

## Women at Work: Preventing Gun Violence

### Network news

- Sweden: Global Security Trends
- PNG: 'The way we live reflects our fears'
- IANSA urges Norway to amend gun laws
- Promoting Peace in West Africa
- ATT: time for Asia Pacific to get on board

### Special Focus: IANSA women at the Commission on the Status of Women

- The unspoken link between guns and HIV-AIDS
- Towards an ATT: women's rights

### Announcements

- ATT: regional seminars
- Colombia: new law on violence against women includes gun possession
- Global Week of Action
- Peace & security in South Asia
- Liberia launches 1325 NAP

### Events

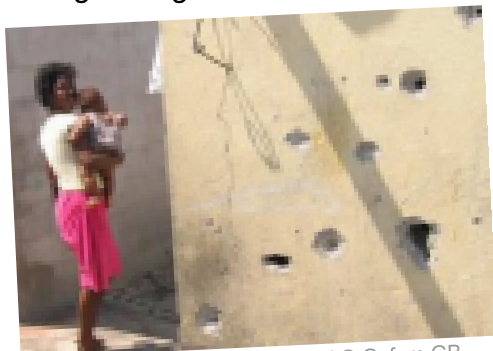
### Resources



Bulletin No. 18, April 2009

## Haiti: CEDAW Shadow Report highlights gun violence

*Guerda Benjamin from OFAT Haiti reports on how IANSA women are using a CEDAW Shadow Report to urge the government to take action to reduce and prevent gun violence against women.*



The scars of gun violence in Haiti © Oxfam GB

NGOs have a very important role in making CEDAW an instrument of women's empowerment, through advocacy and the monitoring of their government's implementation of the treaty. CEDAW's enforcement is based on a reporting system and governments are often thought to minimise problems and maximise achievements when assessing their own progress.

NGO input, in the form of 'Shadow Reports' to bring women's real concerns to national and international attention. Although the CEDAW Committee does not directly invite or fund NGOs to send a Shadow Report, Article 2 of CEDAW's Additional Protocol allows such submissions from NGOs or individuals. However, most States have not signed the Additional Protocol and this is the case in Haiti.

Nonetheless, IANSA women in Haiti have submitted a Shadow Report to highlight specific issues and in this way, maintain government accountability both inside the country and at the UN. This ensures that their concerns and key issues are included in formal records of the reporting process.

The Shadow Report to CEDAW included specific references to armed violence against women such as: the disproportionate impact of gun violence on women and girls; the lack of research and data collection in this area; the fact that guns held legally are as dangerous as those possessed illegally; the need to question current distinctions between legal/illegal weapons, war/peace and the private/public spheres.

The Shadow Report called for the drafting of a law to deal with domestic violence and for the law to include references to gun possession, to remove guns from abusers.

It also called for specific programs including: the training of the police and judiciary, and the protection and accommodation of survivors. It also added that in order to achieve this, the government must allocate sufficient funds from the national budget.

This is directly linked to the 2006 report by Professor Barbara Frey, UN Special Rapporteur on Small Arms & Human Rights, which examined the use of guns by civilians and concluded, "The State has particularly acute obligations when it comes to protecting the rights of vulnerable groups, including victims of domestic violence, who are most at risk from misuse of a gun in the home. The presence of a gun in the home can easily turn domestic violence into domestic homicide."

Haitian civil society also used the Shadow Report to build upon the 2008 UN report 'Report of the Expert Group Meeting on

Good Practices in Legislation on Violence Against Women' which mentioned guns and domestic legislation, particularly in relation to domestic violence (Section 8, part C).

It is hoped that this Shadow Report will increase the scope of CEDAW on a national level, but also contribute to the development of women's rights jurisprudence within the UN system. In this way, women can transform the Convention and establish norms and standards for women's rights.

