

Actors in Action - Group Report: Gun Control

Introduction

In the US, the vast majority of citizens are able to buy and carry guns without restrictions. Related or not, the US also has the highest homicide-by-firearm rate among the most developed nations in the world. (Cambridge & Christodoulou, 2018) The opinions on gun control are divided into two camps, and the controversial debate has been going on for a long time.

After the fatal high-school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida earlier this year, the gun control debate in the US is highly relevant. Many seem to believe that this is the turning point that may lead to stricter gun laws being implemented. This optimism might be explained by the involvement of teenage survivors standing up for gun reform. (Talbot, 2018) However, the controversial topic has powerful figures on both sides, being a long-going standoff between gun-rights and gun-control advocates, conservatives and liberals.

This case provides several interesting actors and strategies in their strive for change, or their endeavor to keep the status quo. On one side we have the gun control advocates with the teenage survivors chanting "Enough is enough" on the front line, taking the movement onto social media and creating a world wide source of support. (ibid) On the other side we have important actors supporting gun rights, such as the NRA and the country's weapon manufacturers. This is a very relevant case to examine due to the controversy. The case includes everything from active allies to active opponents, making this a good example of how difficult social change can be.

Donald Trump, President of the United-States of America

Donald J. Trump was elected in 2016 as the 45th President of the United-States of America, is the leader of the Republican Party, and is arguably one of the most dominant figures out of the six(6) present in our roleplay. As the political leader of the country, he has immense power over the course of action of social change within the context of gun legislation in a country where political opinions have never had been so polarized (Pew Research Center, 2014).

Following the Parkland school shooting in Florida, President Trump called for a meeting with the congressional lawmakers of both political parties in order to create a bill enforcing background checks on firearm buyers across the country. Moreover, President Trump is perfectly clear on his stance in the debate, as he himself puts it:

“I am the biggest of the Second Amendment. I am a big fan of the NRA, [...] but it is time. We have to stop this nonsense. [...]. We have to create a culture that cherishes life and human dignity”

- Donald J. Trump,

At the Congressional Lawmakers Meeting (02.28.18)

Despite his support for the NRA, President Trump urges lawmakers to stand idle against lobbying pressures from the association and to not be afraid of it. Even stating that he himself confronted leaders of the association, including Wayne LaPierre, about the issue. (CNBC, Feb 2018) Amongst the suggestions brought forward by President Trump, many have been received with great joy from lawmakers present at the table, like raising age requirement for rifle purchase to the age of 21 and enforcement of background checks on firearm purchases in stores and online.

The response of NRA advocates and many Republicans were not in favor of such implementations and felt backstabbed by the President, as they were amongst the biggest supporter of Trump’s election campaign. Senator Ben Sasse, a conservative Republican who was not in the meeting, openly critic the President’s change of stance in regards of gun control:

“Strong leaders do not automatically agree with the last thing that was said to them. We have the second amendment and due process of law for a reason. We’re not ditching any constitutional protections simply because the last person the president talked to today doesn’t like them.”

Senator Ben Sasse (The Guardian, Mar 2018)

Oddly enough, Trump’s attitude while giving a speech at the NRA’s annual meeting in Dallas, Texas this year seemed to have evolved in a more favourable stance on gun regulation for the association. Stating the Second Amendment, he encourages citizens and

law-abiding citizens of the country to make use of their right to acquire firearms and to defend themselves in life-threatening situations with said firearms. A warm round of applause followed. (ABC News, May 2018)

In contrast, President Trump's idea of arming teachers in schools, provided that they have an adequate training beforehand, is not so well received by all. Indeed, during the listening session at the White House with survivors of Florida school shooting and others affected by gun violence, many people openly admitted being strongly against such measure. (The Guardian, 2018) Amongst the voices of opposition echoes the one of Emma Gonzalez, a student activist that survived the Parkland shooting. Qualifying the idea of arming teachers as "stupid", she is a clear opponent of the President's viewpoint on the matter and happens to be another actor included in this roleplay. (The Cut, 2018)

As the head of the State, President Trump also has a lot of obligations in regards of the policies he pushes forward based on his supporters if he wants to be reelected in 2020 at the next Presidential Elections. What is clear is that, in his mind, "America comes first" (The New York Times, 2016), and that the strength of the nation shall remain intact. Indeed, being able to prevent and intervene in cases of mass shootings like the one that happened in Parkland, Florida is a necessity for the United-State's authorities. As Massey would describe it:

"A nation unable to respond to disasters, [...], unable to provide protection from those who would do them and their citizens harm, without schools and research facilities, [...] is a nation unable to provide what most of the world's people expect. Strong states are able to do this; weak states are not."

