



1 – 8 June 2022

Global Week of Action 2022 Advocacy Sheet

Welcome to IANSA's Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence! 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. IANSA's theme for the 2022 Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence is **"Let's work together: strict gun controls are urgent!"**

Small arms and light weapons (SALW) are used to commit crimes against humanity, war crimes and serious violations of human rights. They also make gender-based violence lethal, enforce violence against children, and undermine sustainable development. IANSA calls for an end to the misuse and illicit proliferation of SALW.

Leading up to the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS8) on the UN Programme of Action (UNPoA) and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI), IANSA is highlighting the importance of international cooperation and assistance in the fight against the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons. All UN Member States need to work together and with civil society to fully implement the UNPoA's commitments and to plan increased action at the upcoming BMS8 that will take place from 27 June to 1 July 2022.

Advocacy points and actions:

Strengthen international cooperation and assistance in preventing, combating, and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

One of the main outcomes from BMS7 was the need for international cooperation and assistance; this will be a major theme for BMS8. Access the full BMS7 outcome document [here](#). It is vital for all states to not only strengthen their own laws and legislation but to work together in order to end the illicit misuse and proliferation of SALW. Urge your national officials to:

- Enhance inter-agency coordination and cooperation to identify and act against groups and individuals involved in the illegal manufacture, trade, stockpiling, transfer, possession, and financing for acquisition of guns;

- Make full use of voluntary national reports to assess the progress made in the implementation of the UNPoA and ITI to build confidence and promote transparency, as well as identify needs and opportunities for international cooperation and assistance;
- Work with neighboring states to address the issue of porous and open borders and implement strong border control to prevent the illicit trade, transfer, and trafficking of SALW;
- Encourage and enable states emerging from conflict, in cooperation with other states, multilateral organizations and civil society, to build sustainable capacity that enables national authorities to fully and effectively implement the UNPoA and ITI.

Develop gender-responsive SALW controls

Strategies for arms control must respond to the different risks that men, women, girls, and boys face and for women to play an active role in the strategies' design and implementation. Domestic violence is made much more lethal by easy access to guns. The dangers of gun violence greatly affect women globally in their own homes and in armed conflicts. To support breaking this cycle of violence, urge your national officials to:

- Implement and support comprehensive laws and reforms to protect survivors of domestic violence and fund domestic violence prevention programs, including to enforce extensive background checks that consider an individual's history of domestic violence when approving or denying gun license applications and renewals;
- Follow the UNPoA and ITI process, to promote standards national regulation to remove guns when there is a threat to a woman's safety in her home, as the availability of weapons encourages violence and turns gender-based violence lethal;
- Collect sex and age-disaggregated data on SALW and support research to have a better analysis of the gendered impacts of SALW and their effects on diverse individuals, communities, and economies to properly inform policy responses.
- Implement gender-responsive SALW control when addressing issues related to weapons availability, proliferation, and misuse.
- Demonstrate 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;
- Treat domestic violence as a serious crime.

Implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the overarching international framework that recognizes that there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.¹ The illicit misuse and trade of SALW directly undermines sustainable development. Target #16 of the Sustainable Development Goals aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies; this includes disarmament efforts and SALW controls.² Urge your national officials to:

¹ United Nations, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

² United Nations, *SDG16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels*, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal16>

- Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development indicators;
- Strengthen relevant national institutions for building capacity at all levels to prevent armed violence and crime;
- Significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows by implementing international instruments, and use UN standards strictly manage SALW and ammunition stockpiles;
- Provide a safe and inclusive society for survivors of gun violence and take targeted measures to increase the participation of other excluded or marginalized social groups as well, including youth and people with other gender identities and sexual orientations;
- Strengthen the cooperation with civil society, youth, victims and survivors of gun violence, professional associations, parliamentarians, and the private sector, including industry.

Address and control the supply and demand of SALW

The Small Arms Survey estimates that one billion small arms were in possession and circulation globally amongst state forces and others in 2017. Over two thirds of these weapons were reportedly held by civilians, security companies, and non-state groups.³ Easy access to firearms is one of the main drivers of gun violence. In each country, the various uses and the trading of SALW are supposed to be strictly controlled according to national legislation and procedures that reflect obligations in international laws and commitments to international standards. Urge your national officials to:

- Strengthen regulations and other measures to prevent the diversion of SALW and their ammunition and parts/components to unauthorized end users and illicit markets;
- Invest in sufficient numbers of properly trained and fully accountable national licensing and law enforcement officials to ensure compliance with laws relating to SALW and to carry out effective investigations and prosecutions of violations;
- Strengthen government systems to strictly limit and control the production, trade, possession, and use of SALW, and close loopholes in legislation, regulations, and administrative procedures;
- Effectively and efficiently manage SALW and ammunition stockpiles to minimize the risk of loss and theft of weapons and ensure systems to identify obsolete and/or surplus weapons and ammunition.
- Support and enforce programs for the collection and destruction of illicit and surplus SALW and ammunition to limit their illicit circulation and transfer;
- Take measures to prevent corruption in public institutions dealing with SALW and their ammunition and parts/components, and to prevent abusive, excessive and other unlawful uses of armed force by state personnel;
- Prohibit civilian-held firearms and ammunition unless the applicant demonstrates a compelling reason, and ensure the applicant has no previous involvement in illicit trafficking or violence, has completed a recognised firearms training course for civilians, and can keep the firearms and its ammunition in separate safe storage units and to file annual reports to the authorities.

³ Karp, A. *Estimating global civilian-held firearms numbers*. Geneva, Switzerland: Small Arms Survey, 2018. See also further information on global firearms holdings on the website of the Small Arms Survey: <https://www.smallarmssurvey.org/database/global-firearms-holdings>