



Welcome to Global Action's Holiday 2012 Newsletter!



This is our final newsletter for 2012. We have enjoyed sharing our many projects and activities with you and remain grateful for the support that makes all of it possible. But even more, we have appreciated the opportunity that we have been given to access and impact global governance, to give it a bit more competent and human

face, to help identify and solve problems in areas from disarmament to women's participation. We also realize that more skills and capacities from civil society in all global regions are needed to address these issues.

This has not been an easy year for us, or for many of the governments with whom we interact, and certainly not for the many people whose quality of life has been threatened by job loss, or environmental decay, or even mass violence. As the pages that follow demonstrate clearly, we have thrived at many levels despite a challenging funding climate and a host of new responsibilities, often initiated by GAPW, which we address with governments, diplomatic missions, local NGOs and other stakeholders.

There is much more for us to do, and there are more and more individuals and organizations worldwide who want to see us here to help them do it. Somehow, we were able to accomplish things that we were never able to do before – including the launch of a new initiative to examine the fault lines that prevent the UN media community from fulfilling its responsibility to an informed global public. Our task remains to help the UN system function more effectively.

Several of our important partners survived difficult and even life-threatening illnesses in this past year. But one who did not survive is Miriam Wallach, a highly respected patron of the arts and our largest funder. Whether or not we can survive her

loss remains to be seen. What is not at issue is that her loyal support of the Ira Wallach Fund for the Eradication of Genocide at GAPW has allowed us to build a trustworthy and competent resource to assist in the struggle against mass atrocity violence. Ira's legacy in this critical area of human security is now Miriam's as well.

In many of the religious traditions with which we interact, this is a season defined by hope and light. May it be so again for each of us. Many have endured painful loss, high levels of frustration and threats of scarcity this year. But hope and illumination endure, keeping us fully active and engaged in struggles where we have the opportunity to make lasting change. In 2013, let's pledge to endure together. It's likely the only way we can endure successfully.

--The Global Action Team

We invite you to stay-up-to-date through our [website](#), [blog](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#)!

Media Initiative Update

**Convening the Second Session of Media Meetings with UN Correspondents
November 19, 2012**

matching:points
UN MEDIA INITIATIVE

Within the framework of Global Action's Media Initiative, we held the second meeting in a series of gatherings dedicated to the work of UN Correspondents in cooperation with UN departments. This session featured journalists who were discussing the coverage of disarmament issues with Randy Rydell, Senior Political Affairs Officer in the Office of the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and Ewen Buchanan, Information Officer in the Information and Outreach Branch of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).

As UN resolutions are often abstract and difficult to cover in the mainstream press, both journalists and UN staff have an interest in the communication of UN committee resolutions in a more practical and applicable manner. The discussion aimed to explore how such resolutions might be made more attractive and accessible for journalists and their respective editors to report on by providing concrete example cases of the impacts of resolutions in press releases to give the story a humanitarian angle, create a narrative, and, as a result, to be more appealing to the respective editor and/or outlet.

The cause of disarmament is an ongoing issue that ideally is in need of regular if not permanent attention, but often only receives coverage when there is the "hot country syndrome" or actual conflict occurs. Disarmament, as many other matters the UN is addressing, relies on "political will" and an enlightened public

and civil society that not only fully understands the need for disarmament, but actively contributes to the cause.

For a full report from the meeting, including important takeaway themes, please click [here](#).

For more information on *matching:points*, please be in touch with Lia Petridis Maiello, lia@globalactionpw.org

Women, Peace and Security Update

Since the last newsletter in June 2012, Global Action's Women Peace and Security (WPS) program has been moving forward with building the links between disarmament and protection of civilians. We continue strengthening the links between the illicit flow of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and violence against women by monitoring and reporting on the gender discussions in the UN Programme of Action on small arms (UNPoA) and continually updating our policy brief on *Gender and Disarmament: Making Important Linkages on the ATT and UNPoA*. With regards to our work on strengthening the gender and mass atrocity prevention links, we participated in a panel discussion at Cardozo Law School on *Women as Agents of Change: The Integral Role of Women in Violence and Mass Atrocity Prevention*, as part of Cardozo's Program in Holocaust & Human Rights Studies Lunchtime Lecture Series.

