

¹²BLOGGING TEMPLATE

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Introduction

Our publications - our Blogs and Papers usually have a Mission - they want to promote a political position, they have a political goal. Sometimes our Blogs and Papers just want to pass on information, but even then it is usually with some kind of political goal. Therefore we want to make sure our publications are easily read as well as accessible as a way to help spread our ideas more easily. This is the value of publishing our Blogs on Medium.com - it makes them very accessible to the public and professionals alike.

But the authors also can do some things to make their Blogs more readable, and thus more easily used to spread their issues and viewpoints onward in the writing of other researchers, activists and staffers.

First, break up your text with lots of images, and other methods that highlight the information and message you are trying to spread onward - such as numbered lists or bullet points, information boxes containing important quotes or graphs or charts, breaking up your text into sections with section headings to organize your idea.

Second, it is very important to thoroughly document your work with footnotes and a bibliography for the sake of your future readers - researchers, activists, staff, general public - to thus help spread your ideas, to help others gain access more easily to resources behind your ideas.

Basic Information

- Blog Title: The 21st Century's Wild Wild West: Toxic Masculinity and Gun Violence
- Due Date: February 08, 2019
- Publication Date:
- Key Words: Domestic Violence, Gun Violence, Toxic Masculinity, Gun Regulations, Gun Policies
- Blog Link: [The 21st Century's Wild Wild West: Toxic Masculinity and Gun Violence](#)
- Backgrounder Link:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uJ05rdi2zp7L5fgM_Pe8KUrFie9D5KfHJ-PLcrc_YSw/edit?usp=sharing
- Supervisor: David Kirshbaum
- Author: Elisha Silva
- Editors:

Deadlines:

- Outline: done
- First Draft: February 07, 2019
- Final Draft: February 08, 2019

Calls-To-Action

- To raise awareness to the public on the real danger of guns in household
- To call for policymakers and legislators to pass new stricter laws on guns control
- To give emphasis on the existing international laws that all states should be bound and compliant to.
- Relevant Links

- <https://www.iansa.org/>
- <https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/salw/programme-of-action/>
- <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/index.html?ref=menutop>
- https://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw2018/info_flyers/fact_sheets/2018NCVRW_IPV_508_QC.pdf
-
- Twitter Accounts
 - [@IANSAWomen](#)
 - [@Everytown](#)
 - [@UNODC](#)
 - [@UN_Women](#)
 - [@UN4Youth](#)
 - [@UNDESA](#)
- Hash Tags (at least 5)

#GunControl #GunRights #DomesticViolence #DomesticAbuse #ToxicMasculinity #GunFreeValentine #LoveLivesHereGunsDont #DisarmDomesticViolence

Blog Thesis

Gun violence is a societal issue caused by both toxic masculinity and weak implementation of policies.

Blog Social Media Post

In the United States of America, a woman is fatally shot every 16 hours. This crime is committed by her husband, ex-lover or boyfriend. Out of 100 americans, 88 own guns in their household. This number signifies an alarming fact that not just women at homes are exposed to this danger but also the children.

The media plays a big role in shaping influence in the society. In television shows, magazines or movies, society worships good men with guns. Their heroism and valor draw women and men to rely on the imagery of manhood in association with guns.

Not only guns are encouraged in the media, it is also supported by the constitution under the Second Amendment. Guns are not only a tool to display bold masculinity but is also a symbol of individualism and liberty. Despite of the high rate of mass shooting in the United States, ranking

top of the list - 11 times more than other developed nations, some key players still think that it is an impediment to their liberty to pass stricter laws on gun control.

Firearm-related crimes is not just a pressing domestic issue but is also a global concern. There are existing international laws that monitor the regulation of guns in every country. But the question is how compliant all states are in adhering to it? Raising awareness by educating the public on what real danger uncontrolled gun ownership poses, calling earnestly for the government to improve every institution that enforces law and order, and redefining domestic laws for equal protection of all people not just of the interests of mogul corporations, could be helpful keys in revolutionizing the society's gun culture for the future generation.

Blog Outline

Intro

Background - focus on small arms violence and statistics of crimes (cite countries with most rampant small arms/gun violence issues)

Body:

1.1 Society conditioned by Toxic Masculinity culture

a. Role of media in shaping influence- Pop Culture

a.1 Masculinity in association with guns (ability to defend oneself or loved ones)

a.2 What gun has to do in gaining social status

1.2 Weak implementation of policy-

A.conflict of interest-business interest; (industries that manufacture guns)

b.easy accessibility -lenient government regulation (cite facts)

1.3 Life at stake- cite data from un/fbi reports

a.women and children;

b.intimate partners (domestic violence)

Conclusion

Recommendations

- Strengthening the institution of Law Enforcement i.e. Police Force by equipping and empowering them; Monitoring and Improving their effectiveness to carry out duties in ensuring safety in the community;
- Adhering to international laws (UN POA) , adopting international laws to domestic laws
- Key players to raise awareness on educating the public about the risk of guns in communities and at home.

