We don't need gun control

We need to take control

Four of the ten deadliest mass shootings in US history have taken place in the last two years—alongside a wave of backlash against women, queer and trans people, and people of color. The backlash takes many forms: "men's rights," the alt-right, the Trump campaign. All of them are based in the anxiety that straight, white men are losing their power over society—and it's no secret that mass shooters tend to be angry white men with a history of hating women.

Those in power aren't offering real solutions—they're too invested in the system that causes mass shootings. Whether they are for or against gun control, they all want to send the same message: "You have to go through us to change things." Any new laws they pass will be used chiefly against the poor people and people of color who are always targeted by the police and the courts. Linking mental health to surveillance, state control, and incarceration will just give them another tool to use against us.

We have to stop depending on adults who are invested in the status quo to solve the problems it produces. Don't let political parties or school boards tell you what counts as appropriate protest. They can't run those schools without you. Together, we can make the changes they never will.

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