

It takes a monster to kill children. But to watch monsters kill children again and again and do nothing isn't just insanity — it's inhumanity."  
- Amanda Gorman



# GUN VIOLENCE



Gun violence feels too big and too powerful to stop. But it's not too big for you to take some real, meaningful actions. You control what you decide you can live with, and what you can't. You can choose whether you do something, or do nothing. You are not powerless."  
- Jennifer Rosen Heinz

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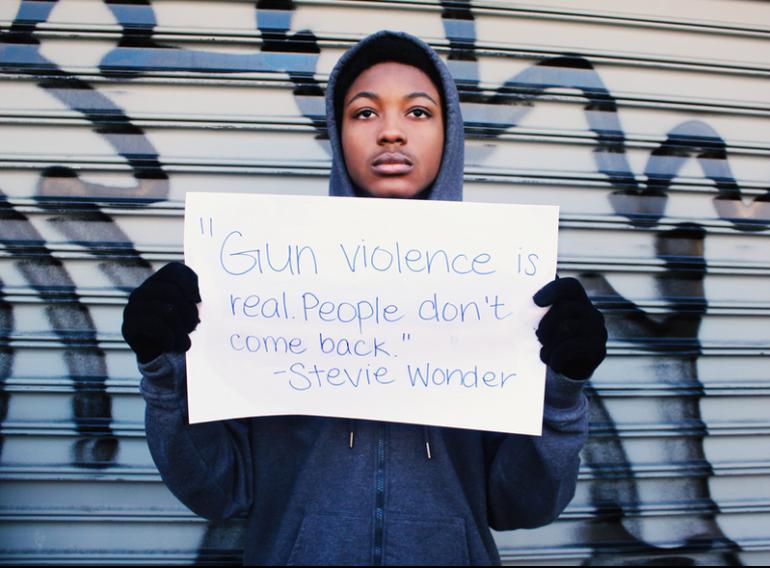
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## **Purpose of this Zine:**

The purpose of this zine is to demonstrate my message in a way that shows readers the eternal effects of gun violence and I want my zine to show people how we can prevent what is inevitable.

# My Poem

Gun violence.  
Watch the news,  
But I want to snooze.  
Hear the gunshots like fireworks,  
I want the silence.  
I can't rest my eyes and sleep.  
Gunsmoke floating in the sky,  
Like an explosion in th air.  
Gun violence.  
Is it ever enough?  
When will it stop?  
It can't stop.  
It won't stop.  
Gun violence.



# To Gun Violence

Gun violence is a public health epidemic, that threatens the right to life of people all around the world. It happens every day without warning or remorse. Gun violence could affect anyone but sometimes, in certain situations, gun violence affects the lives of communities of color, religious beliefs, women, and other groups in society. As time goes on people have become immune to the effects of gun violence. There are reports about incidents that involve someone being shot and/or murdered for reasons that don't fit the outcome.

The safest places in states have become affected by gun violence as well. Parents can't go outside with their children without watching their surroundings in case of an attack with a gun. You have to make sure to leave home at a certain time to prevent or reduce the chances of anything that involves guns. Families purchase guns so they can protect their homes without interaction with law enforcement. From what I've heard it's because of the lack of trust. Citizens don't even trust the people who serve to protect them, the people that supposedly wear their badges with honor. We should not have to live in fear if we'll make it til tomorrow or next week.

It has gotten so bad that people must record themselves while being pulled over by cops. The people who are supposed to defend those who can't defend themselves can't be trusted. And by no means am I promoting don't trust the cops. I'm simply stating the effects of gun violence and it's way bigger than just citizens who are the suspects. All it takes is a disagreement, a bad day, or something that irritates them so much that they choose to get a gun and shoot someone. There are young teenagers with guns and gangs terrorizing their community, and murdering innocent people, and former students visiting schools with guns with the intention of murdering innocent students.

What makes gun violence even worse is that it happens so frequently but it's almost like they can't stop it. It seems so predictable from my point of view yet nothing is preventing it. I see activists marching and spreading their message with posters and flyers but it doesn't work. However, I see the attempts. As of right now policies to reduce gun violence have been decent to prevent it. I do not believe you can stop gun violence because it is nearly impossible. Especially when people can get guns easily now.

My crucial question is how they get their guns. They make finding guns so easy. I know that it also depends on the group or individual. Some have a gun or guns in their household, some could get it through deals, and some could get it from joining a gang. I recently found out that they even use the dark web to shop for guns. After reading an article that informed me about this information I realized that these criminals more than likely use the dark web more frequently than you'd think because they can shop for these illegal weapons anonymously and apparently without justice being served to them. I also find it strange how they can't shut down the black web. However, I admit I know little about how the dark web works anyway but I'd like to do more research on it.

# ABOUT ME

I'm Tyron. I haven't been affected by gun violence personally but someone in my family has been. My aunt's son was shot and killed. We didn't see each other much but we had good chemistry whenever we saw each other. He didn't have the best relationship with his mom but they loved each other nonetheless. They argued, disagreed, and verbally fought but were still by each other's side when it mattered.

Gun violence took him away from her. He had a long life ahead of him and his right to life was removed from his free will. I don't want revenge. He deserves justice as much as I do.

# Artist Statement

While making this zine some anti-gun violence posters inspired me. The home page of my zine is where I wanted to tell the story. I didn't want it to be basic and dull so I gave it some light and added things that related to my topic and would tell the meaning of the zine. I researched famous quotes about gun violence and added them to my zine because I believe they held a stronger meaning than my poem, or my informational research article. For me, quotes articulate the meaning upfront. Similar to poems, quotes can tell a meaningful story through one or two sentences. While in the writing stage of making my poem, I thought of the best poet I've ever read from, Alice Walker. Her style of writing is not unique by any means but her wording makes her poem stand out and rise above most. Her poems make you think and initially don't have a straightforward meaning until you break it down. I attempted to replicate her wording and make the reader think about my poem despite its basic writing and lack of lines. Similar to my poem, other collages inspired me to conjure the one I have now. I wanted to share and pass down its message as you look at the collage. I wanted it to stand out. The coloring was dark in some areas and bright in others. Considering this is my first time creating a collage I didn't want to disappoint, so I made two different collages. I tried different formats and different styles with different images. However, because of that, I got stuck because I liked them both even though they all had obvious differences. It forced me to choose, but I mixed them to create what I got now.

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