Blog Main Post

- Priority on accuracy and thoroughness
- 500-800 words
- Thorough documentation with endnotes using Chicago Style (www.chicagomanualofstyle.org)
- Include at least 2 photos or other images such as graphs, tables, etc.
- Bibliography that includes resources not used in the blog or not mentioned in the endnotes

The 21st Century's Wild Wild West: Toxic Masculinity and Gun Violence

By Elisha P. Silva



A woman is fatally shot every 16 hours in America. This crime is not committed by a burglar or a robber, but by the person she trusts the most--whether a spouse, boyfriend, live-in partner or former lover. The vulnerability in this issue is not about the pseudo fragility of women, but rather the rationale behind men and guns. Society perceives guns as tools to fully exercise liberty and protection, an acceptable means for self-defense but in reality, it exposes innocent lives to a risk of real threat and danger.

Men and Guns

According to Pew Research in 2017, 62% of gun owners in the United States of America were men [3]. For most men, guns provide a sense of power and control. Often, obtaining guns does not come with the intention of causing harm, but rather for men to secure themselves and their loved ones at home. However, according to Harvard University analysis of the National Crime Victimization Survey, only one person out of six uses guns for self-defense or for recreation [4]. The other five used it to commit a crime. Whether it is premeditated or an outburst of uproar and anger, the aftermath where lives are taken is always tragic. Yet, guns are found in homes, a place that is supposedly a safe-haven.



Role of Media in shaping influence

We see these types of men in our favorite TV series-- good men with guns who save the day and whose heroism attracts beautiful women. The media paints manhood in the imagery of good-looking men in black suits with guns, men in uniform carrying rifles, or the ones wearing cowboy hats with their revolvers. Through this sort of imagery and characterization, people are drawn to the idea of gun use as a norm just as how fictional characters romanticize it.

Men also associate themselves with this heroic character filled with machismo and valor. For them, a gun is not a weapon that presents danger to their loved ones, but rather a tangible display of their bold masculinity. It gives them the sense of domination and superior strength that is applauded and worshipped on television and other media. In contrast to reality, the product of gun ownership, coupled with toxic masculinity, is the high percentage of mass shootings and domestic gun violence.

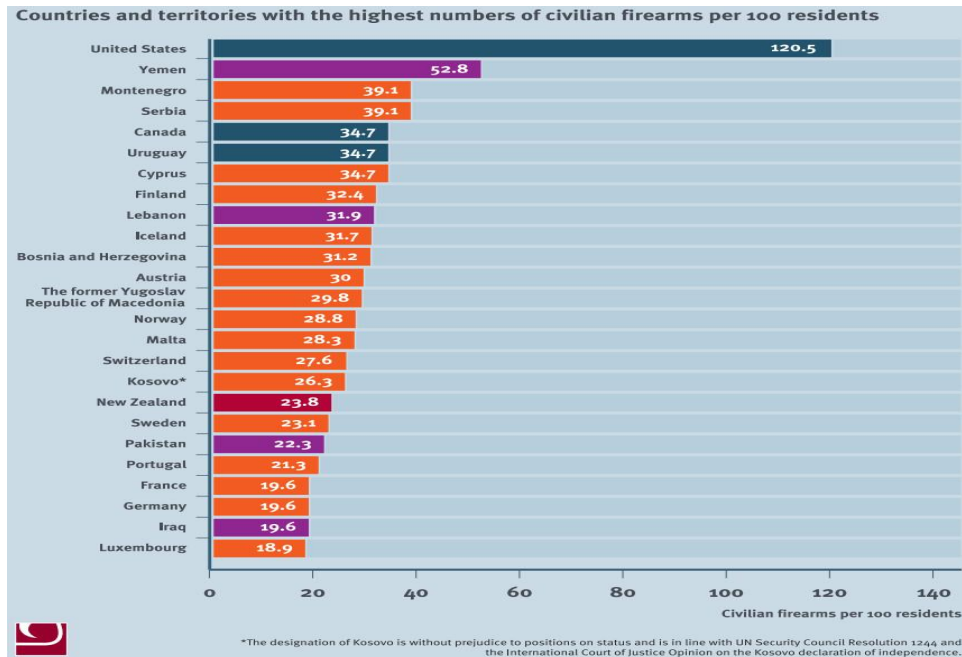
Guns and the Social Ladder

Not only do men find guns as an extension of their manhood, but they can also be perceived as a source of empowerment in a social and economic sense. According to sociologists Mencken and Froese, the majority of gun owners are white males, and 78% of them claim to find moral and emotional empowerment from their guns [5]. But the results of this study then shows that this group of white males who find empowerment from their guns also experienced an economic setback. The studies show how guns make a significant contribution to the meaning and identity of this population in the United States. For them, guns also display moral strength, individualism and superiority above other races.

