

**2015-2016 ALA CD#45\_62516\_ACT**  
**2015-2016 ALA MMD#4\_62516\_ACT**  
**2016 ALA Annual Conference**

***The ALA Council deferred action on this resolution until the 2017 ALA Midwinter Meeting***

**RESOLUTION ON GUN VIOLENCE AFFECTING LIBRARIES, LIBRARY WORKERS,  
AND LIBRARY PATRONS**

Whereas on June 12, 2016, 49 people were murdered by gunfire in Orlando, FL, the host city of the 2016 Annual ALA conference;

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 advanced country;

Whereas that incidence and scale are directly affected by the ready availability of guns (handguns, assault rifles, etc.) in the United States due to lax 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;

Whereas ALA passed a Resolution on Gun Violence in 2015 spurred on by the 9 people , including our colleague Cynthia Hurd, murdered by gunfire in Charleston, South Carolina, on June 17, 2015; and

Whereas the only thing needed for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing and to remain silent; now, therefore, be it

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

1. extends its sincere condolences to the family and friends of the 49 people who were shot dead at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, and to all the families and friends of the thousands of victims of gun violence;
2. deplores the gun violence that materially affects the communities we serve;
3. works with other professional associations to support sensible and effective and national gun safety laws, oppose “gun friendly” state legislation, in particular any legislation that permits the carrying of guns in or near libraries and schools;

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4. calls on Congress to lift restrictions that prohibit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other Department of Health and Human Services agencies from conducting gun violence research as a response to library communities in crisis;
5. resolves to advance the idea of libraries mitigating violence in our culture by serving as “safe havens” for the public, as evidenced during the recent uprisings in Ferguson, MO and Baltimore, MD, and by offering public education opportunities that advance the notion of libraries as perpetrators of peace.

Martin Garnar, ALA Personal Member and ALA Councilor

Trevor A. Dawes, ALA Personal Member and ALA Councilor

## E-FORM TO RESOLUTION ON GUN VIOLENCE AFFECTING LIBRARIES, LIBRARY WORKERS, AND LIBRARY PATRONS

Submitted on Saturday, June 25, 2016 - 09:39

Submitted by user:

Submitted values are:

Date: 06/25/2016

Resolution author(s): Martin Garnar and Trevor A. Dawes

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1. Title of Resolution: Resolution on Gun Violence Affecting Libraries, Library Workers, and Library Patrons

2. ALA Units and/or Committees Consulted (if any): ALA Task Force on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

3. Endorsements by ALA Units and/or Committees (if any): ALA Task Force on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

4. Fiscal implications: Specify the resources needed to carry out the resolution's directive(s): N/A

5. List all parties to whom resolution should be sent: US Congress

6. Impact on ALA Policies and Positions: Explain how the resolution supports ALA's Strategic Plan, its mission, and/or its core values.: This supports the core values of diversity, given the outsized impact of gun violence on marginalized communities, and of social responsibility, as all of society would benefit from a safer atmosphere.

6a) ALA general policy or viewpoint: If the resolution sets forth a general policy or an ALA viewpoint, describe.: That ALA should work to end the ban on research related to gun violence by federal entities; that ALA should support gun safety legislation in the interest of protecting the communities we serve.

6b) Change in existing policy: If this resolution necessitates a change in existing policy, state the policy number and the change.:

6c) New policy: If this resolution establishes new policy, describe.:

6d) Policy conflicts: If this resolution conflicts with existing policy, state provisions for resolving the conflict.:

7. Initiating Committee or Unit (if any): ALA Task Force on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

8. Pertinent Background Information, e.g. bibliography, citations, supportive quotes, URLs, etc.:

We would not be the only association to support gun safety legislation:

<http://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2016/01/gun-control-measures.aspx>

<http://www.aera.net/Newsroom/News-Releases-and-Statements/Statement-by-AERA-Executive-Director-Felice-J-Levine-on-the-Terror-Attack-in-Orlando>

9. Mover's Name: Martin Garnar

10. Seconder's Name: Trevor A. Dawes