Garth Massey (*Ways of Social Change*, 2016)

For President Trump, the outcome of the debate has to be in favour of the protection of the American people and its constitution; in the protection of a strong state.

Wayne LaPierre, CEO of the NRA

For the last 30 yrs, Wayne LaPierre is known to be at the helm of the National Rifle Association serving as the Executive Vice President and Chief Executive officer. He has also been referred to as a gun rights lobbyist.

The National Rifle Association (NRA) where he is CEO is the largest gun rights and small arms industry advocacy organization in the United States. It is suggested that at its formation in 1871, the original goal of the association was to "promote and encourage rifle shooting on a scientific basis" with the hope of improving marksmanship and shooting sport in the United States. It is suggested that the association currently brings together nearly five million members. The NRA carries out various programs including youth shooting sport programs in conjunction with other organizations such as the Boy Scouts of America. It is suggested that more than 1 million youths participate in these programs. Their website also suggests that they build partnerships with leaders in communities and provide grants that are instrumental in funding programs that support their shared vision. The NRA is influential in lobbying in the United States, more recently prominent in its support of Donald Trump (NRA 2018 a). Such political support could be argued to be an influence on Donald Trump's viewpoints (as earlier highlighted in the section on Donald Trump) regarding gun control especially as they are in close quarters with those LaPierre and the NRA.

In the wake of the debate after the school shootings in the United States, LaPierre has advocated for armed guards trained and qualified as school security personnel. He has also suggested that there should be an increase in enforcement of federal laws against and incarceration of violent gang members or felons with guns. (VOX 2018)

LaPierre has blamed the school shootings on the "lack of mental health reform and the prevalence of violent video games and movies" and this would require additional government funding. He has advocated for the increase of stricter and more efficient mental health system, and reform civil commitment laws to facilitate institutionalization of those found to be mentally ill. Interestingly, he is opposed to background mental health background checks for individuals before guns are sold to them (Wikipedia 2018).

He is a strong defender of the second Amendment. The second amendment is contained in the 1776 "Declaration of Independence," that ended political ties with Britain. The amendment states

“WE hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness--That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed”.
(NRA 2018 b)

From the foregoing, he and other like minded individuals have suggested that the second amendment postulates that every American has the right to bear arms and gun control would amount to an infringement on the individual right to pursue happiness and live the best way they know how.

It can be argued that Wayne LaPierre’s standpoints in regard to gun control are not necessarily based on his belief in the second amendment but rather the monetary value accruing from his work with the NRA. There is also an element of power that comes with his role. It is suggested that LaPierre’s salary exceeds \$1 million. He also earned \$5 million in 2015, once his bonus (Time 2017)

Emma González

Emma González is a high school student in her last year of school, who survived the February 2018 Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida (Wikipedia, 2018). At this shooting, a 17 year old boy used an AR-15 style semi-automatic to kill 17 people, many of whom were students as young as 14 (Wikipedia, 2018). Emma’s reaction to this event was to raise her voice and advocate for gun control. She co-founded the gun control advocacy group Never Again MSD (Marjory Stoneman Douglas) and went on to give an emotional speech at a rally against gun violence following the shooting (Wikipedia, 2018). Throughout her speech, Emma utilised multiple tactics to draw attention towards the need for change. She appeals to people’s morality, their fear, and self interests; “if you actively do nothing, people continually end up dead, so it's time to start doing something” (CNN, 2018). This is a method that “appears in explanations of change across academic disciplines” (Oxfam, 2007). Furthermore, she advocates for legal change “If you agree, register to vote. Contact your local congresspeople. Give them a piece of your mind”, and directs criticism towards those in power who accept money from the NRA “To every politician who is taking donations from the NRA, shame on you” (CNN, 2018). The Oxfam report *How Change*

