

# **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 influence the corporate behavior of gun and ammunition manufacturers, distributors and retailers by establishing a baseline standard for responsible conduct. Accordingly, the Principles demand progressive actions on the part of 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. 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. Once a company is notified that its operations are subject to the Sandy Hook Principles, that company must endorse and adhere to the Principles within the time determined by the appropriate authority, or economic divestment actions will commence against that company.

## **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 twenty Principles will improve the health, safety and well-being of communities across America.

Accordingly, we will:

1. 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.
2. Develop and implement technology-enhanced safety measures for guns.
3. Ensure that each firearm manufactured, sold or transferred includes a firearm safety device approved by the Department of Justice and identified as appropriate for that firearm.
4. Support and promote the implementation of a federal universal background check system for every firearm sale or transfer.
5. Support and promote a requirement that all background check data be shared by all federal agencies.
6. Support and promote states and localities in automating their relevant records and incorporating those records into the federal database.
7. Conduct background checks on all gun and ammunition sales or transfers.

8. Develop an early-warning system to detect patterns for possible “straw purchasers” based on purchase quantities, purchase patterns, timing of purchases, types of purchases or other indicators that the purchaser may be acquiring a gun or ammunition on behalf of another person based on information from vendors, retailers, gun dealers or the internet.
9. Support and promote cooperation with law enforcement agencies where a significant number of guns involved in crimes have been sold or transferred by a particular vendor, retailer or gun dealer.
10. Support and promote information sharing related to the sale of used guns among gun dealers and gun manufacturers for law enforcement purposes.
11. 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.
12. Stop the sale, production, design and 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.
13. Support the funding, design and sharing of technology for the production of firearms that have only the latest user-identification technology. For example, technology that allows only the legitimate civilian owner to operate the firearm.
14. Support the funding, design and sharing of technology for the production of ammunition that allows for identification of the legitimate civilian owner of the ammunition.
15. Only manufacture firearms with at least four different locations of the firearm serial number, at least two of which must be in two separate internal locations of the firearm.
16. Request information from any purchaser of a firearm or ammunition as to whether they have taken a gun safety course and, if not, promote taking a course at the time of sale.
17. Request information from any purchaser of a firearm or ammunition as to whether there is a secure gun locker on the premises of the home or business prior to any sale and, if not, promote the purchase of such lockers or similar devices at the time of sale.
18. Partner with local communities in hosting semi-annual gun buy-back programs to retire weapons from general public circulation.
19. Partner with local communities in conducting regular gun/firearm safety classes for school-age children and adults in communities in which the company operates.
20. Stop the sponsorship, sanctioning or support for, or the sale or transfer of, any guns or ammunition to any gun show operator or gun dealer who does not ensure that background checks will be conducted for every sale or transfer of guns or ammunition at any gun show in which they are a sponsor or participant.

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 apply economic pressure to the apartheid regime in South Africa.*