



CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND REHABILITATION (CHRR)

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PRESS STATEMENT

SMALL ARMS NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP, 23-25 NOVEMBER, 2005, LILONGWE HOTEL

The Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR), in conjunction with Malawi Police Service and Saferworld (**a UK based non – governmental organization**) is organizing a national stakeholder's workshop on the control of small arms in Malawi, to take place at Lilongwe Hotel from 23rd to 25th November, 2005. The workshop will be officially opened by the Right Honorable Vice-President Dr. Cassim Chilumpha.

Take note that the Government of Malawi has identified the control of small arms as being key to sustaining stability and security, and to enhancing the conditions for development in Malawi. This meeting seeks to build upon discussions held at a 'Stakeholders Consultation Meeting' in December 2003 that recommended the establishment of an inter-departmental committee (including representation from civil society), known as a National Focal Point (NFP), to co-ordinate action on small arms. In February 2005, the National Council for Safety and Justice endorsed this recommendation to establish a NFP.

The objectives of the workshop are to:

- analyse the small arms and safety and security situation in Malawi;
- identify priority activities to be undertaken by the NFP;
- develop the roles, responsibilities and day to day operations of the NFP.

Participants will include key government ministries and departments, Malawi Police Service, Malawi Army, Traditional Leaders, Members of Parliament, Non Governmental Originations, Donor community and members of the media.

Undule D.K. Mwakasungura
Acting Executive Director