For more information, see:

### CEDAW

[www.un.org/womenwatch/daw](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw)

### Shadow Report on Haiti (2009)

[www.iansa.org/femmes/documents/haiti\\_cedaw\\_rapport\\_alternatif.pdf](http://www.iansa.org/femmes/documents/haiti_cedaw_rapport_alternatif.pdf)

### Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Good Practices in Legislation on Violence Against Women

[www.stopvaw.org/United\\_Nations\\_Releases\\_Good\\_Practices\\_in\\_Legislation\\_on\\_Violence\\_against\\_Women.html](http://www.stopvaw.org/United_Nations_Releases_Good_Practices_in_Legislation_on_Violence_against_Women.html)

*The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is a human rights treaty for women which came into force in 1981 and has the support of 185 UN member States. It is a powerful instrument for articulating, advocating, and monitoring women's human rights.*

## Network News

## Sweden: Global Security Trends PNG: 'The way we live reflects our fears'

Lena Ag, Secretary General of Kvinna till Kvinna called for a democratic debate about security at an international expert seminar on global security trends in Stockholm in January 2009.

IANSA WN Coordinator Sarah Masters was a panellist alongside Dr Hans Blix and spoke about the gendered impacts of gun violence, which she linked to the Arms Trade Treaty, and the legally binding Common Position on EU arms exports. She gave examples of work by IANSA members who have developed successful local disarmament projects aimed at young men, in which the prestige of having a gun is replaced with the power and prestige of contributing to the community.

Dr Blix stressed the importance of women being visible in the disarmament debate, and the need to reform the male dominated discourse. He called small arms, "the real weapons of mass destruction" and argued that women could and should contribute more in the international debate.

Olfat Mahmoud from the Women's Humanitarian Organization shared her experiences from the Palestinian refugee camp Bourj al Barajneh in Lebanon, where 20,000 people live in an area of one square kilometre. The camp was supposed to give temporary refuge but has now existed for 60 years.

Both Sarah and Lena Ag linked the discussion to UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and gave examples of how women's organisations have created conditions for peace talks and disarmament. They particularly focussed on the role of Liberian women in disarmament who made a very significant, but often unrecognised, contribution to the peace process.

See: [www.kvinnatillkvinna.se](http://www.kvinnatillkvinna.se)



Dr Hans Blix and Sarah Masters © Kvinna till Kvinna

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Compiled and edited by IANSA Women's Network Coordinator: Sarah Masters

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Ms Eileen Kolma

In March, Eileen Kolma, country representative for Oxfam International in Papua New Guinea spoke at an event in Port Moresby to mark International Women's Day. Her speech highlighted the insecurity experienced by women in a society where guns are seen as part of everyday life.

She explained, "Women walk around and live in fear for themselves and

the lives of their daughters and male members of their families, quickly getting in and out of cars and the gates to their homes, constantly looking over their shoulders, wondering if the man walking towards them might be a gun carrying assailant." Eileen gave numerous examples of gun violence against women including kidnap and sexual violence, and added, "I have personal friends, and colleagues who have been shot and disabled. Others have lost their husbands, sons, mothers, or daughters."

She acknowledged that there are gaps in data collection and gun-related deaths and injuries often go unreported, but added there is enough anecdotal evidence to suggest that PNG has a serious problem and that guns have now evolved into a culture in their communities.

Eileen talked about the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development to which PNG is a signatory, and how the government needs to act upon this commitment to protect its citizens from gun violence, and create a peaceful and secure environment. She announced that Oxfam International is carrying out a research project in the Hela region of the Southern Highlands to: document and understand community based small arms supply and demand issues; identify and support local community law and justice initiatives on violence prevention; and understand how these initiatives can be used in other parts of PNG.

Eileen made six recommendations including: implementation of UN SCR 1325 to recognise and respond to the specific needs of women and girls in PNG; collaborative research on the nature, causes and effects of insecurity, and community based responses to armed violence; identification of appropriate entry points to engage with communities on security; and the prioritisation of long term engagement over short term solutions.

**Read more at:**

[www.iansa.org/women/documents/iwd\\_2009\\_png.pdf](http://www.iansa.org/women/documents/iwd_2009_png.pdf)

## Network News

## IANSA urges Norway to amend gun laws

**The WN has called for Norway to amend its gun laws after the fatal shooting of a woman by her former partner in January 2009.**

According to the Small Arms Survey, one third of Norwegian households contain a gun. Since 2000, 80 women have been killed by their partner or their ex-partner, and guns have been used in a third of these killings. The Firearms Act requires all gun license applicants to be screened for previous criminal convictions, but does not require spouses of applicants to be consulted as part of the process.