GAPW Hosts International Seminar on Justice and Security for Women in Guatemala November 29-30, 2012



On November 29-30 2012, the Global Action team co-hosted a two-day *International Seminar on Security and Justice for Women* in Guatemala City, along with our partners at Union Nacional de Mujeres Guatemaltecas (UNAMG) and UN Women.

The purpose of the seminar was to evaluate some of the structural and political challenges associated with security and justice for women in Guatemala, especially as it pertains to indigenous women. The seminar brought together women's civil society organizations, state officials, as well as members of various indigenous communities. Discussions over the two days focused on femicide, ending impunity, the impact of small arms and light weapons on violence against women, and the international legal framework that is in

place for promoting security and justice for women.

The intent of the organizers was to generate recommendations from each of the four seminar panels that could then be used to influence the discussions at the next session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March 2013; the Commission will be discussing the *Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women and Girls*.

The event was particularly timely as it coincided with the UN Security Council Open Debate on Women Peace and Security, which was rescheduled for 30 November at UN Headquarters in New York. In addition, it was also interesting to engage in discussions on the advancement of women's rights in a country which currently sits on the Security Council. Finally, the event reinforced the gap that exists between the international political dynamics around Women, Peace and Security and the practical necessities that are needed to advance women's rights in local communities.

GAPW will be generating a full report of the seminar, including the recommendations that were extracted, which will be publicly available. In the meantime, for further information, please contact Melina Lito, melina@globalactionpw.org

**GAPW Attends Folke Bernadotte
Workshop on UNSCR 1325
October 23, 2012**

While our focus at Global Action tends to be more policy-oriented, working with relevant stakeholders to influence policies at the UN, Global Action also engages in significant academic work by contributing chapters to books or collaborating with partners to author books on various relevant topics. GAPW recently participated in a Security Council Resolution 1325 Research Group, put together by the Folke Bernadotte Academy. A Swedish governmental agency, the Folke Bernadotte Academy focuses on the effectiveness of international peace interventions, working primarily with conflict prevention, rebuilding, and research and development.



Partnering with Emory University, the Research Group met on 22-23 October in Atlanta, Georgia to discuss

research projects taking place to advance the mandate of Security Council Resolution 1325. The main theme of this annual workshop revolves around "Why do some states voluntarily comply with, and even actively forward, UN Security Council resolution 1325 while others do not."

Sexual violence in conflict, sexual exploitation from peacekeepers, the National Action Plan in Liberia, and

gendering security institutions were just some of the topics that were discussed at the workshop. The group also engaged in an interesting discussion on the relationship between academia and policy and areas for more collaboration. GAPW also participated in the workshop by presenting on the current status of Security Council Resolution 1325 at the UN Headquarters, the preparations for the Open Debate on 29 October 2012, and the political climate surrounding the implementation of the Resolution. The group also engaged in a discussion on the recent Security Council elections and their likely effect on the Women Peace and Security agenda, UN reform and implementation of national action plans.

For more information about this workshop, please click [here](#).

For more information about the Folke Bernadotte Academy, please click [here](#).

**"Breaking Barriers: Achieving
Peace, Security, and Justice"
September 22, 2012**

In its fifth International Working Conference, the Joan B. Kroc Institute of Peace and Justice hosted a two-day event on 26 September entitled "Breaking Barriers: What will it take to achieve Security, Justice and Peace." This year's conference was unique in that the University of San Diego was also celebrating its tenth anniversary of its "Women PeaceMakers Program." The conference was co-convened by the NGO

Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, the Nobel Women's Initiative, UN Women, Women's Initiative for Gender Justice, Women's Learning Partnership, and World Pulse.



The conference provided an opportunity for experts and "Women Peacemakers" to engage in discussions on how to ensure that institutions

work for women, how to improve protection strategies targeting women, how to better define transitional justice means for women's rights, and to identify factors for addressing extremism and radicalization.