Weak Implementation of Policy

The prevalence of gun violence does not solely occur because of the preconditioned values of people. The law in general makes a great contribution to the direction of a country. According to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the world's leading gun ownership rate is in the United States of America. The rate amounts to 88 gun owners for every 100 people [6]. This amount of gun ownership and the violence associated with the gun culture also explains why the United States also has 11 times more mass shooting than any other developed nation [7].

Despite the large numbers of mass shooting incidents that have happened over the past decade, stricter enforcement of gun control has not found majority support from all lawmakers due to their difference in political standpoint. Gun control laws still vary from state to state. Moreover, there is also great controversy about some members of Congress and the Senate being funded by organizations that have special political interest in preserving gun rights, and thus having great influence in policy-making. The United States, not to mention, is one of the world's biggest manufacturers of guns, and the major corporations in this business make a large contribution to the economy and thus have a lot of influence in Congress as well. There are examples of countries that have prevailed over gun violence by implementing policies that changed the dynamics of the issue. One of the good examples is how Australia transformed the gun violence problem by incentivizing citizens to sell their guns back to the government. After the Port Arthur Massacre in 1996, which resulted to 35 deaths, the Prime Minister enforced a new resolution to ban the import of automatic, semi-automatic weapons and pump-action shotguns along with the gun buybacks. This resulted to a collection and destruction of more than 700,000 firearms between 1996-2006 that directly resulted to a 59%-65% drop of firearm homicides and firearm suicide rate, according to Andrew Leigh on 2010 review of the effects of the gun buyback legislation [8]. This monumental success of Australia to address the gun violence problem in their society through a recalibration of their policies, inspires the rest of the world to move towards formulating better laws.



Life at stake

According to Associated Press in 2015, between 2006 and 2014, 6, 875 people were fatally shot by their romantic partners [9]. To note, 80% of those victims were women [10]. This means that there were 554 fatal shootings of American women by their romantic partner annually. The rate of domestic violence involving guns shows how women and their children are exposed to violence in their own household.

This data should emphasize how the toxic culture of masculinity in many American homes is secured by gun ownership. It should show the lives compromised in exchange for an artificial sense of security. Most importantly, this data should drive the policymakers to improve the mechanisms of both protecting people's liberty and to find more effective measures of securing people's homes.

Conclusion

The issue of gun ownership roots back to the issue of security. Gun ownership is a right protected in the name of liberty. But, in this case, the full attainment of liberty does not only serve certain group of people's interest, but it also puts the welfare of others in danger. Thus they impede legislation to pass effective laws on gun control and put the duty to protect security in the hands of ordinary citizens who are carrying firearms. The state's role is to ensure the security of all citizens by strengthening institutions like law enforcement. By improving the effectiveness of the police force to carry out their duty and resolving the police

brutality issues, citizens will realize they can depend on the police for their security, and thus, they will not resort to guns for protection.

The United Nations office for Disarmament Affairs developed the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects or (PoA). This provides a framework that monitors Small Arms activities in each country, providing a guideline of transparency to ensure registration and record-keeping of legal usage, ceasing of illicit arms, tracing and disposal [11]. Adhering to international laws, and implementing them through domestic laws, will align all countries to achieve together a world with minimal gun-violence, and promote the protection of women and children. If the Second Amendment in the United States could be redefined, and its lawmakers would be consistent in observing international law, proper implementation of gun control could take effect. At the end of the day, the fundamental of national interests is in securing each citizen in their household and their community. Also, sovereignty and self-determination are only eminent if the state has fully exercised its duty to serve the interests and protect the rights of its citizens.



Furthermore, the role of media and other institutions should be recognized. It is common knowledge that media and educational institutions are tools that mold the thinking of

society. The role of these institutions is simple but crucial to the direction of policymaking. Instead of putting toxic masculinity thinking and culture on a pedestal, these institutions should further unveil the realities of this culture and the gun violence that comes with it. They should raise awareness and aim for the current and future generations to no longer desire to be secure with guns, but will once again believe in the mechanisms of participatory democracy to provide them the benefits of equal rights, including equal protections.

Firearm-related crimes is not just a pressing domestic issue but is also a global concern. There are existing international laws that monitor the regulation of guns in every country. But the question is how compliant all states are in adhering to it? Raising awareness by educating the public on what real danger uncontrolled gun ownership poses, calling earnestly for the government to improve every institution that enforces law and order, and redefining domestic laws for equal protection of all people not just of the interests of mogul corporations, could be helpful keys in revolutionizing the society's gun culture for the future generation.

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