Sarah Masters, WN Coordinator said: "Consulting spouses and partners is an essential tool in keeping women safe from guns. In many cases, the man who kills a woman has previously been violent, or issued threats, but no police report has been issued. We therefore think that any history of violence should be considered -- for example if police have been called about violence or even after threats from a partner -- when the Police issue a firearms licence."

In Canada, on the other hand, they do have such an arrangement. It is not such that a partner can automatically stop a weapons licence, but if a partner is worried, the police will take a closer look at the application. This underlines that it is also important that the woman in such a situation is aware that the partner is acquiring a firearm.

IANSA urged the Norwegian government to amend their gun laws with this provision as a matter of urgency.

IANSA's recommendations received widespread support including from Norway's Crisis Centre Secretariat.

Finn Abrahamsen, Former leader of the Violent Crimes Unit in Oslo, added, "To carry arms is not a human right, and it can therefore be a good idea if the authorities decide to talk to the closest members of an applicant's family." He does not think that it will be a burden for the police to do this, and that it at the same time will provide crucial information about the applicant is unfit to carry firearms.

Abrahamsen also thinks that the police should improve follow-up on domestic violence and firearms licences. "When police are notified about a case of domestic violence, it should automatically be checked whether there are firearms in the house, and then they should be confiscated -- at least for a period of time," he says. He added that he thinks it is strange that it is easier to get banned from driving than from access to firearms.

Secretary of State in the Justice and Police Department, Ms Astri Aas-Hansen confirmed that the government believes that they should take a closer look at IANSA's suggestions. She stated, "Talks with a partner in connection with firearms licence applications is one of the things that it is natural to look into. Even if the licence process is strict, it is still possible that we have to look at other methods to ensure that applicants fulfil the requirements."

## Promoting Peace in West Africa

**In February 2009, IANSA women in Senegal organised a workshop and photographic exhibition to promote a culture of peace and promote the campaign against small arms.**

The workshop was organised by the Institute of Human Rights and Peace (IDHP) in partnership with the Association of Women for Peace Initiatives (AFIP), Peacewomen Across the Globe, and the Movement Against Small Arms in West Africa (MALAO).

The three-day workshop covered: UN Security Council Resolution 1325; the role of civil society in conflict prevention, conflict management and peace-building; legal instruments on international and regional peace and weapons; and the socio-political context of conflict in West Africa. An IANSA woman from Mali, Fatoumata Maiga of AFIP, presented an action plan for Africa, while Jesse Franck Goma gave a session on Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR).

The photographic exhibition represented women who are involved in the fight against gun violence. Some photos included those of women who were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005, as part of the 1000 Peacewomen Initiative, such as Christiane Agboton Johnson, an IANSA woman from Senegal and now Deputy Director of UNIDIR.

To make the work of these women more visible, the national press attended the workshop to report on the issues discussed, but also to highlight the expertise that women have in the areas of peacemaking and gun violence prevention.

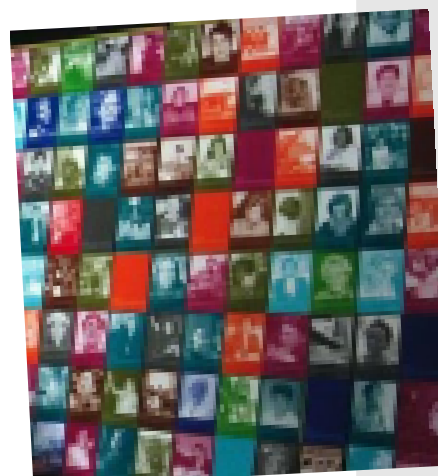
**The Movement Against Small Arms in West Africa (MALAO)**

[www.malao.org](http://www.malao.org)

**Peacewomen Across the Globe**  
[www.1000peacewomen.org](http://www.1000peacewomen.org)



Ms Astri Aas-Hansen (left), Secretary of State in the Justice and Police Department with police officers. Photo: Vegard Nekstad