GAPW's Melina Lito also participated in the conference by facilitating a workshop on integrating women's perspectives into the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) framework. The workshop highlighted the need for women's active participation in the design and implementation of prevention and protection strategies. The workshop also encouraged more discussions and analysis to ensure that R2P is invoked in situations when instances of conflict-related sexual violence amount to mass atrocity crimes.

Participants in the workshop engaged in a well-rounded discussion on implementation of the norm, in particular on detecting and addressing the root causes of conflict, including economic and social factors, at

an early stage in order to prevent situations of tension and violence from escalating. In addition, the group also addressed the need to ensure that international assistance reaches places of need.

Overall, the workshop provided an opportunity for experts and "Women Peacemakers" from Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Bosnia, Kosovo and other regions to share some of the barriers they face in trying to create a strong security sector within their own communities.

For more information on the Breaking Barriers conference, including the agenda, the speakers and the "Women PeaceMakers," click [here](#).

Using Digital Media and Social Technology to Combat Violence against Women September 20, 2012



On 20 September 2012, Global Action co-hosted an intimate dialogue with World Pulse, an action media network,

entitled Voices for Change: Using digital media and technology to combat violence against women. World Pulse seeks to lift and unite women's voices to accelerate their impact for the world. Through their growing web-based platform, women are

speaking out and connecting to create solutions from the frontlines of today's most pressing issues.

The event featured the stories of three powerful grassroots leaders from the Democratic Republic of Congo, India and Syria who discussed how they used digital technology to address some of the security challenges facing their communities. Neema Namadamu discussed her vision of a new DRC and a new Africa based on peace, access to technology and education. From Syria, Hummingbird shared her story of being displaced from Syria amidst the escalating violence and emphasized the importance of freedom and dignity. Finally, from India, Stella Paul shared her story of helping her female peers use mobile phone technology to gain access to the support and services they need to feel secure in their communities.



Through participation of representatives from UN agencies and policymaking NGOs, the intent of the event was to consider how

new digital media and technology can be used as a tool for early warning mechanisms to detect and deal with situations of tension before they escalate into a crisis, especially since social media tools can play a critical role in sharing time

sensitive information instantly and worldwide.

Global Action extends sincere thanks to World Pulse for the opportunity to feature these powerful female voices. Whether it is armed violence, mass atrocity crimes or gender-based violence, emphasis on early warning in detecting instances of conflict is imperative. The use of digital media and technology to inform policymakers can be an important tool to trace and follow instances of abuse, violence and tension. With that in mind, we welcome follow-up discussions on how we can strengthen the use of media technology and how women can contribute meaningfully to this information sharing.

More information on World Pulse and the correspondents can be found [here](#).

CEDAW Committee Meets in New York July 27, 2012



Running parallel to the arms trade treaty (ATT) negotiations in July, the 52nd session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) was held in New York. As established by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (hereafter 'Convention'), the Committee is the working body of the Convention and monitors its implementation. It is composed of 23 international experts who are elected from states parties and serve in their personal capacities. The Committee is mandated to formulate general recommendations to states parties regarding articles or themes of the Convention, to receive communications about instances when the Convention has been violated, and to initiate inquiries in instances where violations of women's rights exist.

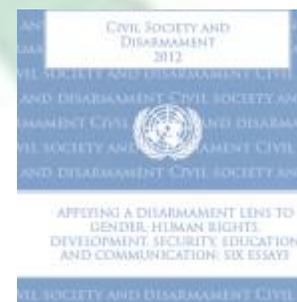
The session started with a public event focusing on "Women's Participation and Leadership" celebrating the Committee's 30th anniversary featuring statements by Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN Women, and Silvia Pimentel, Chair of the Committee. During its three-week session, the Committee reviewed the reports of the Bahamas, Bulgaria, Guyana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Mexico, New Zealand and Samoa. Overall, the Committee discussed with states parties their obligations under the Convention, the status of the Convention domestically, efforts to ensure gender equality, temporary special measures, access to education, employment and the influence of stereotypes.

