

## **WNDC PUBLIC POLICY AND POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE**

### **Positions on Gun Violence Prevention**

WNDC recognizes that the United States has a national crisis due to gun violence. Violence and deaths from guns dramatically increased in many areas of the country in 2023. Gun violence is the leading cause of death for American children and teens, and the number of suicides by firearm is up. All forms of gun violence are increasing, including shootings in elementary schools. Mass shootings reached a record high in 2023. Women in the US are far more likely to be killed with a gun than women in other developed countries. Recent data shows that, every month, an average of 70 women in the U.S. are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are wounded. Children are afraid to go to school, and people avoid crowds and are afraid to go out at night because of the high risk of gun violence. It's not the way we want to live. Together we can create a more comprehensive and sustainable approach to reducing gun violence.

#### **WNDC calls for policymakers to:**

- Strengthen and enforce gun control laws that include background checks, licenses, and waiting periods for purchasing a gun.
- Introduce and implement a nationwide ban on assault weapons and attachable devices that intensify the firing rate.
- Promote educational campaigns for the safe storage and handling of legally owned guns.
- Improve access to mental health services and support for individuals at risk of engaging in violent behavior.
- Fund the development and implementation of conflict resolution programs in schools, workplaces, and communities.
- Foster a sense of community and social cohesion to reduce feelings of isolation and alienation that can lead to gun violence.
- Strengthen laws and support systems to protect victims of domestic violence.
- Enhance community policing efforts to build trust and cooperation between law enforcement and the communities they serve.
- Invest in research on the causes and consequences of gun violence to improve policies through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention.
- Support and engage with advocacy organizations that work to promote sensible gun violence prevention measures.