Images from the exhibition



# The unspoken link between guns and HIV-AIDS

*Sexual violence at gunpoint is contributing to transmission of HIV-AIDS, leaving many infected rape survivors to suffer in silence and shame, writes Judy Waruhiu of FECCLAHA in Kenya.*



Ms Judy Waruhiu

**The horror of sexual violence that has blighted the lives of women and girls in DR Congo is nowhere more apparent than at Panzi Hospital, in Bukavu. The first thing that strikes you is the long queue of women patiently waiting to gain admittance. In certain parts of East Congo, it is estimated that three out of four women have been raped during the fourteen years of bitter conflict.**

The hospital is East Congo's leading site of referral for sexual violence survivors, who constitute over two thirds of its patients. Doctors there began addressing the growing need for vaginal reconstruction as a result of sexual violence in 1998. Their inaugural patient was a woman gang-raped by soldiers, who then inserted a rifle into her vagina and fired it.

Since that first procedure, the staff has witnessed not only a steady increase in sexual violence, but also an increased brutality. In the Great Lakes region each armed group has developed their own gruesome hallmarks of sexual violation.

For example, some Burundian groups rape men as well as women. The Mai Mai — local defence forces in Rwanda and also in the DRC — rape with bayonets, which mutilate their victim's sexual organs.

The use of women's bodies as a weapon of war, terror and systematic ethical cleansing first came to prominence during the Rwandan Genocide and Balkans wars in the 1990s.

Rape and sexual violence were specifically codified for the first time as a

recognisable and independent crime in the statutes of the International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and for Rwanda (ICTR).

As a result, there is now solid case law holding that rape and sexual violence are a form of genocide. Sexual violence has been and is used against women and girls, and to a lesser extent against men and boys, as a form of torture, to degrade, intimidate and ultimately defeat and chase away targeted populations.

In many cases, women's sexuality is seen as being under the protection of men in the community, so its defilement is an act of domination over the males of the group under attack.

At least 20,000 women were reported to have been raped in Bosnia-Herzegovina during the war. These women were then denied medical assistance, even if they fell pregnant or ill.

One obvious result of this horrendous sexual violence in conflict is an increased risk of transmission of HIV and AIDS. It is impossible to say exactly how many HIV positive girls and women in DR Congo were infected as a direct result of rape at gunpoint. But with armed rape so prevalent in this conflict, it is almost certainly happening.

It's an issue that IANSA women have highlighted on International Women's Day. We travelled to New York to speak to diplomats at the UN Commission on the Status of Women about the link between gun violence and HIV/AIDS. We argued that reducing armed sexual violence should be incorporated in HIV/AIDS prevention strategies.

Guns are related to HIV/AIDS transmission because the involvement of a gun in an attempted assault dramatically reduces the victim's chances of escape. Unlike a knife, for example, a gun can be fired from a distance or be used to dominate a whole group of women and girls.

The exceptional lethality of firearms is well acknowledged by injury prevention and security experts, but the connection with sexually transmitted diseases is not yet widely recognised. The presence of a gun can make the difference between a severe fright and a full-blown rape.

We also pointed out to the diplomats that the problems faced by victims of rape and sexual violence in war are manifold and long-lasting, and demand specific attention. Cruelly, in many cultures where rape as a weapon of war is prevalent, it is the victim who is left with the sense of shame. Having suffered the physical and mental anguish of rape, women then face the further trauma of being ostracised from the communities which should be rehabilitating them.

In Rwanda, the UN estimates that between 250,000 and 500,000 rapes were committed during the genocide of 1994. Fifteen years later around seven out of ten survivors are now living with HIV/AIDS.

Yet one Rwandan rape survivor testified: "Since I learned I was infected with HIV, my husband has said he cannot live with me. He divorced me and left me with three children, so now I don't know how to pay for food, rent, school... my greatest worry is what will happen to my children if I die."

According to a Rwandan women's rights organization, discrimination against rape survivors and people living with HIV/AIDS results in many women are dying in silence. Children born as a result of the rapes also face severe discrimination and are commonly referred to as the 'enfants mauvais souvenir' or children of bad memories.

Because of the lack of affordable healthcare and the discrimination against them as both victims of rape and people living with HIV/AIDS, the vast majority of survivors are living in extreme poverty. Many women have sold their family's land and all their possessions to pay for medication, and the phenomenon of child-headed households is increasing.

