The US is reaching epidemic levels of gun violence, claiming on average 93 lives daily, and yet common-sense federal gun safety measures are rejected at every turn. In the push for smarter gun legislature, we must scrutinize and contextualize gun violence, identifying it as the systemic problem it is. When instances of gun violence occur, and particularly with mass shootings, the narratives constructed around each tragedy are crafted differently according to the race of the assailant, the number of people impacted, and the race and gender of the victims. CFFP calls for a deeper scrutiny around the way that normative and biased ideas about gender and race influence mainstream narratives about gun control and mass shootings. Such blatantly racist and sexist narratives, encouraged by the gun lobby, fuel extraordinary misperceptions about the harm caused by gun violence and succeed in keeping gun legislation off the table.

In discussing gun violence, it is critical to discuss systemic racism. Black men and women are disproportionately impacted by gun violence. The typical mass shooter is a right-wing white man, yet one of the strongest calls for gun control has been based on the no-fly list, a racist measure that almost exclusively targets Muslims. This is compounded by a policy of mass incarceration that targets poor and disproportionately non-white people with felony records. Gun violence is a gendered issue as well. For example, male mass shooters have histories of domestic violence, and nearly half of all women murdered in the US are killed by an intimate partner with a gun. Despite this, federal and many state laws make it too easy for abusers to possess firearms.

Key Points

- The majority of mass shooters are white men.
- Many mass shooters have a history of domestic violence.
- Communities of color disproportionately bear the brunt of gun violence and police brutality.

Numbers and Figures

- In 2012, 6,000 black men were murdered with guns.
- American women are 16 times more likely to be killed by a gun than women in other developed countries.
- 11 million Americans currently hold concealed handgun licenses, an increase from 4.5 million ten years ago.
ACTION PLAN

1. Support organizations that work to reduce gun violence and build safer communities. Here are some that are doing revolutionary work:
   - **The Coalition to Stop Gun Violence** uses policy development, strategic engagement and effective advocacy to build communities free from gun violence.
   - **Black Lives Matter** organizes and builds local power to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities by the state and vigilantes.
   - **Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund** seeks to improve our understanding of the causes of gun violence and the means to reduce it.
   - **Gays Against Guns** is an inclusive direct action group of LGBTQ people and their allies committed to nonviolently breaking the gun industry’s chain of death—investors, manufacturers, the NRA and politicians who block safer gun laws.
   - **Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence** work deliberately to engage communities of color in their advocacy efforts.

2. Educate yourself on gun issues and help change the conversation. Here are some useful resources:
   - **The Guardian US’s Break the Cycle** series aims to change the way the media covers gun violence - and to challenge the orthodoxy that gun reform is a hopeless pursuit.
   - **The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence** maintains the most comprehensive information on US firearms regulation.
   - **Gun Violence Archive** works to provide public access to accurate information about gun-related violence in the US.

3. Sign this petition for safe gun storage.

4. Contact your state and local representatives. Use this website to find out who they are. Call, email, or tweet them demanding strong gun reforms to protect all American lives.

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**SOURCES**