

Dear Working Group members:

Rather than pontification, let's look at the raw statistics as a base. Presented here for your review is a spreadsheet of gun related homicides by country produced by the United Nations. The United States of America with a homicide by firearm rate per 100,000 population of about 3.5 is about 10 times the rate of most European and other developed countries. This would suggest that we have a gun violence problem that these other countries do not have. Since I would be hard pressed to argue that Americans as a group are any more inherently violent than Europeans, I would suggest that the strict gun control laws in these countries are what is producing this difference in homicide by firearm rates.

As we are not planning on amending the Constitution to change the Second Amendment, I believe the approach we need to take is to limit access to guns and ammunition as much as possible via gun control regulation. You may want to look at your European or Canadian peers for ideas in terms of actual legislation. In your hearings, please ignore arguments about how we can not trust these statistics since they come from the government and worse yet the United Nations. While paranoia may reign supreme in some circles, it can not be the basis for enlightened debate in our democracy. To quote Thomas Paine, "It is error only, and not truth, that shrinks from inquiry".

Thanks for listening and your efforts on this issue.

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