**25th February 2018**

**Wealthy or welfare? A Human Rights Speech by Grace Rushworth.**

I have decided to base my speech upon the gun laws in America. The law in the United States regulates the sale, possession, and use of firearms and ammunition. It allows people 16 and over to buy and possess these death traps. During three years from 2014-2017, 56,775 lives were brutally taken just in the case of gun violence. 2,710 of those lives came from children under 12. Poor, defenceless children. Yet, the law has not changed, leading to 30 mass shootings so far this year. 8 of those were on school grounds. Only being two months into 2018, 2,274 people have had their lives torn through them due to gun violence.

Article 2 in the Human Rights Act states that everyone has a right to life. Everyone’s right to life is protected by the law unless it is absolutely necessary in extreme cases to take the life of someone. The three cases in which your right to life is restricted are, in order to effect a lawful arrest or prevent the escape of a person being lawfully detained, in defence of a person from unlawful violence, and in action lawfully taken for the purpose of quelling or insurrection (a violent uprising against an authority or government).

The right to life is violated every time an innocent person gets shot at. Of the 49 months from January 2014-2017, only 6 months passed without at least one instance of gun violence in a US school. The law states that the government must protect all children under 18 from any physical or mental harm. Yet, allowing gun laws to continue, the rate of deaths due to guns is just going to keep increasing, not following one of the main, basic human rights! There has been a 3% increase over the previous year recorded in 2017. The percent is going to increase if nothing is done about these avoidable extremities. The government is supposed to protect and defend the defenceless but by not tightening the unreliable, supposedly stable gun laws, thousands are dying every month.

I believe the majority, if not all, of America should follow after New York’s Second Amendment, which states that you’re able to keep and bear arms for self-defence but the weapons are only allowed to stay inside your property. Not only would the right to life be protected, but it also a way to ensure safety to children, the public, the elderly. The government’s main priority should be the welfare of the country and the inhabitants, not the amount of money rising in their pockets.

I’ve come to the conclusion that the most important human right, is the right to life. In able to ensure the right to life is absolute and protected, I believe that gun laws must become more restricted even if it decreases Donald Trump’s business balance. Life is more important than money and power but, many (including Trump) need to realise that.

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