

# Global Action to Prevent War



*Welcome to Global Action's  
Fall 2010 newsletter.*

The final months of the 2010 calendar year have been as busy as ever for our Global Action team. With the indispensable help of three fall staff members, Jeff Benvenuto, Paul Taylor, and Huma Ahmed, GAPW has engaged in regional disarmament talks in Montevideo, worked with the women, peace and security community on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 in Tokyo and New York, convened a conference on emergency peacekeeping capacities, and co-published a book on genocide ideology law, to describe just some of the highlights of our programs this season.

We have collaborated closely with our very able partners, both here in New York and beyond, on civilian protection and responsibility to protect, promoting women's participation, and conventional disarmament among other issue areas. Coordination with the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, the United Nations University in Tokyo and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs regional office in Lima are some of the vitally important relationships without which we could not accomplish our program goals.

Our work continues to find receptive audiences inside and outside the UN, with NGOs, and in diverse global communities. As we enter a new year, we are excited by the prospect of new projects as well as an expansion of existing ones to reach these audiences. Our organizational plan for 2011 already includes a variety of events, advocacy programs, and workshops. In particular, we look forward to launching our new, Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)-focused women's project with proposed regional workshops in Sri Lanka, Colombia, Austria and Kenya.

We remain committed to keeping information up-to-date on our website so that you are well-informed about issues that we seek to address. Thank you for your continued support and we wish you the best for the New Year!

## ***Disarmament Update***

### ***Launching a New Social Networking Disarmament Project***



On Thursday, November 18th, Global Action to Prevent War hosted a planning meeting towards development of a formal Social Networking Disarmament Education project. Representatives from various disarmament NGOs as well as individuals from ODA contributed to the conversation how to best use social networking tools to generate important

discourse on disarmament priorities among and by youth.

We seek to create a listening post with a credible, reader-friendly, and contemporary approach to a wide range of disarmament issues, including nuclear disarmament, conventional and small arms, illicit arms trade, the arms trade treaty, and issues pertaining to women, peace and security. Our hope is that this project will serve as a source of new ideas and suggestions as much as it serves as an informational resource. The goal is to help a new generation determine and act upon their uniquely-defined disarmament priorities through social media tools.

For information, please consult <http://www.globalactionpw.org/?p=2343>.

### ***Regional Disarmament Leadership Affirmed at Uruguay Conference***

On November 7 and 8, GAPW was pleased to play an integral role in an extraordinary disarmament event co-sponsored by the Foreign Ministry of Uruguay and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

(FES) organization in both Berlin and Montevideo.



The event brought together much of the leadership of the global disarmament community – Ambassador Sergio Duarte, High Representative of the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs; Ambassador Roberto Garcia Moritan of Argentina, president of the Preparatory Committee on the Arms Trade Treaty; Ambassador Libran Cabactulan of the Philippines, president of the 8th NPT review; Ambassador Gioconda Ubeda, secretary-general of OPENAL and many more.

The event was a tribute to the increasing priority that MERCOSUR countries are giving to security concerns, the

importance of the region as a source of the highest levels of disarmament leadership, the attractiveness of Uruguay as a convening country for regional disarmament concerns, and the high regard with which disarmament experts view the Uruguay delegation at the United Nations.

Please consult our website at for more information, including a more detailed event report, at <http://www.globalactionpw.org/?p=2324>.



### *Revitalizing the Conference on Disarmament*

In recognition of numerous diplomats and civil society leaders coming to New York for the First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung together with Global Action to Prevent War organized a panel to discuss the revitalization of the Conference on Disarmament.



Volker Lehman, Policy Analyst for Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, made opening remarks. He was followed by panelists H.E. Hilde Janne Skorpen, Ambassador for Disarmament Affairs from the Foreign Ministry of Norway, and Beatrice Fihn, Project Associate for Reaching Critical Will (RCW) in Geneva. Moderator was Dr. Robert Zuber,

Director of Global Action to Prevent War. There was broad recognition of the urgency for reform of what some delegations still consider to be the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating body.

There was also recognition of the need to organize many more discussions with diplomats and civil society to help ensure that the disarmament machinery of the United Nations is sufficient to address the many disarmament opportunities - on nuclear weapons, arms trade and small arms - currently available. To move forward on these opportunities towards the ultimate goal of general and complete disarmament, the international community needs to restructure the way the CD does its business or possibly abandon it altogether.

For a more detailed summary of the event, please consult our website <http://www.globalactionpw.org/?p=2289>

### *Women, Peace and Security Update*

### *Security Council Open Debate on Sexual Violence during Armed Conflict*

On Thursday, December 16, the Security Council, under the presidency of the United States, convened an Open Debate on Sexual Violence during Armed Conflict. Council members and many non-members states expressed their concern for the use of sexual violence as a tactic of war and condemned its rampant and widespread presence in the international system.

