

# **SANDY HOOK PRINCIPLES**

## **THE CONTEXT**

In solemn remembrance of the 20 children and 6 adults whose lives were taken during the tragic shooting massacre of December 14, 2012, at Sandy Hook Elementary School, and in remembrance of too many others who have lost their lives to gun violence before and since, the Sandy Hook Principles are hereby established as one idea that can help make America safer. These Principles are a call to action for corporations to heed the basic core values of American citizens in promoting the health, safety and well-being of our communities.

## **THE PREAMBLE**

The objective of the Sandy Hook Principles is to encourage positive corporate behavior by gun and ammunition manufacturers, distributors and retailers by establishing a baseline standard for responsible conduct and business practices to help ensure maximum safety for our citizens. Accordingly, the Principles promote progressive actions by these companies towards eliminating the substantial and unjustified risk to human health and life associated with inadequately regulated firearm use. The Principles address five specific categories of reform in terms of procedures, coordination, management, safety and technology.

These Principles are created in an effort to work proactively with the gun industry to seek commonsense solutions in response to the proliferation of gun violence in America that has caused immeasurable harm to our citizens. Implicit in these Principles lies the belief that adjustments and changes in certain business practices, policies or conduct by the gun industry can improve the health, safety and well-being of our communities. In these Principles, the gun industry is being called upon to be part of the solution to the public safety and public health challenges we face in cities and towns across the nation and presents an opportunity for significant progress towards the imperative objectives of keeping firearms out of the wrong hands, and making guns and ammunition safer for authorized users.

It is hereby affirmed that the overwhelming majority of gun owners in America are responsible, law abiding and safety-conscious citizens. Through the widespread adoption of these Principles, an appropriate balance is sought between protecting the rights of gun ownership and the rights of our citizens to be safe and secure. These rights are not in conflict and must complement each other.

The Principles apply to gun and ammunition manufacturers, distributors and retailers, with an exception for the production and sale of guns or ammunition to local, state and federal law enforcement agencies and all U.S. military forces for use in conducting their official duties. Local and state governments, colleges and universities, hedge funds, pension funds, venture capital funds and all other organizations that have a financial relationship with private corporations may request that companies affiliated with the gun industry review and adopt the Sandy Hook Principles. In the event an affiliated company does not adopt the Principles, organizations may choose to reexamine that financial relationship.

## **THE PRINCIPLES**

As a company which endorses the Sandy Hook Principles we will respect the law, and as a responsible corporate member of society we will apply these Principles with integrity consistent with the legitimate role of business. We will develop and implement company policies, procedures, training and internal reporting structures to ensure commitment to these Principles throughout

our organization. We believe the application of these Principles will improve the health, safety and well-being of communities across America.

Accordingly, we will:

- Support and promote restrictions on firearm and ammunition sales, transfers and possession to keep guns out of the hands of children (unless authorized), persons with mental illness or mental health challenges (unless authorized), criminals, domestic or international terrorists and anyone else prohibited from possessing them under federal law.
- Conduct background checks on all gun and ammunition sales or transfers and support the establishment of a federal universal background check system for every such transaction.
- Reevaluate policies regarding the sale, production, design or conversion of military style assault weapons for use by civilians, including the distribution of any materials/information that may be used to assist in such conversion.
- Ensure that all business clients, including gun show operators or gun dealers, conduct background checks for every sale or transfer of guns or ammunition.
- Make a commitment to develop and implement technology-enhanced safety measures for guns and ammunition.
- Support and promote the creation of a federal gun trafficking statute to ensure strict punishment for individuals engaging in the trade of selling firearms to anyone prohibited from possessing them under federal law.
- Support and promote sharing of background check and gun sale data for law enforcement purposes.
- Support and promote gun safety education at the point of sale and in the communities in which we conduct business operations.

We will be transparent in our implementation of these principles and provide information which demonstrates publicly our commitment to them.

*The Sandy Hook Principles are modeled after the Global Sullivan Principles – a human rights and equal opportunity code of conduct for companies which was originally developed by the legendary Reverend Dr. Leon H. Sullivan of Philadelphia's Opportunities Industrialization Centers (OIC) of America, in order to promote desegregation and equal rights during the apartheid regime in South Africa.*