

# **GUN CONTROL**

## **FACTS AND EVENTS:**

### **Mass shootings in the United States: a recurring problem causing many deaths**

92% of public schools have a written plan describing procedure to be performed in the event of an active shooter. In 2021 there were 693 mass shootings, 702 people died.

- The Parkland shooting : February 14 , 2018 : a mass shooting in a Parkland's high school . Some pupils died and this fact rekindled the debate on gun control in the US.
- August, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019: in El Paso, Texas, near the Mexican border: the white man killer had targeted Mexicans.
- August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019: in Dayton: the killer had a racial and political motive. The attack occurred just 13 hours after the mass shooting in El Paso.
- November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in Oxford High School: A 15-year-old student was taken into custody. Seven people, including a teacher, were injured, and four died.
- April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 : A shooting occurred outside a FedEx facility. Nine people were reported dead, including the shooter. The Sikh community was particularly impacted.

### **It is part of the American culture**

The right to bear arms symbolizes freedom and it is a right enshrined in the constitution (2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment) and yet, this right was written in the Constitution for other purposes: after the American Revolution, the new country wanted to protect itself – the second amendment was supposed to be a safeguard against an oppressive government. Besides, weapons were not as deadly then as they are now. About 30% of the population own a gun.

### **The NRA : the National Rifle Association**

The NRA is the most powerful and influential gun lobby one the US which advocates gun rights. Ex: it spends about \$250m per year \$3m of which to influence gun policy. It has 5 million members. The modern NRA continues to teach firearm safety and competency. Trump was strongly supported by the NRA during his campaign

### **Problem of Trump Policy in Gun Control**

- Racism: Trump's language is responsible for promoting racism + tensions because of Trump's wall between Mexico and the United States
- White supremacy
- Bigotry, hatred (sectarism, intolerance)
- Mental illness

However, Trump promises to end this "American carnage" but no results now. Trump wants teachers to have a weapon to protect themselves against shooters.

### **Joe Biden and Gun Control**

He wants to end the American gun control epidemic by :

- banning the manufacture and sale of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines
- regulating possession of existing assault weapons under the National Firearms Act which requires individuals possessing machine-guns to undergo a background check;
- supporting legislation restricting the number of firearms
- ending the online sale of firearms and ammunitions

Almost 40,000 people die as a result of firearm injuries every year in the USA.

## **New Zealand and legislation**

6 days after the Christchurch mosque attack on March 2019, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced a ban on “military-style” semi-automatic rifles, prompting questions in the US.

### PROBLEMATICS:

- Should there be gun regulation in the United States ? Who is responsible ?
- In the US, is the government efficient to control firearms use ?
- Should teachers be allowed to have a gun?
- Why is gun control a hot topic?
- Will the situation change with Joe Biden as president?
- Why not simply ban guns or have stricter gun control?
- Why does America fail to stop the sale of gun?

### VOCABULARY:

- Un massacre : a bloodshed, a massacre, a slaughter
- Les gens en deuil : mourners
- Appuyer sur la gachette : to pull on the trigger
- Blessé : injure, hurt
- Attentat : terrorist attack
- Respectueux de la loi : law-abiding
- Porter une arme: to carry a weapon, to bear an arm
- Légitime défense : self-defense
- Défendeurs du port de l'arme à feu: Gun rights activists
- Réglementation du port d'armes: Gun control
- un défenseur du contrôle du port d'armes: A gun control advocate
- Une fusillade : a shooting, a shoot-out, gunfire, gunfight
- Tuer quelqu'un sauvagement : to slaughter
- Chargeurs d'armes : Magazines
- Vérification des antécédents: Background check
- Tireur: gunman
- Propriété : Ownership