At the beginning of the debate, the Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1960 (2010), which creates institutional tools to combat impunity, namely tools to monitor, analyze, and report on sexual violence. The Resolution creates a comprehensive monitoring system as a well as an annexed 'perpetrators list' that will allow states to identify individuals who have systematically acted with impunity with regards to sexual violence during conflict. Violators can, in turn, be tracked and punished accordingly by the appropriate sanctions committees,

referral to the ICC, or other forms of international condemnation.



The Council was briefed by the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Sexual Violence during Armed Conflict, Margot Wallström. Ms. Wallström outlined her mandate expressing her desire to create a seamless synergy between promoting peace and security and ending sexual violence during armed conflict. Special Representative Wallström explained that sexual violence must be increased as a liability by exposing perpetrators to intense international scrutiny.

For PeaceWomen/WILPF's summary report on the Open Debate, including all speaker statements from the debate, please consult our website

<http://www.globalactionpw.org/?p=2416>.

Additionally, you can also find a PDF of an open letter from a coalition of NGOs, of which GAPW was a part, to all members of the Security Council encouraging the Council members to adopt Resolution 1960 as part of the women, peace and security agenda.

***UNU and GAPW Policy Brief:  
Maximizing the Impact of UNSCR  
1325***



Global Action to Prevent War and United Nations University Institute for Sustainability and Peace (UNU-ISP) have collaborated on a policy brief based on an expert's panel held at the UNU on 8 September 2010, in partnership with the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security and Soka Gakkai International. The panel drew together a diverse group of academics, advocates and policymakers from UN agencies as

well as organizations in Japan, the Philippines, Australia, Pakistan and the US. All participants have worked at various levels- academic, policy, direct-action- to contribute to efforts towards ensuring the full participation of women in peace policies and processes, and ending impunity for gender-based violence.

This brief also draws upon the report *Promoting Women's Participation in Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies: How Women Worldwide are Making and Building Peace* by Kavitha Suthanthiraraj and Cristina Ayo, published by GAPW in conjunction with the NGOWG on Women, Peace and Security and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. If you would like a hardcopy of the brief, please contact us at [coordinator@globalactionpw.org](mailto:coordinator@globalactionpw.org). A PDF version is available on our website.

***Commemorating 1325+10 with the  
UN Community in New York***

On October 21, the Mission of Switzerland to the UN hosted a discussion titled, "From the Field to the UN Security Council: Evidence-Based

Recommendations for Improving Women, Peace and Security Implementation.” Global Action to Prevent War along with the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security and PeaceWomen of WILPF came together to organize the event. Bandana Rana from SAATHI in Nepal with GAPW’s Kavitha Suthanthiraraj presented the work being done in the field that has been outlined in the publication, “Promoting Women’s Participation in Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies.” Maria Butler of WILPF’s PeaceWomen project presented PeaceWomen’s “Women, Peace and Security Handbook”, and Sarah Taylor of the NGOWG on Women, Peace and Security presented the handbook, “Mapping Women, Peace and Security in the UN Security Council Report.”



For a full report of the ‘1325’ anniversary events that took place in New York, please consult our website <http://www.globalactionpw.org/?p=231>.

***10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SCR 1325:  
Expert Meeting and Book Launch at  
UNU-Tokyo***



As the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 approached, GAPW partnered with the United Nations University (UNU) and Soka Gakkai International (SGI) on a significant event both to assess progress on implementing the resolution and to introduce an important new resource for diplomats and leaders of women’s NGOs.

On September 8 in Tokyo, leading scholars, activists and regional policymakers gathered at the UNU in order to participate in two related sessions. The first was an ‘expert’s meeting’ to assess impacts and obstacles related to SCR 1325. The second session was a more public event to highlight (with a mostly Japanese audience) ways in which we have fallen short of the promise of ‘1325’ and related resolutions that mandate government action to promote the full participation of women and end impunity for sexual and other gender-based violence.

For the full report on the forum and book launch in Japan, as well as the *Japan Times* write-up on the experts’ meeting, please consult our website <http://www.globalactionpw.org/?p=216>.

For a PDF version of our co-published work, ‘Promoting Women’s Participation in Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies: Women Worldwide Making and Building Peace,’ please consult our website <http://www.globalactionpw.org/?p=224>.

### ***High Level Panel on Sexual Violence during Armed Conflict: Challenges in Reintegrating Girls and Girl-Mothers into Communities***



A High-Level Panel entitled “Addressing Sexual Violence During Armed Conflict: Challenges in Reintegrating Girls and Girl-Mothers into Communities” convened at UN headquarters in New York on September 28, 2010. The panel was co-organized by the Permanent Mission of Cote d’Ivoire to the United Nations and Global Action to Prevent War. The event was organized in celebration of the 10th anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 recognizing the special role of women in conflict and post-conflict societies.

This event represents another important part of GAPW’s work in women, peace and security. GAPW, along with many colleagues including at the Cote d’Ivoire mission, works to ensure the full and rapid implementation of Security Council Resolutions 1820 and 1325 and advocates for the participation of women in all aspects of peacekeeping, peacemaking, and peace-building. High-level discussions such as this one allow for open conversation on the critical issue of sexual violence and how to best address these challenging circumstances of reintegration.

