



# American Ethical Union

## *Inspiring Ethical Communities*

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### **Elliott-Black Award**

The Elliott-Black Award is the highest honor that the AEU bestows each year to an organization or an individual in recognition of their significant and positive impact on society through deep courage and commitment and in the fulfillment of ethical ideals.

This year's 2019 Elliott-Black Award will be presented to the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School community has been an inspiration and a model for millions of Americans. It has shown not only fortitude, resilience and courage in response to an extraordinary tragedy, but also creativity and outspoken activism which served as an inspiration for so many others.

The student-founded Never Again MSD advocacy group lobbied for legislative action on gun violence. As a direct result, on March 9, 2018, Governor Rick Scott signed a bill that raised the minimum age for buying rifles in Florida from 18 to 21. The legislation also established waiting periods and background checks for gun buyers. The law allowed for the arming of teachers who were properly trained and the hiring of school police. So-called "bump stocks" would now be banned and some potentially violent or mentally unstable persons would be prohibited from possessing guns.

Nationwide, other actions were instigated or inspired by students at MSD High including the March for Our Lives movement and the National School Walkout. Because of your lead, our nation has been required to confront and grapple with issues concerning gun violence in our schools and our neighborhoods. Emergency procedures are being reconsidered and restructured. The easy availability of guns and assault-type weapons has become the subject of renewed scrutiny. Because of your holding up a mirror for our self-examination, we have been made to ethically reassess our sense of order in our society.

For more information please visit:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stoneman\\_Douglas\\_High\\_School\\_shooting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stoneman_Douglas_High_School_shooting)