



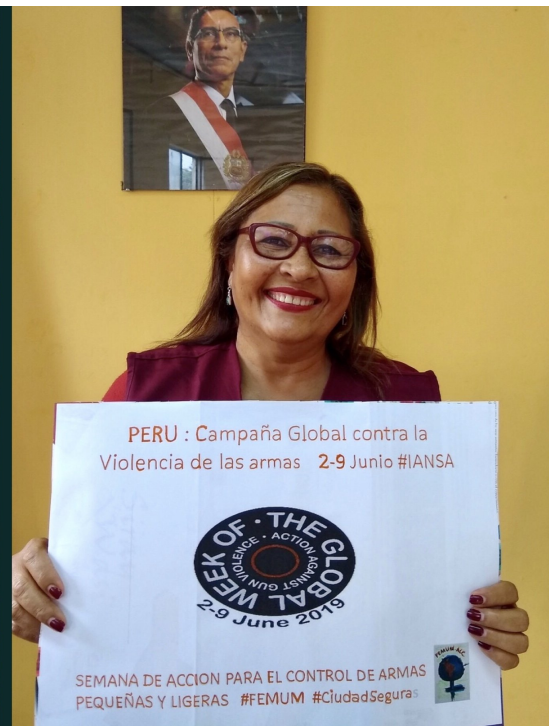
Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence Highlights (Part One)

Dear Friends,

Under the theme "*Rise up for Humanity: Control the Guns*," IANSA members and friends across the world joined in the 2019 Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence by holding seminars and press conferences, meeting with government officials, organizing marches, working with youth and educators, and more. Below are highlights of some of the actions carried out during the campaign. We will send out compilations of additional actions in the weeks to come.

Peru

[FEMUM ALC](#) met with numerous local government officials and civil society representatives in Peru to involve them in the Global Week of Action Against Gun Control, and to urge them to work on gun violence prevention as way to create safer cities. The response to the campaign was overwhelmingly positive. The mayor of the La Molina district of Lima gave a video message in support of the Week of Action and of arms control, and pledged to work toward a society with "fewer guns and more culture." His video message (in Spanish) is [here](#). FEMUM ALC also met with local leaders and artists in the city of Puno in Peru and gained their support for the goal of preventing access by youth to firearms. In the city of Lima, FEMUM ALC met with women grassroots leaders and members of safety and paralegal service groups to discuss the problem of armed violence and ways to make the city safer. FEMUM ALC is an organization that serves as a bridge between municipalities in Latin America and the Caribbean and national associations of women in local governments.



Pakistan

[Blue Veins](#) organized a seminar and press conference with other civil society organizations to collectively advocate for an end to the illicit trade and misuse of small arms. They called for the adoption of sensible domestic gun laws; greater limits on access to firearms by youth and individuals who are at risk of harming themselves; greater accountability for the gun industry; and adequate oversight over the marketing and sales of guns and ammunition. The participants also emphasized the need to engage responsible gun dealers and owners in forging solutions to curb gun violence. Citing two old gun laws in Pakistan that date back to 1924 and 1965, the participants called for them to be strengthened to reflect current realities. A youth rights activist also participated in the seminar and discussed how gun violence in Pakistan has a disproportionate impact on youth and is shattering an entire generation. In addition, the seminar gave organizers the chance to speak to the media about the importance of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms, the Sustainable Development Goals, and an upcoming conference on small arms at the United Nations (the seventh Biennial Meeting of States). The event generated media coverage of the topic, such as [this](#) newspaper article.



[Rural Development Foundation](#) (RDF) held a meeting with the mayor of Hyderabad in Pakistan. RDF representatives shared their concerns with the mayor over how the ease of access to firearms and lack of preventative mechanisms contribute to violence in Hyderabad, and called for effective legislation to counter gun violence in the city. Noting that women and transgender persons are disproportionately victims of gun violence (especially in domestic relationships), but can also play a vital role in its prevention, they called for their greater inclusion in this effort. Because cultural norms and stereotypes pose a challenge in the efforts to reduce gun violence, RDF also called for effective advocacy to address this problem within the general population. Additionally, RDF emphasized the importance of helping to achieve UN Sustainable Development Goal 16 by 2030. In response, the mayor extended his full support for RDF's objectives and agreed to present a resolution against gun violence in the local legislative assembly. He also agreed with RDF on the importance of engaging community representatives in efforts to curtail gun violence and noted the need for a proactive approach to addressing the troubling rise of suicides by firearms in the country.