Happens discusses the influence of corporate power, “governments are partly beholden to corporations due to their reliance on large firms for party political funding and to maintain economic stability”, thus Emma bringing attention to those who receive money from the NRA is a key point to tackle if real change is going to happen (Oxfam, 2007). When looking at Emma and Wayne LaPierre as actors for change, LaPierre has a lot of money to pay to maintain a system that works for him, thus he has a lot of power within US politics. Emma has considerably less political power; there is an obvious imbalance. However, Emma uses a different way of engaging with the public to materialise the change she wants to see. Her words have a huge effect on the public of the US, and despite her not having as much money or political sway, she is using different means to enable change such as demonstrating, creating empathy, and opening a dialogue (Oxfam, 2007).

Alongside her peers, Emma has achieved tangible results from campaigning for gun control. The March For Our Lives in March 2018 that she helped organise was in support of tighter gun control and legal action, and it quickly became the largest student led protest in history (Lopez, 2018). The students’ demands for legislative action have not gone unheard. Florida approved gun-control measures to be passed for the first time in over 20 years, including raising the legal age to purchase firearms to 21, banning bump stocks, and closing the loophole that allows guns to be bought without background checks (Washington Post, 2018).

Making change, especially legal change, takes power and authority. In comparison to Emma, President Trump obviously has enormous political privilege. Emma is wearing down the way that Trump maintains his power through eroding the symbols, ideas and norms that have been taken for granted to maintain consent for such norms in society (Oxfam, 2007, p.12). Emma is transforming the gun control debate from a institutional, political debate into a more personal one by targeting people’s values to activate change (O’Brien). She includes all three spheres of transformation (personal, political and practical) together to preach for change, calling for people to *act* on their *values* to pursue *legal* changes.

Employee of Slide Fire, Weapon Manufacturer based in rural USA

Slide Fire is a Texas-based weapon manufacturer that designs bump fire rifle stocks. Their technique with bump stocks “allows shooters to bump stocks their rifles without compromising safety and accuracy.” (Slide Fire, 2018)

In 2017 58 people were killed and hundreds were injured in Las Vegas during a shooting with rifles outfitted with Slide Fire’s bump stocks. (McGee, 2017) This severely affected Slide Fire since many blamed the casualties on the company. However, there is another side to the story as many describe Slide Fire as a crucial part of the city of Moran, Texas. Slide Fire is said to have saved the town by bringing in a money and job opportunities. By banning Slide Fire bump stocks dozens of local jobs would be wiped out. (ibid)

In the wake of the Parkland school shooting President Trump moved to ban the bump stocks in order to hinder weapons from having the potential to be more deadly. (May, 2018) Slide Fire has now announced that May 20th 2018 will be the last day of placing orders before the website is shut down and all sales stop. (Slide Fire, 2018)

For an employee of Slide Fire this ought to be a tough time. As mentioned, the shutdown of Slide Fire equals the loss of many jobs. It is probably safe to assume that the employee in question is furious about losing his or her livelihood due to the product being misused. This anger is channeled into the gun-rights movement since this employee believes that their job was taken away despite being firmly grounded in the second amendment of the American constitution. As an employee living in Moran, Texas, the entire community is suffering from the results of the biggest job-supplying and money generating company disappearing. It makes sense to join other ex-employees in defense of their rights, as Americans, as employees and as gun owners.

As President Trump moved to ban the bump stocks the gun rights-activists lost an active ally. Trump seems to have shifted in his beliefs as he has previously been known as a supporter of the Second Amendment. When taking into account aspects of power this seems like a huge obstacle in creating social change (maintaining status quo) for the employee. One strategy that could be used to circumvent the power imbalance is to appeal to people’s self-interest as a mean of changing individual behavior. (Oxfam, 2007:31) The people elects

the leaders and by joining other gun-rights activists the playing field could be evened out and therefore the strategy of changing individual behavior is probably the most effective one for the employee and his/her peers to achieve social change.

