 alone. This number doesn't take into account the number of homicides and other gun-related deaths that transpired as well. The current political environment of the United States is fraught with anger over gun violence and what is to be done concerning this rampant issue. While special attention has been given to this topic in the wake of the October 2017 Las Vegas shooting and, more recently, the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting, one cannot forget that the past 11 years have seen the top five deadliest mass shootings in the United States of America. Even after the call for reformation in the aftermath of Stoneman Douglas, the Santa Fe High School shooting occurred on May 18.

To ignore this problem is only to be complicit. America as a whole has become desensitized. In January, for example, a school shooting occurred at a Kentucky High School resulting in two people dead and 18 injured. However, this issue was not extensively reported on and seemingly went unnoticed by the vast majority of people.

However, the desire for change has been a sentiment shared by many across the nation. Dozens of rallies have been organized and taken place in the wake of the Stoneman Douglas shooting with high levels of adolescent participation.

This call for change has brought increased attention to the relevance and significance of the Second Amendment. Differing opinions have been raised both to protect it and to view it as an outdated piece of legislation. However, some changes have been made in sale policies, mainly in gun retailers, such as Dick's Sporting Goods. On a larger scale, the lack of progress in the government has been a frustration for many.

The amount of protests and marches as well as youth participation in such events shows that the younger generations in the United States do have voices and opinions on these somber yet important issues. Noticing the increase of gun violence in the US within the last couple of years, these students, teens, and many others are striving to change the status quo with the intent of bettering society with less gun violence. The right way this can be done is a contentious topic and will most likely not have a conclusion where everyone can agree.

However, such implementations increased scrutiny in background checks, strengthened screening for psychological disorders, and mandatory courses for potential gun owners could potentially help ensure the right to bear arms is not abused. While reaching a consensus of how to reduce gun violence is very important, it is imperative to first come to terms that the issue of gun violence is both extremely prevalent and pertinent to the state of the country. Once all people on both sides are able to lay aside differences to focus on shared concerns rather than party lines, a bipartisan solution can be reached to rectify such an appalling blot on the United States, its communities, and its history.