

Side event for the 2021 UN 65th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65)

“Gender mainstreaming in the fight against gun violence - A view from civil society”

Organizer: International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA)
Venue: Online. All speakers and attendees must sign up in advance [here](#).
Date: March 25, 2021
Time: 10:30 am- 12:00 noon EST (90 minutes)
Language: English

A growing body of research and initiatives by international organisations (such as the United Nations), and civil society has increased the visibility of linkages between gender and guns, demonstrating that the use, misuse and effects of firearms are heavily gendered and have differentiated impacts on women and men. For example, men make up an overwhelming majority of firearm owners, and men constitute the majority of both perpetrators and victims. However, women are several times more often victims than perpetrators. The possession, use and misuse, of firearms are closely linked with expressions of masculinity in society. Men and women often have different attitudes towards guns. And the high number of women murdered with firearms reflects the high lethality of firearms in the context of domestic or intimate partner violence.

Therefore, the integration of gender perspectives in firearm control measures is imperative. A more informed understanding of gender, gender based-violence and gender-related killing can help us develop more effective plans, programs, and approaches to firearms control, while addressing some root causes.

Therefore, IANSA is organizing the side event “Gender mainstreaming in the fight against gun violence” to:

1. Explore the importance of gender mainstreaming in programmes, policies and legislation aimed at reducing gun violence.
2. Examine what gender mainstreaming means in practice.
3. Discuss ways to increase the participation of women in gun control efforts and work toward ensuring that everyone affected by gun violence can identify problems and create solutions.
4. Look at ways civil society groups have been working towards changes in perceptions and norms and what the challenges have been working during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Panelists (8 to 10 minutes for each speaker):

International

- Katja Boettcher, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), *(10:30 am NYC time)*
- Clare da Silva, IANSA [Moderator], *(10:30 am Ottawa time)*

Europe

- EU Representative (opening or closing remarks)

Asia-Pacific region

- Ida Scarpino, UNRCPD, Nepal *(8:15 pm/20:15 Kathmandu time)*
- Sana Ahmad, Blue Veins, Pakistan *(7:30 pm/19:30 Islamabad time)*

Africa

- Patrick Karekezi, UN Youth Champion for Disarmament, Uganda *(5:30 pm/17:30 Kampala time)*

LAC region

- Katherine Aguirre, Igarapé, Latin America, (9:30 am Bogota time)
- Adaphia Trancoso, Women's Institute for Alternative Development (WINAD), Trinidad and Tobago (10:30 am Port of Spain time)

Advance questions for NGO and youth representatives:

1. Why is integrating gender into efforts to stop gun violence important in your work? And what sort of activities are you doing to make the fight against gun violence more gender responsive?
2. What are some of the advances you have made?
3. What are some of the challenges you face?
4. What is your vision for your country (or region) in terms of gun control and gender equality by the year 2030? What support do you/your organization need to help achieve that vision?

Speaker Bios (alphabetical order by last name)

Katherine Aguirre Katherine is a Colombian economist with professional experience in the areas of violence and development. She has worked with think tanks in Colombia (Centro de Recursos para el Análisis de Conflictos -CERAC, Fundación Ideas para la Paz -FIP) and Switzerland (Small Arms Survey). Katherine holds a Masters in Development Studies from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Switzerland). Katherine's research emphasizes empirical methods to establish factual foundations to guide effective policy-making in the fields of violence reduction and development. In addition, she coordinates a project that centralizes and disseminates economic research in Colombia –Dotec-Colombia, and leads the network Amassuru- Women in Security and Defense in Latin America and the Caribbean. Katherine interest includes citizen security in Latin America, violence data (processing and innovative ways of representation and analysis), monitoring violence prevention and reduction initiatives, and studying post-conflict violence.

Sana Ahmad is a Program Officer for Blue Veins, an NGO in Pakistan, and a young emerging woman and sexual and gender minority rights with a law degree specializing in human rights. She is provincial coordinator of the Child Rights Movement (CRM) KP, representing Pakistan in the Global Expert Group on gender and HIV of EKH; Provincial Coordinator of "Ujala Network", supported by Amplify Change; and legal advisor to TransAction (Provincial Alliance of Transgender Community) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Sana is a strategic advocacy expert committed to ensuring that marginalized voices are centered and reflected in today's societal settings and closely working with policy makers, law makers, government departments, civil society organizations, youth, transgender communities, and service providers to integrate gender mainstreaming at all stages and levels of policies, programmes and initiatives.

Katja Boettcher is a Political Affairs Officer at the Conventional Arms Branch at the United Nations Officer for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). Katja is the focal point for the UN small arms process and currently manages a multi-year global project on gender and small arms control. Before joining the UN in 2015, Katja worked as a Researcher at the European Leadership Network and in the British Parliament.

Clare da Silva has worked in the area of conventional arms control, armed violence reduction and international human rights law for over 15 years. She was the legal advisor on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) for Amnesty International from 2007 to 2014. She was a co-drafter of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime Model Law on the Firearms Protocol and has worked on UN projects addressing firearms trafficking, armed violence reduction, security sector reform and legislative change. She also worked as a defence lawyer for four years at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. She was a Research Fellow at the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law (Cambridge University).

Patrick Karekezi Patrick is a United Nations Youth Champion for Disarmament and a writer at the New Times Rwanda. He's previously served as a storyteller with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on the Generation Africa Program. Additionally, Patrick is a Global Youth Researcher on the Youth Think Tank program with MasterCard Foundation, a program that seeks authentic voices of young people to improve their livelihoods through policy formation and informing youth empowering programs by MasterCard Foundation. Patrick is also a student at the African Leadership

University, pursuing an undergraduate degree in Global Challenges, with a keen focus on governance. He is passionate about helping young people to use their prowess to create change in their lives and their communities at large.

Adaphia Trancoso Ribeiro is an Attorney at Law and currently the Legal Director of WINAD, an NGO that advocates for the rights of women and girls. She is also a lecturer in the field of labour law at the Employer Consultative Association in Trinidad and Tobago. Since becoming the Legal Director at WINAD in 2017, she has coordinated various legal aid clinics in Trinidad advising citizens of their rights on matters ranging from possession of guns and ammunition, drugs, estate planning, and domestic violence among others. She is currently spearheading a project for WINAD in partnership with PADF providing legal services to migrants in Trinidad and Tobago who came from Venezuela. Adaphia is a law graduate from the University of London and the Manchester Metropolitan University. She is the holder of a post graduate diploma in mediation studies from the University of the west indies and has a passion for equality and human rights.

Ida Scarpino is the Regional Project Coordinator for Gender and Small Arms and Light Weapons at the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD). She has over 10 years of professional experience working in the development and humanitarian sector, with field experience in post-conflict and fragile settings (Burundi, Uganda, Mali). Prior to join ODA's Regional Centre in Asia and the Pacific, she worked for the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) in Mali and contributed to the design and project management of several projects in Humanitarian Mine Action and Arms Management and Destruction.

This event is organized as part of IANSA's project entitled "Civil society engagement in support of gender mainstreamed policies, programmes and actions in the fight against small arms trafficking and misuse, in line with the Women, Peace and Security agenda". This project is implemented in partnership with the United Nations Office of Disarmament (UNODA) through contributions received from the European Union. The views expressed are those of the Implementing Partner and do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations or the European Union.