When it comes to the damage of the product the people of Moran are of the opinion that they sympathize with the victims but that their product cannot be blamed for the shooting. (Robinson-Jacobs, n.d.) From this viewpoint it seems as if the actions of a Las Vegas-shooting survivor will not affect the standpoint of the Slide Fire employee. The division of power in this dyad is fairly even as they are both individuals on opposite sides of the debate.

According to the theory of the three spheres of transformation the practical, political and personal spheres work together to explain the depth of transformation. In the personal sphere there are the individual and collective beliefs that will shape the structures in the political sphere and the influence the solutions in the practical sphere. (O'Brien & Sygna, 2013) This shows the importance and the agency of actors such as the employee. Together with other like-minded they will represent a collective that can initiate real transformation by affecting the other spheres.

Senator Bernie Sanders

Bernie Sanders is an American Senator and former candidate for President of the United States who is the longest-serving independent in congressional history, representing the state of Vermont (FeelTheBern.org, 2018). Senator Bernie Sanders' main stance on gun policy can be described as one that supports a "middle ground" solution to the gun debate, and, in his own words, "Folks who do not like guns [are] fine. But we have millions of people who are gun owners in this country — 99.9 percent of those people obey the law. I want to see real, serious debate and action on guns, but it is not going to take place if we simply have extreme positions on both sides. I think I can bring us to the middle" (FeelTheBern.org, 2018). Ultimately, Bernie Sanders believes that gun control legislation should be determined by individual states, although instant background checks as well as a federal ban on assault weapons should be mandatory. Further, it is his position that gun manufacturers should not be

liable for any misuse of their products. As Sanders comes from and represents as senator a state that “is the most gun-friendly state in the nation, while at the same time it boasts the absolute lowest rate of gun-related crime,” this has likely been the reason he has, perhaps surprisingly, taken a more “middle ground” approach to the gun debate (FeelTheBern.org, 2018).

Concerning Bernie Sanders’ relation to the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Florida, Sanders’ response to the event and meeting with Parkland students reinstated his desire for background checks, an assault weapon ban, mental health resources, keeping guns away from perpetrators of domestic violence, and preventing the legal sale of guns to those who resell them to those who can not obtain them legally, known as the straw man provision (Vermont Business Magazine, 2018). His vocal support for gun control in the wake of other mass shootings posits him as an individual who uses the large platform he possesses, and this combined with his position as senator makes his voice and influence potentially larger than other actors in this situation, yet his moderate voting record on gun issues often makes these positions seem contradictory (Lopez, 2018).

In connection to other relevant actors in this case, Sanders’ interesting opinion regarding the accountability of gun manufacturers would likely make his view regarding an employee of Slide Fire, a rural American weapons manufacturer, quite complex; his former support of and vote for the upholding of the 2005 Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA), also supported by the NRA, signals a sympathy towards rural American gun culture that could see him taking the side of those employees whose livelihoods will be severely affected by the closing of the company. What is more, although Sanders’ current position regarding gun manufacturer’s liability may be growing more left, his otherwise enduring support for the PLCAA and rural American gun culture and the livelihoods that depend on it call into question his authenticity in connection to this issue (Lopez, 2018).

In contrast, the actor Wayne LaPierre, CEO of the NRA, can be seen as majorly at odds with Bernie Sanders, despite Sanders’ moderate track record concerning gun laws. Intriguingly, there is a mixed history regarding these two individuals’ relationship, with Wayne LaPierre himself stating in 1990 that “Bernie Sanders is a more honorable choice for Vermont sportsmen than Peter Smith,” Sanders’ opponent at the time (Soga, 2018). This vocal support was due to Sanders’ previous pro-gun leanings regarding a measure that would have established a waiting period for handgun sales, once more casting a dark shadow on

Sanders' otherwise fully left image. However, fast forward to 2018 and Sanders is seen to position himself as directly opposed to the NRA, stating "Congress is going to have to act and Trump and the Republican leadership cannot simply be beholden to the NRA" (Soga, 2018). Given the lower position of power Sanders possesses in this position, with Trump and the NRA currently possessing more control of gun policy in the US, the power of his words and stance may not be enough to truly alter current gun policy.

