



Are "stand-your-ground" laws a good idea?

THE CONTROVERSY surrounding the gunshot death of a Florida teenager this year has ignited a nationwide debate about stand-your-ground laws in various states. These laws say, essentially, that a person may use deadly force in self-defense where there is a reasonable perceived threat, without having to try to avoid a conflict first. Proponents say these laws protect potential victims of violence by letting them defend themselves before they have run out of options. Critics argue these laws give more leeway to aggressors and contribute to escalating violence in our country.

What do you think?

Find out more about this topic on the Web:

- www.wikipedia.org (Search "Stand Your Ground law")
- www.nber.org (Search "Stand Your Ground and homicides")
- www.northescambia.com (Search "Standing up for Stand Your Ground")
- www.ebony.com (Search "Standing up against Stand Your Ground")

YES

Liz Simpson
Missoula, MT



There are people who take this law to the extreme, [but] I do want to keep the right to protect myself and my family without fear from the law.

Joseph McNamara
Staten Island, NY



You have to do anything you can to protect your family.

Cindy Howard
Mission, TX



Stand-your-ground laws protect citizens from criminals and lawbreakers. The government and law enforcement cannot be everything to everyone at all times.

NO

from members

Shashank Rao
San Jose, CA



Such laws may encourage people to act without regard for human life.

Kit Kurtz
Kahalaui-Keauhou, HI



These laws answer what is perceived as evil with more bad rather than focusing on positive solutions.

Scott Temple
Ypsilanti, MI



People interpret potential conflict differently. This can contribute to creating a paranoid society.