



The Women's Network of the INTERNATIONAL ACTION NETWORK ON SMALL ARMS

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Almost all guns are bought and sold, owned and used by men. And guns kill and injure more men than women.

But women suffer heavy consequences from the presence of guns in their homes, communities and countries.

*Women have taken leadership roles in peacebuilding, violence prevention and education about gun violence all over the world. **BUT these facts still remain:***

- Guns do not have to be fired to cause harm, they can be used to threaten and intimidate.
- Women shoulder support and care when male relatives are killed or disabled by gun violence.
- A gun in the house increases the chance of domestic violence being lethal.
- Guns exacerbate the threat to women of male sexual violence in war and peace.
- The failure to decommission guns after war impedes the transition to a secure everyday life.
- Women suffer 'indirect' negative impacts from gun crime, eg: stress on social and public services.
- Widespread gun ownership by men and boys conditions society to regard violence as a natural and necessary element of masculinity.

We can all work to increase awareness of OUR experiences, perspectives and contributions to challenge and stop gun violence.

Here are some suggestions for what WE all can do:

TALK

- ❖ to friends and colleagues;
- ❖ to local clubs and societies and in schools, colleges, workplaces, places of worship, etc about work to reduce small arms violence against women;
- ❖ to unions or professional organisations and encourage them to discuss the impact of small arms on women, and resolve not be involved in any aspect of the arms trade.

PHONE

- ❖ any relevant radio phone-in show – be heard!

JOIN

- ❖ with like-minded people; form a local group to raise awareness of the impact of gun violence on women;
- ❖ with an existing local group to organise meetings and demonstrations, etc;
- ❖ a national or local demonstration.

WRITE

- ❖ letters to local community and elected representatives;
- ❖ press releases for distribution to local or national media about your organisation's activities to raise awareness of gun violence against women;
- ❖ letters and articles, and submit them to local newspapers, or make suggestions to journalists and editors on how they could develop a strong and constructive story on gun violence and women;
- ❖ letters to encourage national figures working on women and violence, and urge them to ask your government to do more to stop gender-based gun violence;
- ❖ letters to world leaders and the United Nations to urge them to do more to implement Security Council Resolution 1325 and fully involve women in peacemaking processes.

ORGANISE

- ❖ a roundtable meeting to discuss gender and the impact of small arms;
- ❖ a radio program and interviews by contacting interested program producers and proposing interviewees who can promote and discuss relevant issues.

DISPLAY a poster - make your own or see www.controlarms.org/ecards for some ideas;

WEAR a badge or make stickers to raise awareness and show your support. Contact us to obtain the

COPY this leaflet and give it to someone else.

Useful websites – for information and tools for action

Gender and gun violence

www.iansa.org/women/bulletin7/info-card.htm

Information Kit on Women and Armed Violence

www.iansa.org/women/documents/Women-and-Guns-Information-Kit.pdf

Gender-specific action to prevent small arms violence

www.iansa.org/women/documents/IANSA-Womens-Network-Resource-Paper-Sept2006.pdf

REMEMBER - you don't have to spend a lot of time or take part in major action. Small personal actions count – but do take action.

design for the IANSA Women's Network so you can produce your own.

ENGAGE

- ❖ in non-violent direct action – organise a public event or demonstration involving women against gun violence. For some ideas see www.womeninblack.org/start.html
- ❖ with the Control Arms Campaign to ensure that the voices of people around the world are heard by governments involved in developing a United Nations treaty to regulate the global arms trade. See www.controlarms.org



The proliferation, spread and misuse of small arms is a global crisis

It results in 1000 deaths a day and countless more injuries, disabilities and disruptions to lives and societies. It fuels conflicts, abuse by authorities, murders, suicides, intimidation and fear. No country in the world is immune to the danger created by readily available guns.

Applying a gender perspective to the small arms issue — understanding the different ways that men, women, boys, and girls engage in, are affected by, and respond to gun violence — is key to developing effective solutions to the problem.

Through our policy advocacy, our website and information resources, and our engagement with civil society, governments and international organisations, the Women's Network is working to enable women to mobilise, organise, and resist gun violence wherever it occurs.

We welcome the involvement of all organisations working on or interested in working on the impact of gun violence on women. To join us, send us an email women@iansa.org

For more details, see: www.iansa.org/women