Survivor of Las Vegas Shooting in 2017

Praewa is a survivor of Country music festival near the Mandalay Bay casino in Las Vegas. It is the largest mass shooting in U.S. history, 22,000 people were there, at least 59 dead and more than 500 injured. The shooter, Stephen Paddock, a retired 64 year old man, fired on the crown from the 32th floor of the Mandalay Bay and the gunshots didn't stop for 10 to 15 minutes. About an hour after he fired his last shot into the crowd, he was found dead in his room from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. His motive remains unknown (Wikipedia, 2017).

Praewa and so many survivors from the shooting are still suffering from the after effects. It's been a year since the mass shooting, but it still leaves psychological injuries to the survivors, not just physical injuries. The symptoms survivors suffered with include anger, anxiety, fear, flashbacks, insomnia, sadness, or even nightmares. "I felt a sense of panic, that there would be thousands and thousands of people with these invisible wounds" said one survivor (Wilkins, 2018). One survivor from Parkland shooting describe that every gunshot get closer and closer as she hears. The gunshot sound she heard was the sound of her brain going deeper and deeper into a shock. And she still remember the fears and feelings she had during that moment, Also think of that moment every single day (Hebron, 2018).

After a huge amount of mass shootings over the past decade, buying a gun legally in USA is still not so difficult. Customers are asked to fill in a form that asks them for their name, address, place of birth, race and citizenship (Euronews, 2017). Meanwhile, For the survivors, gun control should be introduce in order to avoid these horrible and tragic events. The set of laws would prevent citizen to be victims and innocent people should not be risking their lives from people who has no responsible to take care of the gun or use gun in the right way. By buying gun so easily, It is like giving a tool to the evils. The event might last for a

short period of time, but the effects may remain forever. The Three Spheres of Transformation can be used to perform the change (O'Brien). Begin with the personal sphere or our individual and collective beliefs to end this tragic event and make change, following by the political sphere, where we put pressure to change such as social movement. Lastly, the practical sphere, where we can see outcome of the the action we made for change. In this case, the survivors is aiming to change the gun law since this tragic event will repeat over and over if the gun law is still the same.

This actor can be relate with other relevant actors in this case. As of March 2018, there have been eight school shootings this year in which a gun was discharged and victims were either injured or killed (Groome, 2018). School tends to be a common place where the incident happens. Multiple studies have shown that students who have faced the incident has more lifelong and pervasive effects on developing psyches, both in terms of their psychological worldview, stress and anxiety (Fagan, 2018). Therefore, the student activist have the potential to create movement for future generations of student. At the same time, Senator Bernie Sanders is the key actor that has high power and potential since Bernie Sanders supports the new generation to change America as he mentioned that “When we go to school we want to feel safe,” (Schneid and Rosen, 2018).

Best and worst-case scenario

When determining both best case and worst case scenarios for this specific case, objective, unbiased sequences of events are difficult to create. In terms of a worst case scenario, an upholding of the status quo would likely be the most undesirable possible outcome given the unlikely outcome that gun policy becomes less regulated (unlikely due to the current huge amount of national and international attention towards America's gun issues). The actor that is most likely to generate the outcome of status quo is Wayne LaPierre with NRA in collaboration with the gun-rights activist such as the employee of Slide Fire. From here, the best case scenario becomes more difficult to determine; focusing on actor Bernie Sanders' “middle ground” solution could be a method to approach gun reform in the United States that mandates common sense gun laws while not alienating a large portion of gun owners, making Sanders' stance the likely best case scenario going forward.

