

RESOLUTION ON GUN VIOLENCE

Whereas our colleague, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd was murdered by gunfire along with Depayne Middleton-Doctor, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, Clementa C. Pinckney, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, Myra Thompson in Charleston, South Carolina, on June 17, 2015;

Whereas people have been seriously endangered, injured, or lost their lives to gun fire in United States libraries in countless incidents including those in Sacramento California, 1993; Littleton, Colorado, 1999; University of Texas, 2010; Santa Monica, California, June 2013; Florida State University, November 2014; Lyndhurst, New Jersey, May 2015; and many others;

Whereas the safety and security of all communities served by libraries across the United States are constantly threatened by unexpected and potentially lethal gun violence;

Whereas the safety and security of workers in, and patrons served by, libraries of all kinds in all areas of the country are vulnerable to unexpected and potentially lethal gun violence;

Whereas the incidence and scale of gun murders and other gun violence in the United States are far greater than those in any other economically developed country; and

Whereas that incidence and scale are directly affected by the ready availability of guns (handguns, assault rifles, etc.) in the United States due to ineffective gun laws, the absence of sensible gun control laws, and the efforts of the gun lobby and the manufacturers of guns to resist these controls; now, therefore, be it

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

1. deplores the gun violence that materially affects libraries in the communities we serve; and
2. 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.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Tuesday, June 30, 2015, in San Francisco, California



Keith Michael Fiels
Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council