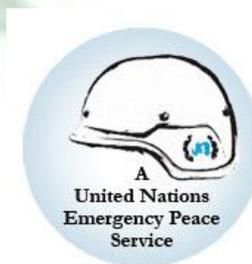
For a full event report, as well as statements from the various speakers on the panel, please consult our website <http://www.globalactionpw.org/?p=2208>.

### ***Civilian Protection Update***

#### ***UNEPS in Context: Third Pillar Capacities and First Pillar Responses***

For two days (December 8-9), a diverse group of diplomats, academics and civil society leaders came together to focus

energy on the tools and capacities needed to fully implement state and international community obligations under the Responsibility to Protect. There was general agreement that the responsibility to address the threat or existence of atrocity crimes in specific national contexts requires more attention to the international community’s ‘toolbox’ – from early warning mechanisms to standing, integrated, rapid-response, peacekeeping capacity – that must be developed in order to give appropriate, practical weight to the norms and values that guide the international system’s commitment to protect civilians from gross violence.



Participants represented diverse agencies, nationalities and issues, all united in a desire to end the threat of atrocity crimes that ravage families and

communities. The tools under review – especially our proposal for a UN Emergency Peace Service (UNEPS) – all require technical sophistication, viable political strategies and abundant trustbuilding with diplomats and the communities where atrocity crimes are most likely to threaten and such response tools are most likely to be deployed.



For a more detailed report of the conference, a list of participants and a program please consult our website <http://www.globalactionpw.org/?p=242> 3.

***Healing the Wounds: A New Report on Genocide Ideology Law from Cardozo Law School and GAPW***

The Program in Holocaust and Human Rights Studies and the Human Rights and Genocide Clinic at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, in association with Global Action to Prevent War, has released a new report, “Healing the Wounds: Speech, Identity and Reconciliation in Rwanda and Beyond.”

The report is based on a 2009 conference at the Cardozo Law School in New York during which a distinguished group of scholars and practitioners examined the ways in which individual and group conceptions of identity are defined and enforced through the intervention of law and, in particular, the 2008 Rwandan “genocide ideology law.”



Following the conference, the strengths and limitations of this legal strategy were examined with implications for policy and practice for both the international community and the governments of states emerging from cycles of violence. A central challenge confronting all societies emerging from genocide, other mass atrocities, or ethnic conflicts is establishing a durable, trusting relationship across ethnic and religious lines. These reports’ policy recommendations to national and international legal communities seek to address this challenge.

For a PDF of the report, see <http://www.globalactionpw.org/?p=2397>.

***Security Council Open Debate on Civilian Protection***

On Monday November 22, the Security Council held an open debate on the protection of civilians during armed conflict. The debate was convened by the President of the Security Council for November, the United Kingdom, on the occasion of the release of the Secretary-General’s most recent report on the

protection of civilians during armed conflict. Speakers included Valerie Amos, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator; Navanethem Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Alain Le Roy; Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations; and Yves Daccord, Director-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross.



Several themes emerged as points of concurrence among the delegations, including the need to address the indiscriminate use of explosive weapons, the deliberate targeting of civilians during conflict, sexual violence

as a tactic of war, the denial of humanitarian access, and the role of international tribunals and commissions of inquiry. A recurring argument was the recognition that states bear the primary responsibility to protect their civilian populations, ensure accountability, and end the culture of impunity.

For more information, please consult <http://www.globalactionpw.org/?p=2332>.

### *Helping to Launch 'Our Humanity in the Balance'*

Global Action recently hosted a discussion with the co-founders of the organization 'Our Humanity in the Balance,' Terry Nickelson and Susan Zelle, regarding options for citizen engagement to stop possible widespread violence stemming from the upcoming referendum on independence for South Sudan along with competing claims on the oil-rich Abyei region of Sudan coming from both the North and the South. Working with a host of partners in civilian protection and peacekeeping, including the Civilian Peace Service of

Canada, Our Humanity in the Balance seeks to provide complementary civilian protection services in trouble spots such as Darfur. OHIB is now exploring options for emergency training and resource acquisition needed to deploy civilian protection volunteers along the border separating South and North as the referendum approaches.

For more information, please consult <http://www.ourhumanityinthebalance.org/index.cfm/do/home.main>.





*Global Action to Prevent War (GAPW) is a transnational network dedicated to practical measures for reducing global levels of conflict and to removing the institutional and ideological impediments to preventing armed violence and severe human rights violations.*

*Our Program Statement grounds the goal of conflict prevention in specific integrated phases over a three to four-decade period and demonstrates in a concrete way how we can move from an international system based on conflict and power relations to one grounded in law and multilateral institutions.*

*We highlight and promote integrated security policies in the international community: advances in early warning, the prevention and resolution of armed conflict, post-conflict peace-building, conventional and nuclear disarmament, the implementation of standing, rapid-response peacekeeping to combat genocide and crimes against humanity, and the full participation of women in all peace policies and processes.*