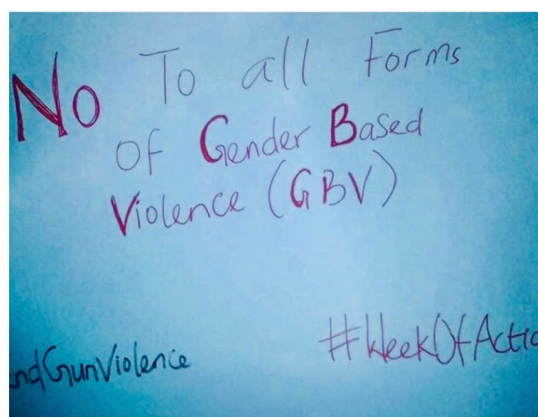
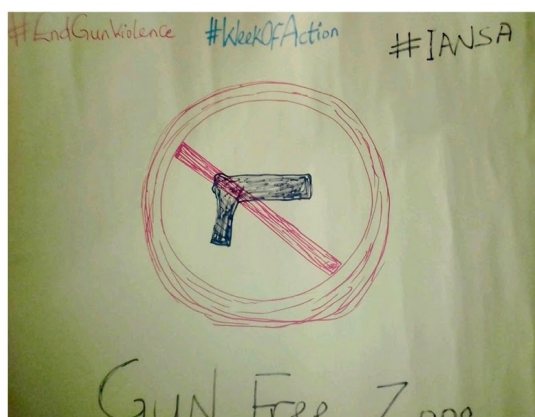
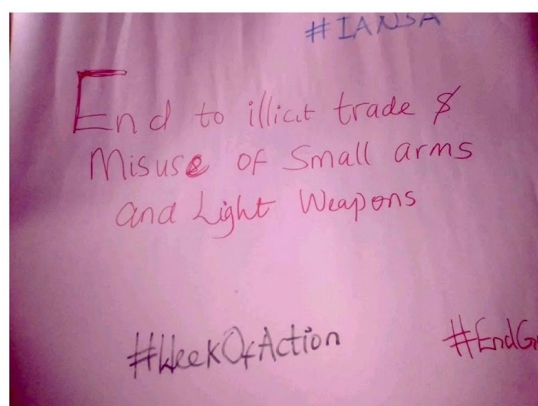
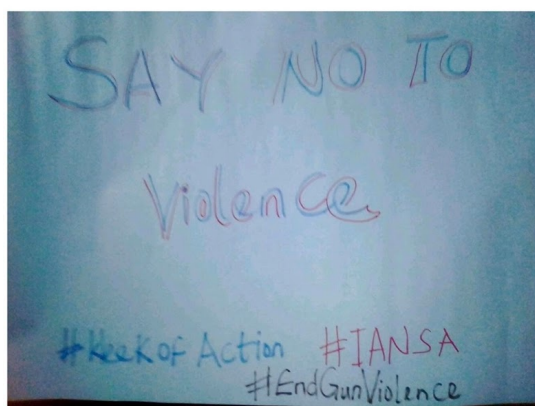


Nigeria

The [West Africa Action Network on Small Arms, Nigeria Chapter](#) (WAANSA-Nigeria) conducted several meetings with government officials to discuss their concerns about small arms and light weapons. In a meeting with the Permanent Secretary of the Nigerian Ministry of Defense, WAANSA noted that Nigeria's last report on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) was in 2015, and expressed concern over the inactiveness of Nigeria's ATT Secretariat. WAANSA then met with the ATT Secretariat and the small arms unit of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to discuss potential avenues for cooperation and collaboration on issues related to small arms. Finally, WAANSA met with military representatives to introduce them to and solicit their support for a border management and arms trafficking prevention project that WAANSA is partnering on with the United Nations Development Programme and the Presidential Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons. Recognizing that women are not just victims of gun violence but also agents of change, this project has identified women-led civil society organizations such as WAANSA-Nigeria as a key actor in arms trafficking prevention.



