

PROFILE OF RESISTANCE

X (Emma) González

Anti-gun violence activist

“Adults like us when we have strong test scores, but they hate us when we have strong opinions.”

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Background Information

Born: November 11, 1999

X González is an anti-gun violence activist born November 11, 1999, and raised in Florida. X is a survivor of a mass school shooting in Parkland, Florida. X González uses they/them pronouns.

González's Resistance

On Feb. 14, 2018, a gunman unleashed six minutes of violence at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. The mass shooting was the deadliest US school shooting since 2012.ⁱ Seventeen students and staff members died, and another seventeen were injured. Three days after the shooting, X gave an impassioned speech entitled, "We call B.S." They challenged laws about gun control in America. They also called out politicians and pro-gun organizations for failing students. On March 9, 2018, Governor Rick Scott signed the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act. A critical piece of the law raised the minimum age to purchase firearms from 18 to 21. X and other student survivors were not satisfied with the law. Many families wanted automatic-styled weapons banned.ⁱⁱ In response, X and other survivors launched the March for Our Lives campaign. The anti-gun-violence movement prompted students to plan a national march on Washington to demand political action on gun control. When the hashtag #MarchForOurLives went viral, supporters planned simultaneous protests in multiple cities. On March 24, 2018, more than 800 anti-gun violence events occurred worldwide.ⁱⁱⁱ As a youth advocate against politicians who accept pro-gun funds, X González warned, "You're either funding the killers, or you're standing with the children."^{iv}

In the years since the school shooting, X has continued anti-gun activism. X is featured in the documentary "Us Kids," which chronicles the March for Our Lives movement immediately after the shooting.^v

Achievements

X González was included in Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2018.

Essential Questions

1. How did X González resist against the gun violence in their school community?
2. Why do you think those impacted by the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting were not satisfied with the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act?
 - a. How did students respond to the legislation?
3. X is quoted as saying to lawmakers, "You're either funding the killers, or you're standing with the children." Do you agree with this stance on gun control? Why or why not?
4. ***"Adults like us when we have strong test scores, but they hate us when we have strong opinions."***
 - a. What does the author mean in this quote?
 - b. As a youth, do you agree with this quote? Why or why not?

ⁱ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-43105701>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-florida-gun-control-20180305-story.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/parkland/florida-school-shooting/fl-ne-emma-gonzalez-now-x-gonzalez-20210511-knb4ao4qprczlcczvor5us2jdi-story.html>

^{iv} <https://www.axios.com/2018/02/19/parkland-student-politicians-accepting-nra-money>

^v <https://www.pennlive.com/news/2021/02/3-years-after-parkland-school-shooting-what-the-survivors-turned-activists-are-doing.html>