



Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence 2019 Highlights

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 factor 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.



SAY NO TO
Violence

#WeekOfAction #IANSA
#EndGunViolence

#IANSA
End to illicit trade &
Misuse of Small arms
and Light Weapons

#WeekOfAction #EndGun

#EndGunViolence #WeekOfAction #IANSA



GUN Free Zone

No To all Forms
of Gender Based
Violence (GBV)

#WeekOfAction
#EndGunViolence



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.



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.

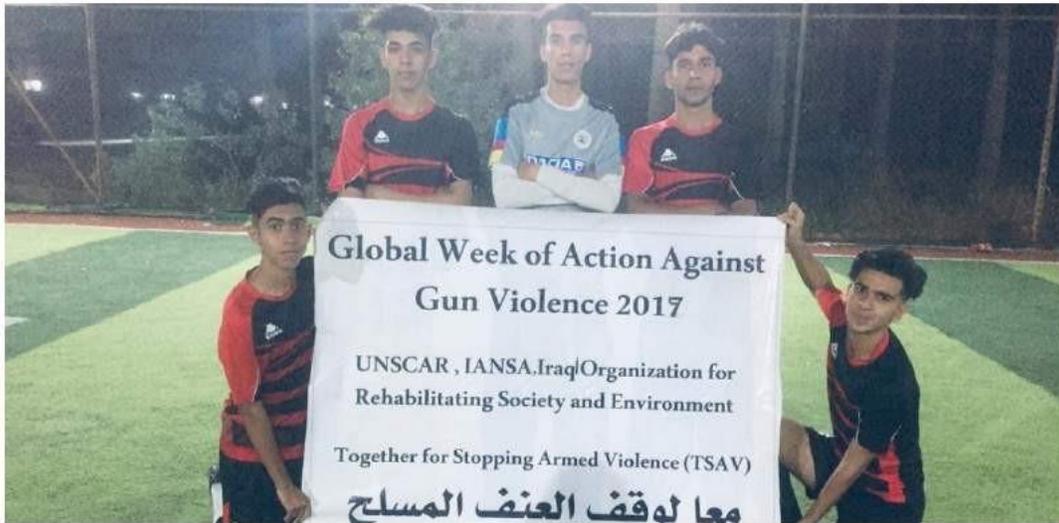


Iraq

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 sub regional 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](#) (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

Ardsley 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

Argentina

The [Instituto de Estudios Comparados en Ciencias Penales y Sociales](#) (INECIP) presented [research](#) on gender violence and firearms at the Legislature of the Province of Córdoba, the second-largest province in Argentina. Organized by INECIP, the presentation included two congresswomen and a city councilor, along with members of the Argentinian Network for Disarmament (RAD), feminist organizations of Argentina, scholars, and institutional representatives. INECIP's research focuses on femicide, women's suicides, homicides, threats, and the importance of developing public policies to address gendered gun violence. In Argentina, 25 percent of femicides involve firearms, while 99 percent of registered firearm owners are male, demonstrating the need for research focusing on gun violence against women. Additionally, a number of parliamentarians expressed support for the [UN Programme of Action on Small Arms](#) in video messages recorded by INECIP.



Kenya

The [Security Research & Information Centre](#) (SRIC), in collaboration with other member organizations of Kenya Action Network on Small Arms (KANSA), led a procession along the streets of Houma and Mathare, two areas that consistently suffer from violence from criminal groups and gangs. During the procession, shirts with the message “Rise Up for Humanity, Control the Guns” were distributed, and various speakers spoke about the mission of the Global Week of Action, highlighting the negative impact of illicit small arms and light weapons on socioeconomic development. The procession also served as an opportunity for the organization to interact with the residents to gauge the effect of criminal activities in the area.



After the procession, representatives of civil society organizations, government officials, and community members convened to discuss the current state of small arms proliferation in Kenya and how affected communities could combat its effects. In his speech, the Area Chief, Mr. Kamau urged community members to not only voluntarily surrender their weapons but also to encourage other residents to become involved in fighting gun violence.



Senegal

[Amnesty International Senegal](#) organized a forum attended by more than 500 people, including villagers from Senegal and Guinea Bissau, elected leaders, and state representatives. Community members voiced their concerns about the threat posed by gun violence not only to their lives, but also to their cattle and crops. They also expressed their frustrations regarding the government's failure to protect their communities. The second part of the forum gave community members and security officers an opportunity to discuss solutions to armed theft and robberies. As a result of the discussion, a joint border security commission was created. The forum received media coverage from local radio stations and two national television channels.



United States

[Nonviolence International - NY](#) published a series of articles on topics such as the impact of US gun laws on Mexico and Canada, the myth that purchasing guns for personal protection increases one's safety, and the economic cost of gun violence. You can read all six articles Nonviolence International published [here](#).

