

Gay men refused as blood donors after Orlando shooting

16th June, 2016



Hundreds of gay men eager to give blood in the wake of the Orlando nightclub shooting have been turned away by blood centers. Despite a major clinic urging people to donate blood, it was prevented by federal law from accepting donations from gay men who had been sexually active in the past year. The

shooting on Sunday morning left 50 people dead and 53 injured, some seriously. The killer, Omar Mateen, 29, used a semi-automatic assault rifle to create the carnage, which is now the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history. Mateen, a New York native, supposedly targeted the LGBT community at the club after being angered at seeing two men kissing in Miami.

Many in the LGBT community are now protesting against the federal policy of barring gay men from donating blood unless they had been celibate in the previous year. Dr Ryan Stanton said donated blood must be tested for HIV and other infectious diseases before it could be used. The testing process typically takes about 24 hours. He said: "Anybody who meets the basic qualifications, whether homosexual or heterosexual, should be able to donate blood." The Atlantic said: "Even after the most deadly act against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people in American history, the built-in homophobia of American public health keeps the country from mounting the most effective possible response."

Sources: *USA Today* / *CNN* / *TheAtlantic.com*

Writing

Everyone should have to give blood once a year. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

eager / shooting / turned away / blood centers / donations / assault rifle / native / community / LGBT / HIV / diseases / qualifications / homosexual / homophobia

True / False

- Community centers turned away gay men wanting to donate blood. T / F
- U.S. federal law prevents sexually active men from donating blood. T / F
- The killer was due to celebrate his 29th birthday next week. T / F
- The killer was reportedly angry at two men kissing in Orlando. T / F
- The LGBT want the federal law changed so gay men can donate blood. T / F
- Testing blood for HIV usually takes around 24 hours. T / F
- A doctor said anyone should be able to donate blood if they are fit to. T / F
- The Atlantic website blamed homophobia for ineffective responses. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. eager | a. prohibiting |
| 2. despite | b. encouraging |
| 3. urging | c. singled out |
| 4. carnage | d. contagious |
| 5. targeted | e. massacre |
| 6. barring | f. keen |
| 7. infectious | g. reaction |
| 8. deadly | h. organizing |
| 9. mounting | i. regardless of |
| 10. response | j. lethal |

Discussion – Student A

- Is it unfair that gay men cannot donate blood?
- Do you agree with what Dr Stanton said about anyone giving blood?
- Should Florida have let gay men donate blood for the Orlando victims?
- Why does homophobia exist?
- What can society do to reduce homophobia?
- What do you know about blood?
- Why is the ban in place if all blood is tested for HIV and other diseases?
- What questions would you like to ask an expert on blood donation?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

1. eager
 2. a major clinic urging
 3. federal
 4. a semi-automatic assault
 5. the deadliest mass
 6. Many in the LGBT
 7. infectious
 8. homosexual or
 9. transgender
 10. the most effective possible
- a. community
 - b. rifle
 - c. people
 - d. people to donate blood
 - e. diseases
 - f. heterosexual
 - g. to give blood
 - h. response
 - i. law
 - j. shooting in U.S. history

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Should the law be changed so gay men can give blood?
- c) What do you think of donating blood?
- d) Should people get paid for donating blood?
- e) When will shootings like this stop?
- f) Have you ever given(or would you give) blood?
- g) How important is it to be a blood donor?
- h) Would you donate other parts of your body for medical purposes?

Spelling

1. a major clinic iunrgg people to donate blood
2. prevented by federal law from iccatngep donations
3. 53 durejni, some seriously
4. a semi-automatic sasutla rifle
5. a New York ivnaet
6. syupodsepl targeted the LGBT community
7. federal yocilp
8. other etocsinufi diseases
9. Anybody who meets the basic ictuilqsoinaaf
10. edartrgnesn people
11. the built-in bihhoopoma
12. the most effective possible respeons

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. b	4. e	5. c
6. a	7. d	8. j	9. h	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Guns

You think guns are the top things to be banned. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which of these should not be banned (and why): pornography, nuclear weapons or fast food.

Role B – Pornography

You think pornography is the top thing to be banned. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which of these should not be banned (and why): guns, nuclear weapons or fast food.

Role C – Nuclear weapons

You think nuclear weapons are the top things to be banned. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which of these should not be banned (and why): pornography, guns or fast food.

Role D – Fast food

You think fast food is the top thing to be banned. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which of these should not be banned (and why): pornography, nuclear weapons or guns.

Speaking – Banned

Rank these with your partner. Put the thing to be banned first at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Guns
- Cigarettes
- Pornography
- Internet Pop-ups
- Nuclear weapons
- Censorship
- Selfie sticks
- Fast food

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.