References:

- Cambridge, Ellie; Christodoulou, Holly. 2018. Gun control in America – what are US gun laws, how do they differ from in the UK and who can buy a firearm? *The Sun*. April 4. Available at:
<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4593169/gun-laws-uk-different-america-us-carry-public-concealed-weapon-trump-shootings/> (Accessed: 7 May 2018)
- CNN. (2018). Florida student Emma Gonzalez to lawmakers and gun advocates: 'We call BS'. [online] Available at:
<https://edition.cnn.com/2018/02/17/us/florida-student-emma-gonzalez-speech/index.html> [Accessed 10 May 2018].
- Euronews. (2018). How easy is it to purchase a firearm in the US?. [online] November 2018 Available at:
<http://www.euronews.com/2017/11/08/how-easy-is-it-to-purchase-a-firearm-in-the-us> [Accessed 11 May 2018].
- Fagan, C. (2018). The Impact of Mass School Shootings on the Mental Health of Survivors: What Parents Need to Know. PsyCom.net - Mental Health Treatment Resource Since 1986, [online] April 2018 Available at:
<https://www.psycom.net/mental-health-wellbeing/school-shooting-survivor-mental-health/> [Accessed 11 May 2018].
- FeelTheBern.org. (2018). Bernie Sanders on Gun Policy. [online] Available at:
<http://feelthebern.org/bernie-sanders-on-gun-policy/>.
- FeelTheBern.org. (2018). Who is Bernie Sanders?. [online] Available at:
<http://feelthebern.org/who-is-bernie-sanders/>.
- Gambino, Lauren. 2018. Donald Trump Stuns Allies by Signalling Backing for Tighter Gun Control. *The Guardian*. March 1. Available at:
<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/feb/28/trump-background-checks-gun-control> (Accessed: 9 May 2018)
- Groome, I. (2018). How many school shootings have there been in the US in 2018? Florida high school the latest hit by gun violence. *The Sun*, [online] April 2018 Available at:
<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/5581283/school-shootings-2018-us-america-how-many-florida-parkland-shooting-columbine/> [Accessed 11 May 2018].
- Hebron, E. (2018). Parkland shooting survivor: Here's what it was like to watch my friends die in Room 1216. USA TODAY, [online] April 2018. Available at:
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2018/04/05/parkland-school-shooting-survivor-watched-friends-die-column/487169002/> [Accessed 11 May 2018].
- Lopez, G. (2018). The pro-gun law Bernie Sanders once supported but now opposes, explained. [online] Vox. Available at:
<https://www.vox.com/2015/10/14/9533389/bernie-sanders-gun-lawsuits-democratic-debate>.

- Massey, Garth M.. *Ways of Social Change: Making Sense of Modern Times* (p. 277). SAGE Publications. Kindle Edition.
- May, Patrick. 2018. What would President Trump's bump-stock ban look like? *Los Angeles Daily News*. February 21. Available at: <https://www.dailynews.com/2018/02/21/what-would-president-trumps-bump-stock-ban-look-like/> (Accessed: 7 May 2018)
- McGee, Patrick. 2017. Home of the 'Bump Stock' Says, Don't Blame Us for Las Vegas. *The New York Times*. October 18. Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/18/us/bump-stock-slide-fire-moran-texas.html> (Accessed: 7 May 2018)
- N/A. 2014. Political Polarization in the American Public. *Pew Research Center - U.S. Politics and Policy*. June 12. Available at: <http://www.people-press.org/2014/06/12/political-polarization-in-the-american-public/> (Accessed: 9 May 2018)
- NRA 2018 a, National Rifle Association of America, A Brief History of the NRA, (Online), available at <https://home.nra.org/about-the-nra>, (Accessed 2018-05-01)
- NRA 2018 b, National Rifle Association of America, NRA- Institute for legal Action, Second Amendment, (Online) available at <https://www.nraila.org/second-amendment/>, (Accessed 2018-05- 01)
- O'Brien, K. and Sygna, L. (2013) Responding to climate change: The three spheres of transformation. *Proceedings of Transformation in a Changing Climate*, 19-21 June 2013, Oslo, Norway. University of Oslo (pp.16-23). ISBN 978-82-570-2000-2.
- Oxfam GB (2007). *How Change Happens: Interdisciplinary Perspectives for Human Development*. Oxfam GB.
- Paiella, Gabriella. 2018. Parkland Shooting Survivor Explains Why Arming Teachers Is 'Stupid'. *The Cut*. March 16. Available at: <https://www.thecut.com/2018/03/parkland-survivor-emma-gonzalez-arming-teachers-stupid-60-minutes.html> (Accessed: 9 May 2018)
- Robinson-Jacobs, Karen. n.d. Texans in tiny 'bump stock' birthplace worry Las Vegas shooting makes good employer a scapegoat. *Dallas News*. Available at: <https://www.dallasnews.com/business/retail/2017/10/05/small-town-texas-company-invented-bump-stock-spotlight-vegas-shooting> (Accessed: 10 May 2018)
- Sanger, D., Haberman, M. (2016) In Donald Trump's Worldview, America Comes First, and Everybody Else Pays. *The New York Times*, [online] March 2016, Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/27/us/politics/donald-trump-foreign-policy.html>
- Schneid, R. and Rosen, D. (2018). Parkland students interview Bernie Sanders: 'Your generation has the power to change America'. *the Guardian*, [online] March 2018 Available at:

