

Seminar Goals

Understand the concept of interest convergence and its role in legal and policy advocacy. Identify strategies to use interest convergence to incorporate the priorities of rural residents into the current gun control movement.

Assignment

Derrick A. Bell, Jr., Brown v. Board of Education and the Interest-Convergence Dilemma, 93 Harv. L. Rev. 518, (1980) - EXCERPT

“The Extraordinary Inclusiveness of the March for Our Lives” – The New Yorker
<https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/the-extraordinary-inclusiveness-of-the-march-for-our-lives>

Parkland Student Activist Requests for Gun Control Measures

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/commentisfree/2018/mar/23/parkland-students-manifesto-americas-gun-laws>

News Article on Rural School Shooting in Kentucky

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/ct-kentucky-high-school-shooting-20180123-story.html>

Kentucky Student Activists:

<https://www.npr.org/2018/03/23/596139081/in-rural-kentucky-activists-tread-lightly-on-gun-control>

Rural Iowa Moms Take Action

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2018/02/19/sick-school-shootings-iowa-moms-take-action-make-classrooms-safe/353419002/>

“People Will Bury Their Guns before They Surrender Them”: Implementing Domestic Violence Gun Control in Rural, Appalachian versus Urban Communities. - EXCERPT

Reading & Discussion Questions

Draft your response to each question in paragraph form. Bring a printed copy to class for Prof. Baskaran.

1. Professor Bell defined interest convergence within the context of school desegregation cases as “the interest of blacks in achieving racial equality will be accommodated only when it converges with the interests of whites.” What are the various interests Professor Bell identified that converged to desegregate schools? (hint: the moral & pragmatic reasons he suggests...)
2. How did the convergence of the interests, identified in the previous question, impact school desegregation?
3. The New Yorker Article refers to the March for Our Lives as “extraordinarily inclusive.”
 - a. What groups seem to be included in the conversation?
 - b. Who is absent from the article or has a smaller voice?
4. How would you explain rural gun culture to someone who is unfamiliar with rural America?
5. What are rural gun violence issues highlighted by the groups in Kentucky and Iowa?
6. What are rural gun violence issues highlighted by the *Implementing Domestic Violence Gun Control in Rural, Appalachian versus Urban Communities* study?
7. Are there other rural gun violence or safety issues that should be part of the gun control conversation?
8. Can you identify gun control measures or policies that work to address gun violence in rural America? Can you identify gun control policies or measures that would not work?
9. Do any of your identified gun control measures conflict with the Parkland Student Activists’ Manifesto? Do any of your identified measure overlap?
10. Are there consequences for rural communities and rural youth if not engaged in the current national dialogue surrounding gun control?