In moving forward, the Committee has issued concluding observations from this session focusing on the most pressing issues for the states parties to address. With the 52nd session now complete, attention has shifted to the 53rd session to be held 1-19 October in Geneva, with Central African Republic, Chile, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Serbia, Togo and Turkmenistan under review.

GAPW monitored and reported on the reviews of these states parties; the individual country summaries can be found on our [blog](#).

Disarmament Update

New Disarmament Publications Launched November 2012



This fall, a new UNODA Publication entitled "Civil Society and Disarmament 2012 - Applying a Disarmament Lens to Gender, Human Rights, Development, Security, Education and Communication: Six Essays" was launched. The publication was edited by Global Action and features six essays on disarmament topics by civil

society actors, including Katherine Prizeman and Robert Zuber.

The essays are:

- Merging Disarmament and Development Priorities
- Minimizing the impact of illicit small arms and diverted weapons transfers in the commission of atrocity crimes, human rights violations and other violence
- The Role of Non-Nuclear Weapon States to Advance the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons
- Incorporating a Women, Peace and Security Lens into Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Programmes and Priorities
- Encouraging Government Efforts to Increase Participation of Women in Disarmament Policy, Education and Advocacy
- New Communication Tools in Disarmament Education: Using social media and technologies to enhance cross-cultural movement building

The downloadable PDF is available [here](#).



a topical feature. For the July/September edition, Global Action's Katherine Prizeman was pleased to contribute a

feature article on the future of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) negotiations.

For access to the full BICC newsletter, please click [here](#).

Exploring Disarmament and Security Frameworks in Europe November 2012

Global Action was pleased to participate in multiple security-related meetings with European colleagues in both Brussels and Geneva this fall. Global Action co-organized a workshop with our Brussels-based partners the Global Governance Institute (GGI), Vesalius College, and the Institute for European Studies on the arms trade treaty (ATT) process and ways ahead following the failed July Diplomatic Conference and the recently adopted resolution at this year's session of the General Assembly First Committee setting a second Conference to adopt an ATT in March 2013. Participants engaged in a robust discussion of where the ATT negotiations are currently as well as recommendations for moving the process forward and, hopefully, to a successful conclusion in early 2013. The aim of this workshop was to bring together EU Parliamentarians, EU member state diplomats and other interested stakeholders in policy and academia working on disarmament and arms control issues to facilitate a frank and open discussion on strategies for moving the ATT process forward both in terms of approach and political will.

Global Action was also present at the UN Office in Geneva for some of the annual Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) sessions. This year, the CCW High Contracting Parties (HCPs) convened for the 6th Conference on Protocol V on ERWs, the 14th Conference on Amended Protocol II, and a two-day Meeting of States Parties (MSP). In particular, the two-day session assessing implementation of Protocol V was a refreshingly practical and beneficial exchange among HCPs as well as civil society experts who are working directly on mine action activities.



Many lessons can be drawn from the work on Protocol V of the CCW, namely the central role of victim assistance, the strong emphasis placed on national reporting and corresponding national template, and the robust and regular exchange of information and best practices in an issue-specific format. With many other related processes underway in the disarmament and human rights fields, including the ongoing arms trade treaty (ATT) process as well as the Programme of Action on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (SALWs), the hope is that these practices based on

the values of transparency and accountability will carry over to these parallel processes. Such core principles must be an inherent part of any successful arms control, disarmament, or humanitarian instrument seeking to make a concrete difference on the ground.

For more information on GGI, please click [here](#).

For access to the background paper for the participants attending the ATT workshop, please click [here](#).

For access to the full ATT workshop program, please click [here](#).

For a full report on the CCW Protocol V sessions at UN Geneva, please click [here](#).

UNPoA on Small Arms Review Conference Concludes with Consensus August-September 2012

After the President of the second Review Conference for the Programme of Action on small arms (UNPoA), Ambassador Ogwu of Nigeria, provided a third revision of the draft outcome document, delegations were able to adopt, by consensus, the compilation document.

This document is composed of a Declaration, two implementation plans for the UNPoA and International Tracing Instrument (ITI), respectively, and a follow-up mechanism detailing a future schedule

of meetings to guide the small arms process.



