

The CWR Talk Network®
OPINION

End Gun Violence Now!

By Donell Edwards
President & CEO - The CWR Talk Network®

As a member of what is supposed to be a civilized society, I am angry. As a concerned citizen, I am angry and frustrated. As a former student and parent of students in public schools, I am terrified! But, mostly as a father of five wonderful children who were fortunate enough to escape the madness occurring today in our schools and our nation, I am angry at all of those who are so vehemently opposed to doing whatever is necessary to stop gun violence and mass shootings, particularly in our schools. I am also angry at all of those who sit idly by and do nothing either because they fear being identified with a position that is unpopular to many, or because they just don't care.

As most of you know, on February 14, 2018 there was yet another mass school shooting that resulted in the deaths of seventeen students and seventeen more were wounded, at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

Since that school shooting there was another one on Friday, May 18th at Santa Fe High School in Santa Fe, Texas. Nine students and one teacher were killed and ten others were injured.

First of all, I would like to extend our condolences to the families and friends of those students who lost their lives, and our hopes for a full recovery by all of those who were injured.

Every time there is a school shooting, or another mass shooting in our country, many of us have hopes that this will be the turning point that will usher in a change that will curb the gun violence in America. But nothing happens. It is as though we have become impervious to the shooting and killing of young people, and have come to accept this as the norm in our society. But, this time is different.

This time, in every part of the country, in every state, young people joined together to say, "Never Again!" "Enough Is Enough!" A national movement was launched with support from around the world. On Saturday, March 24th, over a million people participated in the March For Our Lives all across the United States, with hundreds of thousands marching at the nation's capitol in Washington, DC, and over 800 similar marches were held around the world.

Our young people have done what their elders have failed to do, and have awakened throngs of adults who now believe that meaningful changes can be made, and that this is a window of opportunity that cannot and will not be allowed to close. This movement will not falter, it is not going away, and those politicians who believe that it will are in for a rude awakening in this mid-term election, because many of these young people will be voters, and they have already demonstrated that they will accept nothing less than a change to "business as usual politics" in regard to action that results in eliminating gun violence.

I find it difficult to understand why anyone would be opposed to seeking ways to protect the lives of our children. Yet, there are those among us who are more concerned with the fear of losing their guns, especially their assault rifles, than they are of saving our children. They erroneously hide behind their 2nd amendment rights whenever there is any mention of stricter gun control measures. I say erroneously, because the 2nd amendment to the U.S. Constitution is one of the most misinterpreted documents there is.

In a recent New York Times op-ed, former U.S. Supreme Court justice John Paul Stevens states that the amendment should be repealed. Stevens argues that the amendment which states, "a well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed" was born out of concern that a "national standing army might pose a threat to the security" of individual states and is "a relic of the 18th century." (Source: Yahoo News)

Former Justice Stevens KNOWS the constitution. Although this viewpoint may be extreme, it must be acknowledged that at the least the National Rifle Association (NRA) and those who use the 2nd amendment as an excuse to oppose stricter gun control grossly misinterpret that amendment.

It is also shameless that many of these adults, some of whom are politicians and entertainers resort to name calling because they can't have their way, and when anyone has the audacity to challenge their outdated and anal position on gun control. These adults act more like children than those young people they call names and rant and have tantrums about like little children.

I know that many of you reading this are as angry as I am, but it is past the time to be angry and to take action. I am asking everyone who reads this to join The CWR Talk Network in supporting these bold, intelligent, courageous, and amazing young people and The Never Again Movement. Send your donations, attend their town hall meetings, contact your representatives on all levels, local, state, and national and demand that they work with The Never Again Movement and all other organizations opposed to gun violence to craft and introduce legislation that will stop the killing. I say, #NeverAgain! #EnoughIsEnough!