

US COMPANIES END TIES WITH GUN GROUP NRA

U.S. companies end ties with gun group NRA



An increasing number of companies are announcing plans to sever ties with the USA's National Rifle Association (NRA) following the latest high-school shooting massacre. The

tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in South Florida, in which 17 students and staff lost their lives, could be a watershed for gun control in the USA. Many high profile companies are calling for gun control and are cutting ties with the powerful NRA lobby group. United Airlines, Delta Airlines and Hertz are among many companies to end special discounts and benefits for NRA staff and members. There is also a growing campaign on social media for greater gun control in the USA.

The NRA made a statement attacking the failure of both school and federal systems for the high school tragedy. It said: "The law-abiding members of the NRA had nothing at all to do with the failure of that school's security preparedness, the failure of America's mental health system...or the cruel failures of both federal and local law enforcement." It added that: "Despite that, some corporations have decided to punish NRA membership in a shameful display of political and civic cowardice." An NRA spokesman hit back at the companies, saying: "The loss of a discount will neither scare nor distract one single NRA member from our mission to stand and defend individual freedoms."

TOPIC

The world would be a better place without guns.
Discuss.

True / False

- a) A decreasing number of U.S. companies will cut ties with the NRA. T / F
- b) The article suggested this latest tragedy could bring changes. T / F
- c) United Airlines has said it will continue its partnership with the NRA. T / F
- d) NRA members will still get discounts and benefits from Hertz. T / F
- e) The NRA blamed the school's security for the tragedy. T / F
- f) The NRA blamed the tragedy on America's mental health system. T / F
- g) The NRA said companies were acting like cowards. T / F
- h) The NRA said its members would be distracted by losing discounts. T / F

Discussion

- 1 What do you think about what you read?
- 2 Why is the NRA so powerful in the USA?
- 3 What do you think about gun control?
- 4 Is the NRA right to say the school was at fault?
- 5 Where does mental health fit into gun control laws?
- 6 How can schools better protect students?
- 7 What advice do you have for the NRA?
- 8 What questions would you like to ask the company bosses?
- 9 What do you think of guns?
- 10 What are gun laws like in your country?
- 11 What do you know about the NRA in the USA?
- 12 Will the latest tragedy be a watershed for gun control?
- 13 Why are there so many shootings in the USA?
- 14 Are companies right to cut ties with the NRA?
- 15 Will the gun situation get better or worse?
- 16 Should people have a right to keep and bear guns?

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS:

1. What do companies want to sever with the NRA?
2. What did the article say the tragedy could be for gun control in the USA?
3. What kind of group did the article say the NRA was?
4. What company was mentioned that isn't an airline?
5. Where is there a campaign for greater gun control?
6. What systems did the NRA attack, besides the school's systems?
7. What members of the NRA did it say had nothing to do with failures?
8. What kind of health system did the NRA say had failed?
9. What noun did a spokesman use to describe corporate leaders?
10. What did the NRA say would not scare nor distract its members?