As expressed by the President in her closing remarks to the Conference, the successful completion of the RevCon with a consensus outcome is a welcome achievement in helping to create positive momentum in the multilateral disarmament fora. As the representative of Algeria noted, this RevCon “achieved success where the ATT [arms trade treaty] couldn’t.” Likewise, the fact that member states were able to constructively engage and adopt a consensus document indeed represents a positive reaffirmation of the importance of the UNPoA framework to international peace and security and, more specifically, combating the scourge of illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (SALWs). Undoubtedly, the UNPoA remains the only global framework of practical measures for combating illicit trade in SALWs and its dire humanitarian consequences.

GAPW, along with its partner Reaching Critical Will, provided a daily monitor of reporting and analysis in the *Small Arms Monitor*. For these more in-depth reports, please click [here](#).

Arms Trade Treaty Negotiations Conclude Without Consensus July 2012

As the mandate for the arms trade treaty (ATT) Diplomatic Conference expired at the end of July, delegates and civil society alike were disappointed at the failure to adopt a treaty after four weeks of negotiations and, perhaps more importantly, the inability to address the lack of internationally-adopted common standards for the unregulated trade in conventional arms. The President’s [draft treaty text](#) was adopted as an annex to the Report of the Conference. While many delegations expressed regret over the lack of a consensus document, there was general agreement that the process is not over. In a statement to the plenary delivered by Mexico, [a group of 90 countries](#) expressed the desire to “finalize our work” to achieve “a strong and robust Treaty.” Negotiations are now set to commence in March 2013 for a “final” ATT Conference.

GAPW was pleased to have had the opportunity to support the negotiations with consistent and in-depth policy analysis.

For more analysis from Dr. Robert Zuber on the conclusion of the negotiations, please click [here](#).

For more final analysis from Katherine Prizeman, please click [here](#).

GAPW, along with several partners including Reaching Critical Will, provided daily monitoring and analysis for delegates to the ATT Conference. All previous *ATT Monitor* editions can be found [here](#).

One of our excellent summer staff members, Maj Rørdam Nielsen, contributed a [blog post](#) for Amnesty International-Denmark on the ATT process. Her reporting and reflections on the ATT were also [published](#) in a local newspaper *Politiken*.

Dr. Robert Zuber was also interviewed for and quoted in an [article](#) from journalist Alex Zaitchik entitled “Inside The UN Arms Trade Treaty Talks: The “global gun grab” that isn’t” for *Media Matters for America*.

Civilian Protection Update

Civil Society Hearing on Treaty Body Strengthening September 4, 2012

A hearing between civil society and member states finally took place on Tuesday 4 September on strengthening the work of treaty bodies. The hearing, lasting only for one morning session, was rescheduled from the July 2012 meeting. In July, member states held a two-day informal dialogue where they focused their discussion on the comprehensive calendar, working methods of the treaty bodies,

individual communication procedures, participation of stakeholders and the risk of reprisals, and protecting the independence of treaty body members, including efforts to impose codes of conduct. The civil society hearing was scheduled a week after these informal dialogues, but was postponed to 4 September. The Ambassadors of Iceland and Indonesia, who are serving as co-facilitators of this review process, presided over the hearing.

These civil society hearings were another step in the right direction, but we still have some way to go to have our full impact on a range of critical issues. Perhaps future consultations could focus on a particular theme or specific element of the broader strengthening agenda in order to help NGOs impact the reform process in the most helpful way. To strengthen a body as complex, important, and sensitive as a treaty body is a formidable task but it can be achieved only through continuous consultations with all relevant stakeholders- member states, inter-government organizations, civil society experts, UN-based NGOs, and others.

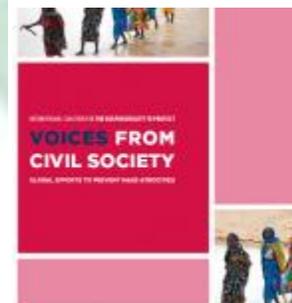
For a full summary of the hearing, please click [here](#).

