

# Human Rights Committee 2024 Resolution

## **RESOLUTION TO ADDRESS GUN VIOLENCE AND ITS EFFECTS ON OHIO'S YOUTH**

WHEREAS, the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT) passed a resolution at the 2018 OFT Convention regarding the epidemic of gun violence titled *RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MEASURES TO END GUN VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS*, and

WHEREAS, the rates of gun violence have not reduced since the resolution passed, and

WHEREAS, between 2021-2023, gun violence among Ohio's youth has risen 27%, making it the leading cause of death among children in the state, and

WHEREAS, Ohio is one of 10 states where gun-related deaths among youth is highest, and

WHEREAS, Ohio has an average of 144 children and teens die by guns every year, of which 33% of these deaths are suicides and 63% are homicides, and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) research states that the COVID-19 global pandemic influenced the increase of gun violence to an all-time high, due to social isolation, lack of social supports, and being worried about financial stability, and

WHEREAS, Black, Hispanic, and Native American youth, and people of color, are more likely to die from gun violence, and

WHEREAS, firearm homicide rates are highest among teens and young adults between 15- 34 years old, both males and females, and

WHEREAS, firearm homicides in the United States occur at a rate of nearly 25 times higher than other high income countries, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT) believes gun safety is a multi-faceted issue that requires social-emotional, mental health, behavioral, and legislative support, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT), will continue to work to support the efforts of decreasing gun violence with sensible approaches and supporting those living with gun violence trauma within Ohio, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the OFT continues to urge the Ohio Legislature to support funding for gun safety and prevention efforts, such as background checks and red flag laws, to reduce youth gun violence and the trauma that follows, to protect the human rights and safety of Ohio students and their families.