

Testimony from Nicky Baker for Monday January 28<sup>th</sup>, Hartford.

In 1996 in Dunblane, Scotland, 16 children aged between five and six were shot dead by a mentally unstable man with a gun. The massacre introduced a public debate about gun regulation which led to the government introducing the Firearms Amendment Act of 1997, banning cartridge handguns and leaving only muzzle loading and historical handguns, and two-cartridge sporting guns, legal.

In the United Kingdom you need as many checks and permits to own a gun as you need to own a car. You need a firearms permit. You need to justify why you want to own the gun. You need a background check to ensure you have no criminal record. You need references from people who know you. You need a doctor's certificate proving that you are in good mental health. You need a secure locked cabinet or safe to store the gun in, which will be checked by the police before the license is issued. You have to renew your license every year, and the police will check the gun and the storage cabinet every year. Any transgression on these requirements and both the license and gun are removed by the police.

Since these laws have been instigated, there have been no further massacres of this nature in the UK.

I am a British Citizen, but a permanent resident of the United States. I love America. I would like to stay here and bring up my four small children here for the rest of our lives. But unless the regulations surrounding ownership of guns changes to be more in line with the regulations in England I will never feel safe here, regardless of how many armed police and security men are situated around our schools and towns.

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