Voices from Civil Society: New Resources from the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect September 20, 2012

One of the major responsibilities of UN-based NGOs and others is to grow the

movements that we purport to represent and to ensure that the widest range of stakeholders has a clear role to play in preventing mass atrocities.

With a new resource featuring the work of diverse NGOs, including GAPW, the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) has made another statement about the need to diversify the voices, skills and impacts of persons and organizations worldwide concerned with the threat of mass atrocity crimes. Global Action was pleased to be included in the resource, but full credit needs to go to global partners, some of whom were originally suggested to us by the ICRtoP, who are bringing robust regional lenses to a responsibility that has many facets, but that too often is assumed to be the distinct province of diplomats at the UN and in major global capitals.



If it is to be successful, mass atrocity prevention cannot be the unique jurisdiction of the Security Council and a select group of political and technical experts. Resources like this from the ICRtoP remind us all that the circle of concern is growing and that we have a primary responsibility to push the

circumference out as far as we can, and embrace all of the skills and capacities that we need to finally end the scourge of mass atrocities.

For access to the resource, click [here](#).

R2P Open Debate in the General Assembly September 5, 2012

On 5 September, the General Assembly sponsored its third debate on the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP) norm, this time focusing attention on responses under the norm's so-called 'third pillar.' As many of you know, the 'third pillar' includes but is not at all limited to the most coercive forms of response in cases where mass atrocities threaten.

As reported by Naomi Kikoler of the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, 58 states participated in this year's debate, a new high. Moreover, the debate featured helpful remarks by the recently appointed Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Adama Dieng of Senegal.

The debate and the report by the Secretary General that provided its basis were unfortunately delayed over the summer due to a variety of factors. Moreover, as is often the case at the UN, 'debates' of this sort are occasions to raise concerns or offer support rather than commit to the

development of new tools and capacities that are needed (in our view) to enhance UN functionality and fairness on RtoP.

Based in part on results from a multi-day, 'third pillar' event that GAPW co-organized at UN Headquarters in June, we offered several recommendations germane to the SG's report, the SG's debate speech, and even to the process of hiring new leadership in the Joint Office on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect. In association with the International Coalition on RtoP and other partners, we also participated in an online discussion chronicling the effect on RtoP of the Brazilian Initiative "Responsibility while Protecting" which has important implications for how we judge the values that guide our response to mass atrocities, not only the values that prompt our response in the first place.



Regarding the SG's Report and subsequent speech, we highlighted several important, positive features such as the 'merging of preventive and reactive functions,' the SG's commitment to use his 'good offices' to mandate non-coercive responses to threats of mass atrocities , and the highlighting of potential roles for non-state actors, especially with respect to prevention and in post-conflict settings.

For a complete analysis of the debate, please click [here](#).

For access to the SG's report, please click [here](#).

For the remarks from the Special Representative on Genocide Prevention, please Click [here](#).

For a feature blog from the ICRtoP and various contributors on the "Responsibility while Protecting," please click [here](#).

For the full report from our co-sponsored June 2012 conference on "Implementing the Third Pillar," please click [here](#).



Global Action to Prevent War (GAPW) was developed as a UN-based, transnational network of civil society, academic and diplomatic partners dedicated to practical measures for reducing levels of global conflict and to removing institutional and ideological impediments to addressing armed violence, mass atrocities and severe human rights violations at the earliest possible stages.

The GAPW Program Statement grounds its goals of conflict prevention in specific, integrated phases of policy work and pursues program priorities that demonstrate in a concrete way how we can move from an international system based on conflict and power relations to one grounded in law and robust multi-lateral institutions. Over the past decade, we have refined and promoted a comprehensive framework for human security that moves us towards a gradual, but irreversible, global demilitarization.

We continually highlight and integrate advances in early warning, conflict prevention, non-violent conflict resolution, peacekeeping and peacemaking, transparency and other confidence-building measures, nuclear and conventional disarmament, and the implementation of legal, diplomatic and other complementary response capacities to address genocide, crimes against humanity, rape as an instrument of war, and other gross violations of human rights. We collaborate with many regional civil society, religious and academic groups to implement and assess tools and strategies to promote local cultures conducive to more peaceful, sustainable living.