Keen and Care Initiative focused on educating Nigerian youth about the dangers of gun violence and gender-based violence, the need for prevention, and initiatives such as the establishment of gun free zones. Partnering with a primary school in Gombe State in northeastern Nigeria, a region that has become increasingly threatened by terrorist and militant groups, Keen and Care held a question and answer session and a drawing contest in which the best artwork was used as a part of Keen and Care's Week of Action campaign.



Keen and Care also held a Youth Round Table Discussion in Abuja, where participants deliberated on many issues surrounding gun violence such as the rise of armed opposition groups in Nigeria and the relationship between gun violence and intensifying religious fundamentalism.



Finally, Keen and Care worked with their long-time partner school in Kogi State and held a sports contest to raise awareness of the Global Week of Action. As a result of the success of their activities in schools, Keen and Care Initiative will establish IANSA youth clubs to continue working with young people and educators on ending gun violence and fostering a culture of peace.

Malawi

People's Federation for National Peace and Development (PEFENAP) organized a peace march to advocate for an end to the illicit trade and use of small arms and light weapons. They described the Week of Action as an opportunity for Malawi's government to exert greater control over ammunition, to commit to increasing women's participation in discussions about small arms control, and to provide more support to victims of gun violence.



PEFENAP also focused on engaging youth in arms control efforts and partnered with the New Age School to conduct a workshop about gun violence.



Uganda

Concerned about security forces shooting civilians along the borders of Burundi, Rwanda, and Uganda, [Mécanisme pour l'initiative de la Recherche de la Paix et le Développement](#) (MI-RPD) released a press statement calling for greater dialogue among the three countries through diplomatic channels, and encouraged greater implementation of Africa Amnesty Month—an African Union initiative that allows gun holders to voluntarily surrender their weapons without fear of punishment. MI-RPD also gave four media interviews on the topic of armed violence and voluntary weapon surrender in the region, including a radio interview that allowed listeners to call in with questions about the topic. MI-RPD stressed that it's important that the public understands the relationship between the proliferation of guns and political conflicts and the

proliferation of arms; the role of governments and of individual citizens in countering this proliferation; how guns end up in the hands of users, and how many people are killed by them annually in the Great Lakes region. MI-RPD plans to hold a peace festival in September to bring together people from different countries in the region to work together in efforts to counter armed violence.

