

[RESOLUTION ON GUN VIOLENCE AFFECTING LIBRARIES, LIBRARY WORKERS, AND LIBRARY PATRONS]

September 19,
2016

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Whereas gun violence is an increasingly regular [1][2] phenomenon in the United States;

Whereas the safety and security of library workers and the people they serve across the United States are threatened by unexpected and potentially lethal gun violence [3];

Whereas state and local legislation is increasingly preventing public institutions from deciding whether to allow guns in their libraries in accordance with community standards;

Whereas libraries disseminate information about topics of interest to their communities;

Whereas an independent research center has recently highlighted the need for stable funding to reach full understanding of the root causes of gun violence [4];

Whereas the ALA Council passed the Resolution on Gun Violence (ALA Annual 2015 CD#45) stating that ALA:

- deplores the gun violence that materially affects libraries in the communities we serve;
- will work with state chapters and affiliates to support legislation that allows the prohibition of the carrying of guns in or near libraries and other educational institutions;

Whereas the ALA Council passed the Resolution Calling Upon Libraries to Build More Inclusive Communities (ALA Annual 2016 CD#44) stating that ALA:

- urges libraries, librarians, and library workers to cultivate more inclusive communities by actively engaging their communities to defuse and deescalate a culture of violence based on hatred, discrimination, and bigotry; and

Whereas many public-service associations, such as: the American Medical Association, American Public Health Association, American Psychological Association, American Educational Research Association, National Parent Teacher Association, Student National Medical Association, Association of American Universities, National Association of School Psychologists, American Nursing Association, and the National Association of Social Workers have publicly stated their concerns about gun violence in our communities. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA) on behalf of its members

1. Grieves with the families and friends of all those victimized by gun violence;
2. Calls for increased funding of comprehensive, authoritative and credible research on the causes and effects of gun violence;
3. Encourages libraries to collaborate with other agencies to provide training and education related to guns in the workplace for library workers;
4. Encourages libraries to engage their communities in open conversations around all-aspects of guns in society.

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- 1) Rosenfeld, R. (2016). *Documenting and Explaining the 2015 Homicide Rise: Research Directions*. National Institute of Justice: Washington DC
<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/249895.pdf>
- 2) "Firearm violence trends in the 21st century." (2015.03.19) *UC Davis Health Center Newsroom*. (blog) <https://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/publish/news/newsroom/9562>
- 3) Federal Bureau of Investigations, US Department of Justice. (2013.09.16) *A Study of Active Shooter Incidents in the United States Between 2000 and 2013*.
<https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/office-of-partner-engagement/active-shooter-incidents/a-study-of-active-shooter-incidents-in-the-u.s.-2000-2013>
- 4) "Firearm violence trends in the 21st century." (2015.03.19) *UC Davis Health Center Newsroom*. (blog) <https://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/publish/news/newsroom/9562>