We negate: Resolved: The United States should require universal background checks for all gun sales and transfers of ownership.

Our sole contention is Racist Implications.

Gun control is rooted in a history of racism. Creede Newton of [Al Jazeera](http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/10/gun-control-racist-present-171006135904199.html) explains last month that throughout the 20th century, politicians have distorted gun laws to keep them out of the hands of minority groups.

This is especially true for Universal Background Checks because Christopher [Moraff](https://www.thedailybeast.com/the-gun-issue-even-the-nra-wont-touch) of the Daily Beast finds that a single non-violent drug arrest leads to a lifetime prohibition on gun ownership.

Unfortunately, non-violent drug crimes are disproportionately charged against African Americans as [Jonathan Rothwell](https://www.brookings.edu/blog/social-mobility-memos/2014/09/30/how-the-war-on-drugs-damages-black-social-mobility/) of Brookings finds in 2017 that the criminal justice system is full of discrimination against Black Americans. Blacks are far more likely than whites to be arrested and criminalized for non-violent sale or possession of drugs even though whites are actually more likely than blacks to sell drugs and about as likely to consume them. [Christopher Moraff](https://www.thedailybeast.com/the-gun-issue-even-the-nra-wont-touch) backs this up empirically in 2016 finding that blacks are imprisoned 10 times more frequently than whites for the exact same crime.

As a result of the patently disproportionate enforcement of drug crimes, universal background checks will restrict African Americans of their rights simply because of their race. However, these drug offenders are not violent and have never harmed anyone as [Lauren Brooke](http://time.com/4596081/incarceration-report/) of Time finds in 2016 that currently 39% of the prison population are incarcerated for nonviolent crimes and pose no threat to public safety.

First, Self Defense

Martin Kaste of NPR in 2015 reports that the majority of blacks see gun ownership as a good thing that is more likely to protect them than harm them, and as a result more African-Americans are getting permits to carry concealed weapons. Nicholas Johnson of Fordham University finds that specifically for the black community, guns disincentive criminals from targeting African Americans.

Second, empowering African Americans.

Nicholas Johnson of Fordham University, finds that the ability to fight back is the foundational clay of building up heroes in the battle for equality. [NPR](http://www.npr.org/2014/06/05/319072156/guns-kept-people-alive-during-the-civil-rights-movement) concludes in 2014 that gun ownership made the civil rights movement possible.

[The Christian Science Monitor](https://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Society/2017/0711/Black-gun-owners-ask-Does-the-Second-Amendment-apply-to-us) reports in 2017 that more and more African Americans are supporting the Second Amendment in response to the wave of white nationalist sentiments and feelings of outright hostility comparable to that of the 50s and 60s.

Fortunately, [The Atlantic](https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2011/09/the-secret-history-of-guns/308608/) notes in 2011 that keeping guns available empowers minority groups to stand up to oppressors because you’re a lot more likely to fight for your rights if you can defend yourself from violent backlash. They find empirically that firearm sales are “directly related to the prospect of civil disorders.” This is especially important in the current political climate.

[Tyramaine Lee](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/age-trump-producing-more-black-gun-owners-n758211) of NBC News in May 2017 notes the “sharp rise in the number of African-Americans buying guns since Trump’s election. Many [blacks] are walking into gun shops to arm themselves out of fear that this election has rekindled white supremacists and tension between the races.”

Thus, gun ownership empowers minority social movements which is crucial as [Anthony Chen from The University of Michigan](http://fordschool.umich.edu/research/papers/PDFfiles/04-005.pdf) finds in 2004 that even after controlling for public opinion, a one standard deviation increase in collective mobilization made it 3 times more likely that legislation such as anti-discriminatory housing laws were passed.

Housing is critical as [Moraff](https://nextcity.org/daily/entry/housing-first-former-prisoners-homelessness) writes in 2014 that stable housing decreases recidivism rates to just 1%. Furthermore, absent stable housing, people are likely to live on the street which increases the chances that they fall into crime.

Third, internalized racism.

[The RTM Institute](http://www.cairn-int.info/article-E_RTM_200_0735--empowerment-the-history-of-a-key-concept.htm) notes in 2009 that empowering aggrieved groups helps them to overcome internalized oppression, the phenomenon in which the victims of oppression feels inferior to their oppressor.

Overcoming these beliefs is essential because Wesley Bryant of Harvard University finds in 2011 that internalized racism lays the psychological pretext for juvenile delinquency and is thus the largest cause of violence amongst African American youth. He concludes that internalized racism increases violent behavior and presence of guns. This is extremely important - the cause of violence is not the presence of guns. The affirmative is only removing one tool that people can use for violence, but the root of the problem is racism which incentivizes groups to act violently.

 [The WLS](https://welikeshooting.com/blog/gun-control-stripped-power-african-american-community/) concludes in 2015 that pro-gun stances that empower minority groups instead of dismissing them are the key to a just and equal society.