## Special Focus: IANSA women at the Commission on the Status of Women

*Continued from previous page*

Despite these depressing stories and statistics, the international community is gradually recognising the need to address the issue of sexual violence in conflict.

UN Security Council Resolution 1820 declared that "women and girls are particularly targeted by the use of sexual violence, including as a tactic of war to humiliate, dominate, instil fear in, disperse and/or forcibly relocate civilian members of a community or ethnic group."

The Resolution demanded the "immediate and complete cessation by all parties to armed conflict of all acts of sexual violence against civilians."

But the resolution failed to mention the need for action to reduce the availability of guns – for example regulating the international arms trade, controlling army stockpiles and regulating civilian possession of guns.

Until governments and the UN recognise the link between small arms proliferation, sexual violence and HIV-AIDS transmission – and take serious steps towards tackling it - the plight of some of the most desperate women on earth will remain unheard and unaddressed.

*Originally published in The Daily Nation, Kenya on 5 March 2009.*

## ATT: time for Asia Pacific to get on board

**IANSA women, Jasmin Nario-Galace of PhilANSA, the Philippines, and Ema Tagicakibau of the Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, Fiji were among IANSA members who participated in a 2 day conference held in Tokyo, Japan to promote understanding in Asian-Pacific countries on an ATT.**

The conference was organised by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in partnership with Oxfam Japan and representatives from 13 governments attended - Australia, Cambodia, Japan, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Palau, Philippines, Samoa, South Korea, and Timor-Leste.

Delegates explored how both exporting and importing states have existing legal obligations to ensure a responsible arms trade. It was hoped that they will agree to push for an Arms Trade Treaty at the United Nations which obliges exporters to assess the risk of an arms transfer undermining an importing state's social and economic development. The Treaty should also oblige states to consider the recipient's record of transparency in military spending and its record in preventing patterns of violence, organised crime and regional instability.

Jasmin and Ema gave presentations that focussed on human security and how the arms trade negatively impacts on women and girls. Jasmin said, "The human and economic cost of the armed insurgency in the Mindanao region of the Philippines is devastating. Yet still, small arms continue to flood into the country, where they leak into civilian hands. An Arms Trade Treaty will help protect civilians from gross human rights violations and allow governments to spend on development rather than on arms."

## Towards an ATT: women's rights

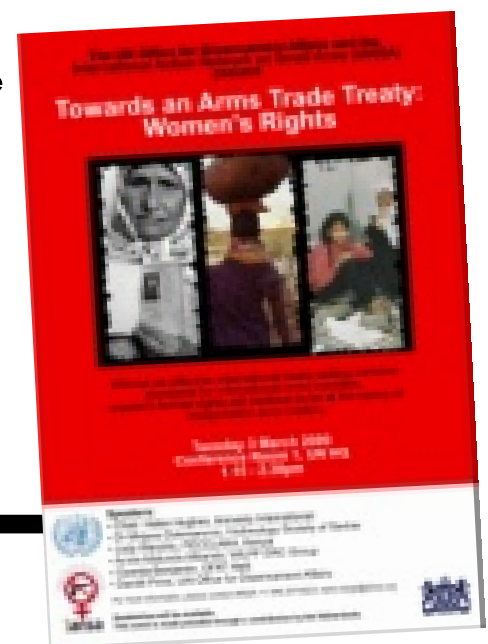


From left to right: Guerda Benjamin, Daniel Prins (UN ODA), Annie Matundu-Mbambi, Helen Hughes (Amnesty International), Maria Pia Devoto, and Mirjana Dokmanovic - CSW 2009. Photo: Churroman

**IANSA women organised a joint event with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs on 3 March 2009 which linked the themes of the CSW with the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).**

This year the CSW coincided with the first meeting of the ATT Open Ended Working Group.

All of the presentations are online at: [www.iansa.org/women/CSW2009.htm](http://www.iansa.org/women/CSW2009.htm)



## Announcements

### ATT: regional seminars

Six regional seminars on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) will be funded by the European Union (EU) over the next 12 months. The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) is implementing the project, called 'Promoting Discussion on an Arms Trade Treaty'.