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/mar/23/bernie-sanders-gun-control-parkland-and-students> [Accessed 11 May 2018].

- Slide Fire. 2018. *Slide Fire - The Official Bump Fire Stock*. Available at: <http://slidefire.com> (Accessed: 7 May 2018)
- Smith, David. 2018. Trump's Solution to School Shootings: Arm Teachers with Guns. *The Guardian*. February 21. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/feb/21/donald-trump-solution-to-school-shootings-arm-teachers-with-guns> (Accessed: 9 May 2018)
- Soga, A. (2018). Analysis: When the NRA liked Bernie Sanders best. [online] Burlington Free Press. Available at: <https://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/story/opinion/2018/04/10/analysis-bernie-sanders-his-gun-control-record/500824002/>.
- Talbot, Margaret. 2018. The Gun-Control Debate After Parkland. *The New Yorker*. March 12. Available at: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/03/12/the-gun-control-debate-after-parkland> (Accessed: 7 May 2018)
- Time Inc 2017, Wayne LaPierre Has Made a Fortune as CEO of the NRA. Here's What We Know About His Money, (online), Available at <http://time.com/money/5178193/wayne-lapierre-net-worth-nra-money-salary/> (Accessed 2018-05-01)
- Vermont Business Magazine. (2018). Sanders meets with Parkland students, delivers remarks on gun safety. [online] Available at: <https://vermontbiz.com/news/2018/february/27/sanders-meets-parkland-students-delivers-remarks-gun-safety>.
- VOX 2018, NRA head Wayne LaPierre blames socialism for gun control push since Parkland (Online), Available at <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/2/22/17041364/nra-president-wayne-lapierre-speech-parkland-cpac> (Accessed 2018-05-01)
- Washington Post. (2018). Opinion | A rarity for the NRA: Defeat. [online] Available at: https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/a-rarity-for-the-nra-defeat/2018/03/08/0ec683dc-2309-11e8-badd-7c9f29a55815_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.a86019181d28&wpisrc=nl_headlines&wpmm=1 [Accessed 9 May 2018].
- En.wikipedia.org. (2018). Emma González. [online] Available at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emma_Gonz%C3%A1lez [Accessed 12 May 2018].
- En.wikipedia.org. (2017). 2017 Las Vegas shooting, [online] Available at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_Las_Vegas_shooting [Accessed 11 May 2018].
- En.wikipedia.org. (2018). Never Again MSD. [online] Available at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Never_Again_MSD [Accessed 12 May 2018].
- En.wikipedia.org. (2018). Stoneman Douglas High School shooting. [online] Available at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stoneman_Douglas_High_School_shooting [Accessed 12 May 2018].

- Wikipedia 2018, Wayne LaPierre, (Online) Available at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wayne_LaPierre (Accessed 2018-05-01)
- Wilkens, J. (2018). San Diego survivors of Las Vegas shooting find solace in each other. The Sandiego Union Tribune, [online] March, 2018. Available at: <http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/lifestyle/people/sd-me-vegas-survivors-20180223-story.html> [Accessed 11 May 2018].