



## Guns in America

March 2023

Description: Does the US have a gun problem? What can be done to lessen the number of gun related shootings and deaths?

Estimated time: 1.5 hours

### (1) Getting acquainted and comfortable

5 - 10 min.

#### Welcome

- Thank you for coming...
- We are a part of The Great Reset, which was born out of a shift we're seeing in our country. We have been in a place where we don't tend to speak 'beyond our bubbles' and across perspectives. The Great Reset has been opening up a grey space for such conversations since 2018. You are now part of keeping the conversation going and we thank you.

#### The Pillars of The Great Reset

- To share our own thoughts and perspectives with humility
- To learn from others and listen with respect

#### Ground Rules

- Every comment is valid and deserving of respect
- We show respect by speaking one at a time, putting our phones on silent and staying engaged, even when we are not speaking
- In the interest of time, I may cut in to ask you to 'top-line' something if we need to move on. This means simply offer up a synopsis of your thoughts and speak in bullets, not paragraphs

#### Confidentiality

I would like a verbal from everyone that you are here of your own volition and out of respect for one another I would ask you to keep what others say in this room unless they give you permission otherwise. (go around and get verbal agreement). Further, you agree to adhere to the principles outlined already: to deliver your perspectives bound to the principles of respect, to **listen with humility and offer grace to others who are sharing this space.**

#### Personal Introductions

Please share your name, where you live, do you own a gun and if yes, what type of gun.

**\*\*\*Remind everyone we're recording but we won't use any clips without their approval\*\*\***



## **(2) Number of guns in America ... a problem or not**

**15 - 25 min.**

- How do you feel about the large number of guns in the US ... more than 400 million by some estimates?
- On a per person basis, the US has more than 3 times as many guns as does Canada, 8 times as many as Australia, and 24 times as many as the UK. Additionally, 79% of all US homicides are gun-related, compared to 37% in Canada, 13% in Australia, and just 4% in the UK.  
So compared to these other countries, why does the US have so many more guns and so many more gun-related deaths.
- Why do you think that so many Americans own military grade firearms (at least 20 million as of 2020 according to the National Shooting Sports Foundation)? Is this a problem or not, and why?

## **(3) Gun control**

**35 – 45 min.**

- What do you feel are practical suggestions to reduce the amount of gun-related shootings and deaths in the US? Probe for what is possible to happen and work, and what is not and just a pipedream.
- Is the Second Amendment absolute, and why or why not?
- What could be done to make it more difficult for people with mental health issues or violent criminal backgrounds to purchase a gun? Probe for whether a background check should be required before someone can purchase a gun, and why or why not. Additionally, probe for whether a reasonable waiting period (say 5 to 10 days) should be required before a gun purchase can be completed, and why or why not.
- What could be done to make owning guns safer, especially reducing the number of accidental and other unwanted shootings? For example, should trigger locks be required on all guns as a matter of safety?
- Australia had a very successful gun buyback program in the late 1990s after several mass shootings. Is that possible to do in today's US, and why or why not?

## **(4) Closing comments**

**5 - 10 min.**

- Any additional comments about the number of guns or gun-related deaths in the US?