Nonviolence International also published a [video](#) about the Global Week of Action, listing suggestions on how governments can better regulate gun violence and explaining how viewers can become involved in efforts to fight gun violence. The video and articles were created by a team of young people that Nonviolence International-NY has been training to become involved in disarmament in peacebuilding.

Guns Purchased for Protection

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Most individuals in the United States today buy guns to ensure their safety. However, the purchase of small weapons only decreases their protection. In point of fact, it has severe social repercussions as it increases chances of domestic violence and suicides. Read along to learn more about the damaging consequences gun ownership has on people's lives.

1

Read >

The Influence of Violent Media on Global Gun Violence

©2019 - Hanna Yun

Gun violence is embedded in the everyday life of any individual who has access to technology. It is strongly present in the entertainment industry, which is available to people of all backgrounds and ages. Read along to learn about the negative influence violence in the media has on people's behavior and its relation to gun violence.

4

Read >

The Economic Cost of Gun Violence and Ownership

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Many argue that the gun market is beneficial for the American economy as it generates employment and creates job opportunities. On the other hand, others claim that guns are crucial because wildlife agencies heavily depend on the license fees and the taxes placed on those small arms. Read along to learn about the damaging economic impact of the gun and hunting industries.

2

Read >

US Constitution Does Not Guarantee Individual Gun Ownership - Misleading Interpretation of the Second Amendment

©2019 - Myriam Makris

Americans believe that the Second Amendment ensures the right to carry small weapons. However, does this law really promote U.S. citizens' right to arms? Are Americans misinterpreting the constitution? Read along to deconstruct and better understand the second amendment.

5

Read >

A Proactive Approach to Saving Lives

©2019 - Fabiana Guerrero

The shootings in Columbine shocked the American nation in 1999. Unfortunately, this was only the first of many gun massacres that perpetuated into other sectors. Gun policies in the United States are weak and enable the manifestation of armed violence today and in the past. Read along to learn about the importance of stricter gun laws and regulations.

3

Read >

Not So Neighborly: The Negative Impact of Lax U.S. Gun Laws on Mexico & Canada

©2019 - Alison Sifton

The laws and regulations regarding gun violence in the United States are lax and indulgent. Not only do they negatively impact Americans, they also affect neighboring countries like Mexico and Canada. The U.S. gun market perpetuates itself into these countries, despite their severe gun policies. This enables easier access to small weapons internationally. Read along to learn about the global gun market between the United States and countries near its borders.

6

Read >



Lebanon

The [Permanent Peace Movement](#) (PPM) held a lecture in the village of Riyak in the Bekaa Valley, a region that witnesses firearms related injuries and deaths on a daily basis. PPM spoke in front of a diverse audience, including members of municipalities, children, and villagers who shared their personal experiences with gun violence. PPM emphasized the importance of promoting a culture of peace and the need for stricter laws to limit access to firearms and usage--for example, in cases of celebratory gunfire. PPM also introduced the audience to the Global Week of Action and gave examples of initiatives other countries have taken to limit gun violence.



Philippines

The [Center for Peace and Education - Miriam College](#) (CPE) appeared on Radyo Katipunan, a campus radio station, to discuss the country's gun laws and ways listeners could become involved in the Global Week of Action and the Wear Orange campaign. Appearing during the station's noontime program, CPE reached a wide audience, including on Facebook Live.

CPE also met with the Office of the Special Envoy on Transnational Crime to receive updates on progress the government has made on implementing the country's National Action Plan on Small Arms and Light Weapons and on ratifying the Arms Trade Treaty. In addition to these activities, CPE also organized a large Wear Orange campaign, which IANSA reported on [here](#).



Democratic Republic of the Congo

[Visiongram International](#), in collaboration with the women's group [Initiative des Femmes Entrepreneurs pour le Developpement](#) (IFEDD), held a workshop to strengthen the capacity of women and community leaders to address small arms and security challenges in the Mugunga, Majengo and Katoyi areas of North Kivu, DRC. The workshop aimed to raise awareness and exchange key information about peacekeeping, stability, and armed violence among community stakeholders. Participants learned ways to secure peace, stability, and development in their neighborhoods. Additionally, they set up an informal whistleblowing committee in collaboration with security forces to help share alerts on threats of violence and possession of illicit guns.