The EU hopes to increase the awareness by national and regional actors, UN Member States, civil society and industry, of the current international discussions around an ATT, and to foster debate among them. One aim of the meetings will identify the 'possible elements, the scope and the implications' of an ATT.

IANSA members in Egypt are hosting a regional civil society meeting in Cairo to develop understanding of an ATT. Representatives from over fifteen Middle East and North African countries will attend the meeting from 31 March-1 April to discuss the significance of an ATT for the region, and how best to promote a strong and effective ATT on a national level, as well as within the UN framework. This is an important initiative that illustrates the level of support amongst regional civil society organisations and their commitment to making the ATT a success.

### Global Week of Action

This year's Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence will take place between 15–21 June 2009. Please save the date and look out for email updates from the IANSA Secretariat.

### Peace & security in South Asia

As part of celebrations for International Women's Day, the Bangladesh Action Network on Small Arms (BANSA), the Bangladesh Development Partnership Centre (BDPC) and South Asian Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE) organised a Consultation on Peace and Security in South Asia on 9 March 2009.



They called upon the government to form a National Peace and Security Commission and an independent constitutional body to deal with illegal small arms, armed violence, and cross border arms trafficking.

### Colombia: new law on VAW includes gun possession

A significant new law specifically linking violence against women with firearms possession was passed by the Colombian Congress in December 2008.

Law No. 1257 decrees that perpetrators of violence against women will be suspended from possessing or carrying firearms – though the duration of the suspension is not mentioned. The law is a victory for a coalition of NGOs, government and UN agencies working for women's rights, including Colectivo Dignidad Humana, a member of the IANSA Women's Network.

Luz Salazar of the Colectivo welcomed the law, but said further provisions were necessary to keep women safe from gun violence. "Men who already have a record of violence against women should be stopped from owning guns, and the length of the suspension must be clarified if the law is to be genuinely effective," she said. The law also amends the Criminal Code of Colombia to increase the sentence for an assault on a woman if it is committed specifically because of her gender.

#### Law 1257, Colombia, 2008 (Spanish)

[www.secretariasenado.gov.co/senado/basedoc/ley/2008/ley\\_1257\\_2008.html](http://www.secretariasenado.gov.co/senado/basedoc/ley/2008/ley_1257_2008.html)

### Liberia launches 1325 NAP

On International Women's Day 2009, the Government of Liberia launched the National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

Participants of the Liberia Colloquium, where 1325 was discussed and the NAP was launched, asked UN Member States and Agencies to recognize local communities and particularly women as leaders in DRRR processes.

Additionally, the Colloquium requested UN Member States and Agencies to consider declaring systematic rape and sexual violence in conflict a weapon of war that needs to be part of the disarmament process.

These two points in the Colloquium's call for action are in line with presentations that IANSA women made at the 53rd UN Commission on the Status of Women.



Mrs. Munah Siel, Director of the Liberian National Police. Photo: UNINSTRAW



## Events

### The 5th Summit of the Americas

17-19 April: Trinidad & Tobago  
IANSA members have an opportunity to put gun violence prevention and human security on the agenda.  
<http://fifthsummitoftheamericas.org>

### West Africa regional civil society ATT workshop

15-16 April 2009: Lome, Togo

### RECSA's 5th Review Conference (Great Lakes and Horn of Africa)

20-21 April 2009: Bujumbura, Burundi  
[www.recsasec.org/events.htm](http://www.recsasec.org/events.htm)

### 6th Global Conference: War, Virtual War and Human Security

1-3 May 2009: Hungary

This inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary conference seeks to provide a challenging forum for the examination and evaluation of the nature, purpose and experience of war, and its impacts on all aspects of security, human security and on communities across the world.  
[www.inter-disciplinary.net](http://www.inter-disciplinary.net)

### First International Congress on Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration

4-6 May 2009: Cartagena, Colombia  
<http://ciddr.org>

### Second Annual Workshop for Women in International Security

8-10 May 2009: Quebec, Canada  
This conference aims to emphasise women's presence and contribution in international security including academic presentations, career-building seminars, and a one day negotiation exercise on conflict resolution.  
[www.psi.ulaval.ca](http://www.psi.ulaval.ca)

