

**DMYTRO VADYMOVYCH ZMIIVSKYI**  
*Kharkiv National University of Internal Affairs*

## **PREVENTION AND COUNTERACTION TO VIOLENCE IN SOCIETY**

Violence has always been part of humankind existence. Its various manifestations can be seen all over the world. Annually over a million people die and even more are injured without fatal outcome, both as a result of attempts on their own life and health, and as a result of interpersonal and collective forms of violence. In general, violence is one of the leading causes of death worldwide among people aged 15 to 44.

Countering violence requires an integrated effort, including by enacting laws, offering judicial protection and changing social attitudes. There are many ideas for reducing violence in society through legislation. We think that adoption of gun law can help an average person to protect himself from violence. Mass shootings of people for their religious beliefs, political views and nationality are becoming more common around the world. Opponents of gun ownership believe that free circulation of weapons can lead to increased gun-related violence, referring to the worst mass shootings in the USA, where gun owners are protected by the US Bill of Rights. But the level of arms violence is rising even in countries where the circulation of civil weapons is limited or even prohibited by law. For example, Kerch Polytechnic College massacre occurred in Kerch, the Crimea, on 17 October 2018, which was the greatest loss of life in the former Soviet Union since the 2004 Beslan school siege. Another sad example is the recent mass shooting in Hanau, Germany, when a radical gunman killed more than ten innocent people. Unlike US citizens, those people couldn't protect themselves.

We suppose that the legalization of weapons in our country should help society and each of its member to protect themselves from violence. The development of civil society, growth of its activity and raising the level of gun culture in Ukraine will help to adopt gun law in near future and reduce violence. The society whose members have legal weapons and are able to defend themselves and, above all, to bear responsibility for its use is a truly developed civil society, which we see Ukrainian society in future. There will be no place for violence in responsible society, as it will be able to protect itself and its state.

*Language adviser O. M. Goncharuk*