

Global Week of Action Advocacy Sheet

Welcome to the IANSA Global Week of Action! The goal of this campaign is to raise awareness of the scope of gun violence and urge officials to take effective measures to address it. Governments have made numerous commitments under the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UNPoA).

The Global Week of Action is also an opportunity to remind our governments about those commitments, urging them to implement them and also to increase action at the upcoming Biennial Meeting of States Parties on the UNPoA (BMS7) in July 2021.

Advocacy points and actions:

Include ammunition in the UNPoA:

Ammunition is currently excluded from the UNPoA. Ammunition transforms SALW from inoperative objects into lethal weapons that can be used to take away human lives and devastate communities. To reduce the human suffering caused by the unlawful transfer and use of SALW, especially in gun violence and armed conflict, the PoA must contain explicit recommendations to prevent the illicit trade in all its aspects.

Urge your government officials to:

- Ensure that the UNPoA includes appropriate measures to combat the illicit trade in the ammunition used in small arms and light weapons (SALW);
- These measures should include taking action to:
- Ensure that no ammunition is transferred to entities which are subject to a UN arms embargo.
- Ensure the safe storage of ammunition
- Ensure the safe transportation of ammunition
- Regulate international transfers of small arms and light weapon ammunition
- Combat the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in firearms ammunition

Disarm domestic violence

The greatest danger of gun violence to women globally is in their own homes. Women are three times more likely to die violently if they live in a home with a gun. To support breaking this cycle of violence, urge your national officials to:

- Support comprehensive laws and reforms to protect survivors of domestic violence and fund domestic violence prevention programs, including:
- Extensive background checks including considering an individual's history of domestic violence when approving or denying gun license applications and renewals;
- Creating a system to remove guns when there is a threat to a woman's safety in her home;
- Support and strengthen existing domestic violence survivor programs and networks;
- Treating domestic violence as a serious crime.

Include more voices in finding solutions to gun violence

Gun violence impacts people across the world in different ways. Finding the most effective solutions to combating gun violence requires an inclusive approach. To ensure more voices are heard, urge your officials to:

- Support the creation of a gun violence advisory committee composed of a range of organizations working to combat gun violence as well as other stakeholders such as survivors of gun violence and public health workers;
- Demonstrating the political will to undertake targeted efforts to ensure the full and effective participation of women in discussions and solutions relating to small arms control at local, national, regional, and international levels, and formal disarmament initiatives, as part of peace processes and negotiations;
- Taking targeted measures to increase the participation of other excluded or marginalised groups as well, including youth and people with other gender and sexual identities.

Support survivors of gun violence

Supporting survivors of gun violence is two-fold, providing for the services and programs survivors need and working to prevent future gun violence. Urge your officials to:

- Recognise that gun violence causes more than physical pain and that there needs to be systems of support to address the long-term emotional and economic effects;
- Provide proper health care to those who need immediate care as a result of gun violence and longer-term health care to those who suffer trauma and have disabilities;
- Adequate funding gun violence reductions programs run by both government and NGOs;
- Develop and/or strengthen gun violence support networks that include law enforcement, social support systems, education systems, and civil society organisations;
- Actively implement the UNPoA to break the cycle of violence by intervening before gun violence occurs.