### 8th International Security Forum

18-20 May 2009: Geneva, Switzerland  
The Forum will bring together some 500 experts with security-political background, among them civil servants, diplomats, military, academics, and representatives of international and non-governmental organisations worldwide. The objective is to create a platform for discussion and dialogue on past, current and future security problems and solutions.  
[www.8isf.ethz.ch](http://www.8isf.ethz.ch)

### International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament

24 May 2009

### 7th European Feminist Research Conference

4-7 June 2009: Utrecht, The Netherlands  
[www.7thfeministconference.org](http://www.7thfeministconference.org)

### Women's Leadership Conference 2009

21-23 June 2009: Bangkok, Thailand  
[www.tomorrowpeople.org/conference-5.html](http://www.tomorrowpeople.org/conference-5.html)

### The Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) Forum

6-9 July 2009: Johannesburg, South Africa

The conference is aimed at promoting research on sexual violence, highlighting innovation and encouraging sharing and networking in the area of sexual violence. This global event will bring together over 200 participants working on sexual violence as researchers, gender activists, funders, policy makers, service providers, survivors and others.  
[www.svri.org](http://www.svri.org)

## Resources

### Birthing from Scorched Hearts: Women Respond to War

MariJo Moore

With contributions from both well-known and first-time writers, this moving anthology covers a wide range of experience.  
[www.fulcrum-books.com](http://www.fulcrum-books.com)

### Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns

War Resisters' International

Includes sections on how to plan strategic nonviolent campaigns, how to prepare for nonviolent actions, tools for working in groups, the connection between gender and nonviolence, a series of stories from the work in nonviolence from groups all over the world, a long list of practical training exercises, and a list of related resources.  
<http://wri-irg.org/node/3855>

### Integrating Gender Awareness and Equality

OECD, 2009

An additional chapter to the OECD DAC Handbook on Security System Reform from 2007 with entry points for all domains of security systems, e.g. police, military, judiciary etc.  
[www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org)

### Security Disarmed: Critical Perspectives on Gender, Race, and Militarisation

Barbara Sutton, Sandra Morgen, and Julie Novkov

Scholars, policy planners, and activists come together to think critically about the human cost of violence and viable alternatives to armed conflict. This collection of essays evaluates and resists the worldwide crisis of militarisation.  
[http://rutgerspress.rutgers.edu/acatalog/Security\\_Disarmed.html](http://rutgerspress.rutgers.edu/acatalog/Security_Disarmed.html)

### Shattered Lives: Immediate medical care for victims of sexual violence

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), 2009  
MSF shares its experience in providing medical care, counselling and other forms of support to thousands of victims of sexual violence in many countries around the world. The report is partly born out of outrage about the inexcusable acts that these people have been subjected to and the damage inflicted upon their lives. It demonstrates why it is imperative to make immediate care available, and truly accessible, for those who have been sexually assaulted.  
[www.msf.org/shatteredlives](http://www.msf.org/shatteredlives)

### UN Secretary General's database on violence against women

The Division for the Advancement of Women/Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DAW/DESA)

The primary source of information for the database is the responses received from Member States to the questionnaire on violence against women, of September 2008, and subsequent updates.  
<http://webapps01.un.org/vawdatabase/about.action>

### Women's Side of War

Women in Black Belgrade (2008)

An anthology of women's records about the wars waged on the soil of the former Yugoslavia in 1991-1999. The product of a year long exploration in cooperation with many women's organisations, human rights organisations, organisations which deal with the past and reconciliation, and the individual women who bravely voiced their experiences, recorded their experiences and/or endorsed these experiences.  
[www.zeneucrnornom.org/pdf/womens\\_side\\_of\\_war.pdf](http://www.zeneucrnornom.org/pdf/womens_side_of_war.pdf)



The IANSA Women's Network (WN) is the only international network focused on the connections between gender, women's rights, small arms and armed violence. It was established in 2001 as a women's caucus at IANSA events but has formally existed since 2005. It has grown to link members in countries and communities as diverse as Fiji to Senegal, Argentina to South Africa, Canada to Sudan.

**We are grateful to the Government of Norway for its support.**