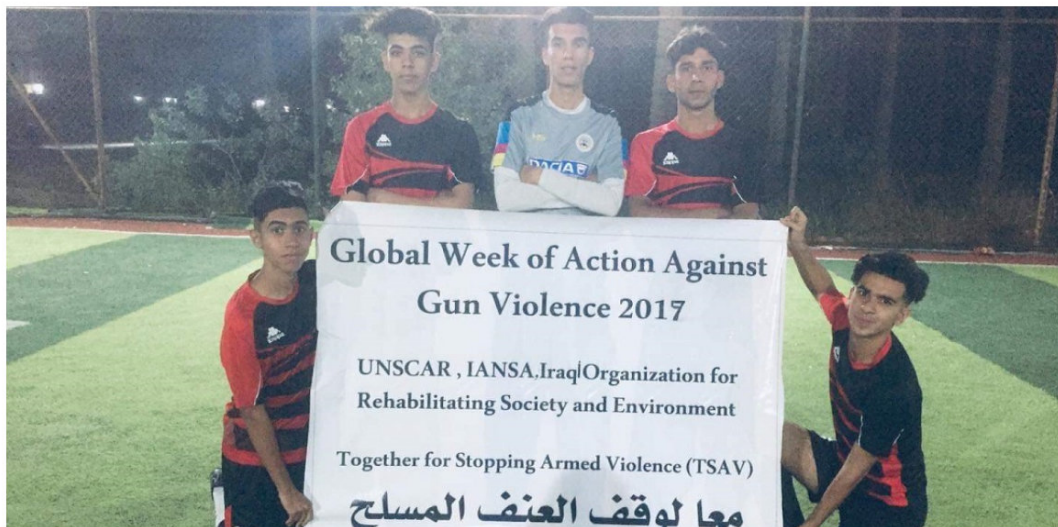


Iraq

Grieving over the many family members, friends, and other innocent lives lost to armed violence in Iraq, particularly in the city of Mosul, [Iraqi Institute for Development](#) (IID) held a Wear Orange campaign with young people in the city. The Wear Orange campaign helped to remember victims, call for an urgent end to armed violence, and promote a culture of peace locally, nationally, and globally. In a circulated statement, IID noted that although governments are primarily responsible for controlling guns, they cannot do it alone and solving the crisis of gun violence also requires the involvement of civil society organizations, research institutes, private companies, and international, regional and subregional organizations. They also called for recognition that gun violence affects women, men, girls and boys differently, and requires different strategies to address all dimensions of the problem. More than 1.5 million displaced people live in various areas of Iraq in camps, many of whom are blocked by armed factions from returning to their homes. Countless other Iraqis have been displaced abroad.



Another IANSA member organization in the country, the Iraqi Organization for Rehabilitating Society and Environment, organized a series of football matches and an art exhibition for youth. These platforms were used to discuss the importance of gun destruction, the need to end gun violence, and the importance of youth joining together with civil society organizations to advocate for peacebuilding and for a renunciation of the proliferation and misuse of guns.



Costa Rica

The [United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament, and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean](https://mailchi.mp/iansa/week-of-action-against-gun-violence-highlights3292613-3474813) (UNLIREC) conducted a training course in Costa Rica on the interdiction of small arms, ammunition, parts, and components of the weapons. Close to 40 X-ray scanner operators from different national institutions were trained on how to detect these items at points of entry and exit.



United States

[Americans Against Gun Violence](#) (AAGV) announced the results of their second annual essay contest for high school students on the topic of US laws and guns. Twenty-four winners were chosen out of hundreds of submissions. However, some winners asked to remain anonymous for fear of repercussions for supporting gun violence prevention. AAGV stated that it aims to eradicate this toxic atmosphere and stop the epidemic of gun violence that disproportionately threatens the health and safety of children and youth in the United States. The winning essays can be found [here](#).

"Quarter measures and half measures will no longer suffice..."



Announcing the Winners in the 2019 Americans Against Gun Violence National High School Essay

First Place Winner (\$3,000 award)

Seo Park

Archbishop Mitty High School, San Jose, California

Redefining America without its Defining Factor – GunsMany Americans believe they have the right to own a gun...In fact, the Second Amendment, as it was originally written, does not prohibit the adoption of laws banning most civilian gun ownership today...The voice of my generation can write our future... Our lives are not a gun's to take, and we will ensure that future generations are protected... We are equipped with everything we need...the truth about the Second Amendment, the facts about gun violence, the tragic stories, and most

Second Place Winner (\$2,500 Award)

Rhea Jansen

Freeman High School, Rockford, Washington

When the clock struck 10:08 on March 14th, there were shared looks throughout my classroom, and with a nod of our heads, the five of us stood up and walked out of the school. This came one month after the Marjory Stoneman Douglas (MSD) shooting that resulted in the loss of 17 innocent lives. But the walkout wasn't only to show unity. My tiny school experienced a similar tragedy five months earlier. It feels strange to say that we were the lucky ones, but after seeing on the news of the MSD mass shooting what could have happened at our high school if the shooter's AR-15 hadn't jammed, leaving him with a

Third Place Winner (\$2,000 Award)

Brandon Restler

Ardley High School, Ardsley, New York

....Only in the United States of America do students fear for their lives every day because of senseless, preventable gun violence.... Our country must not continue to look away from the truth: the truth that guns are killing innocent people, the truth that gun violence in the United States is much more common than in other developed countries, and the truth that the Second Amendment does not protect the right of everyday citizens to own murder machines....Read the full essay

Gun violence kills hundreds of thousands of people every year, and leaves many others injured, psychologically traumatized, displaced from their homes and communities, and unemployed. IANSA member organizations and friends work to make their local communities safer while also being part of a global movement against gun violence. These highlights provide a glimpse of this, and we look forward to sharing soon the additional work our members have done.

Sincerely,

IANSA

United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation

UNSCAR



Regulate weaponry – develop community

The 2019 Global Week of Action was possible thanks to funding provided by [UNSCAR](#).



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