Haiti

[Vision Haïtienne des Droits de l'Homme](#) (VHDH) carried out a series of activities during the Global Week of Action. First, VHDH interviewed the Coordinator of Haiti's National Commission for Disarmament, Decommissioning, and Reinsertion. VHDH introduced him to IANSA, VHDH's, and UNSCAR's mission as well as the results of the Third Review Conference on the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms. VHDH also translated the UNODA High Representative's [statement](#) on the Global Week of Action into Haitian Creole and French and disseminated it on social media to help motivate the public to join in standing up to against illicit arms trafficking. Finally, VHDH held a press conference to announce International Small Arms Destruction Day and discuss its importance in helping to permanently remove illicit arms from circulation.



Cameroon

Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace ([CAMYOSFOP](#)), working with other Cameroon Action Network on Small Arms (CANSA) members, organized a press conference for discussions on the role of civil society and the parliament in regulating the illicit trade and trafficking of small arms and light weapons. It included a presentation on Cameroon's progress in implementing the [UN Programme of Action on Small Arms](#) and the [Kinshasa Convention](#), which seeks to eradicate the illicit trade and use of arms in Central Africa. The presentation highlighted how control has tightened over the production, export, import, transit, or re-shipment of small arms at the national and regional levels. Other points of discussion included the importance of women's inclusion in conflict prevention and resolution talks, the government's legislative efforts to curb armed violence, and the work CAMYOSFOP is conducting to help countries achieve the goals set out by the Kinshasa Convention. CANSA also appeared on radio and TV broadcasts to urge the government to follow through on the goals set by the Programme of Action and the Kinshasa Convention.



South Africa

Gun Free South Africa ([GFSA](#)) organized a dialogue for high school students, creating a safe space for discussions on the students' thoughts and experiences with gun violence. During the dialogue, GFSA also gave a presentation on the impact of gun violence on youth and how the students can become involved in efforts to create safer communities without guns. They also informed the participants on the link between legal and illegal guns, as well as where they could seek help if they suffered from gun violence-related traumas.

GFSA also hosted a training workshop at Wits University for young reporters of the Children's Radio Foundation and the GFSA Youth Team. The workshop focused on how youth can engage in the legislative process to advocate for tighter gun control, whether via written submissions or by presenting their case to MPs in the Parliament.

Finally, GFSA's specialist researcher produced a research document on the history of gun control and violence in South Africa over the last 20 years, covering both the progress achieved through strong firearms legislation and the consequences of poor law enforcement. GFSA plans to distribute the paper to other research institutes.

Colombia

La Red Nacional de Iniciativas Ciudadanas por la Paz y contra la Guerra ([REDEPAZ](#)) held a series of workshops for young people aimed at fostering a culture of peace and disarmament in Colombia. The first workshop focused on strengthening the communication, listening skills, joint leadership, and brainstorming skills of the participants. It also helped them to recognize that they are vital to society because they can help transform the country through their innovative ideas, grassroots actions, art, and joint advocacy work. The young people expressed their desire to change history by learning from past experiences and contributing to the progress of the country.

As part of the workshop, the participants identified local problems that beset their community and affect their lives: drug use, criminal acts, insecurity caused by armed violence, lack of government support, lack of job opportunities and poor health services. They were encouraged to be proactive and share ideas of possible solutions. Ideas they generated included holding community dialogue sessions, organizing workshops on tolerance, managing recreational spaces, and organizing job fairs. They then related how these solutions could help contribute to disarmament, peacebuilding, and destigmatization of vulnerable communities. Officials from the High Counseling for Victims section of the Bogota Mayor's Office of Bogota joined in this workshop.



REDEPAZ also held a second workshop on Gender and Sexual Diversity. Participants discussed the meaning and construction of gender, and debated what machismo and feminism mean, how far the freedom of each genders reach, and how to avoid making negative connotations about gender. Afterward, on a large piece of fabric, they drew pictures and wrote messages expressing what gender and sexuality mean to them from a viewpoint of respect, tolerance, and equity.

Finally, REDEPAZ held a Human Rights workshop for the youth that emphasized that peace is a fundamental right and it is the responsibility of each person to make this a reality. Participants learned about the legal limits in holding protests, marches, and demonstrations, and about the legal tools they can access in their activities. As a result of these workshops, REDEPAZ concluded that there is a strong need to continue engaging young people in

peacebuilding, and that it is necessary to empower youth to achieve real changes in society. They have scheduled more activities with young people for the rest of the year. See a short video of their workshops [here](#).

Mali

After a spate of killings of women by firearms, the Association of Women for Peace Initiatives ([AFIP](#)) met with Mali's Minister of Justice to bring attention to the increasing rate of intimate partner violence in the country. AFIP stressed to the Minister the importance of governmental involvement in addressing the problem of intimate partner violence and brought a group of women who shared their experiences and opinions on how to combat gendered violence. The meeting received coverage from BBC News Afrique.



Guatemala

Instituto de Enseñanza Para el Desarrollo Sostenible ([IEPADES](#)) partnered with schools from three different school zones, to bring together children and local police officers to create three "Murals for Nonviolence" that celebrate youth, peace and disarmament.



IEPADES also organized a meeting on the topic of gun destruction with police officials, representatives from the public prosecutor's office, the National Institute of Forensic Scientists, and the General Arms Control Office. During the meeting, it was decided that the Public Prosecution office would coordinate efforts to develop an arms destruction protocol for Guatemala. All parties also agreed to maintain ongoing communications on how to achieve a regular and systematic destruction of guns in the country.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Reseau des Femmes en Action pour le Developpement Social ([REFEADES](#)) encouraged women and children in the Fizi territory to contribute to the fight against gun violence by denouncing any illicit small arms kept in their houses. REFEADES also partnered with schools to educate students on the negative impact of armed violence.



UCOPASUKI hosted a debate with local communities, where the participants discussed the impact of SALW in the Uvira, Fizi, and Mwenga territories, where violence frequently breaks out between tribal militias and armed groups. UCOPASUKI also briefed the local residents on the Global Week of Action and the Programme of Action and distributed the IANSA Quick Guide. Moreover, UCOPASUKI translated into Kiswahili information regarding the PoA, UN meetings on small arms, and SDG 16.4 for the local community to improve their access to this information. In addition to hosting a debate, the organization appeared on the OKAPI Radio to discuss how the local communities can help confront the challenges of armed violence in the region.



Canada

The [Coalition for Gun Control](#) launched a [new campaign](#) in its latest effort to show Toronto residents the urgency of comprehensive gun control. [The website](#) uses the geo-location and data from the Toronto Police shooting and homicide database to show users how close their current location – or one they enter into the map, such as their home or place of work – has been to a shooting. The site encourages people to share their result and urges them to contact their local member of parliament and express their concern about gun violence. The site provides the distance in meters, as well as tools to share the info on social channels to rally support.

The Coalition for Gun Control's most recent campaigns have been national and localized. They have been focusing on raising awareness about the impact of gun violence, and motivating citizens to engage with all levels of government to share their voices against gun violence. "Our problem is not just the well-resourced and aggressive gun lobby," says Wendy Cukier, president of the Coalition for Gun Control. "Our problem is that while the majority of Canadians support stronger gun control, they do not do anything about it. I have heard far too many people tell me that they never thought about gun control until someone they loved was caught in the crossfire.

Georgia

[Cultural-Humanitarian Fund 'Sukhumi'](#) held a youth workshop in Kutaisi, Western Georgia. The organization introduced the participants to the Global Week of Action and showed them how they could help secure peace and stability within the youth communities, informing them about examples of initiatives other countries have taken to reduce gun violence.



The organization also met with local government representatives from the Vani and Bagdati Municipalities of the Imereti region. During the meeting, the organization informed the government officials about the Week of Action and emphasized the importance of instituting stricter laws that limit access to firearms.



Founded in 1997, the Cultural-Humanitarian Fund 'Sukhumi' works to empower women to assert their voices in discussions about decreasing armed violence in Georgia. The organization was founded by four internally displaced women who were forced to flee Abkhazia during armed conflicts in 1992-1993.

Nepal

Women for Peace and Democracy ([WPD-Nepal](#)) held a poetry competition to highlight the impact illicit use of small arms and light weapons has on families and communities. Eight contestants from four different schools recited poems on the theme of "Rise up for Humanity: Control the Guns" in front of teachers, students, WPD-Nepal staff, and Ms. Raju Gautam, a lecturer at Himalaya College who served as the judge. Below is the poem of the first-place winner, Manu Paudel.

*Weapons were produced for the security and prosperity
And we promised to use it responsibly
Unfortunately, human became the victims of guns
Turned into weapons of mass destruction
How can you be so cruel and kill lives of innocents?*

*Why you call deaths of your people?
Why not respect human lives? Why can't you see the pain?
What is stopping you to see the suffering?*

*See what is happening to this world There is
misusing of guns*

Man made innovations; is killing the innocents

Due to greed, ego and anger

Have become enemy to one another

*Why are we not being able to control guns? Why people
carrying illegal guns not punished? It is because "under the
table" (corruption) work!*



El Salvador

Fundación de Estudios para la Aplicación del Derecho ([FESPAD](#)) asked El Salvador citizens what they would rather have in society instead of firearms. While many answered they wanted peace and improved education, others called for job security, musical instruments, and one young girl responded she would like skates instead of guns in society.



Thank you to everyone who participated in and supported the 2019 Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence!

Sincerely, IANSA

United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation



The 2019 Global Week of Action was possible thanks to funding provided by [UNSCAR11](#)
