



Welcome to Global Action's Spring 2012 Newsletter!

The start of 2012 has seen a flurry of activity for Global Action. From extensive travel to Latin America and networking through the Commission on the Status of Women to continued strides in our media program, we have been able to accomplish a lot in just the first few months of the year. We are excited about opportunities to impact global policy that lie before us in all our programs—disarmament, UN media, civilian protection/genocide prevention, and Women, Peace and Security.

We have also had the pleasure and benefit of serving as a center for visiting scholars over the past few months. Ruben Reike, Claudia Hippel, Raoul Muller, and Lucie Lecarpentier have all spent time at Global Action conducting research in their respective fields, predominantly on the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP) but through varying lenses and approaches. With our crucial location and access, we've been able to provide an environment conducive to critical researchers such as

this group to improve the discourse and understanding of issues such as the RtoP norm.

Other highlights from the past few months include participation in a conference in Mexico City of the Agency of the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin American and the Caribbean (OPANAL) assessing the experience of this region regarding nuclear weapon-free zones with an eye towards how this process in the Middle East can be impacted. Global Action was also able to convene a workshop of local Mexican civil society organizations to discuss new trends in disarmament based on a forthcoming volume of essays to be published in cooperation with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs. Also in the region, Global Action participated in a February workshop on RtoP sponsored by the World Federation of UN Associations in Caracas, Venezuela.

The gender program continues to flourish as well under the leadership of Melina Lito. We organized a successful panel discussion on integration of a gender perspective into the 'third pillar' of RtoP featuring two women Libyan activists. This issue continues to be a focus of our gender work as we look to convene future meetings with key stakeholders on the necessity of including women in all aspects of RtoP policy, specifically on prevention and 'third pillar' response tools.

The remainder of 2012 will be full of exciting and diverse activities in all our

programs—additional regionally-based disarmament workshops on key linkages, monitoring of the Arms Trade, NPT, and small arms processes, completion of a Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration handbook, and civilian protection briefings in Brussels and Abuja. We continue to rely on your generous forms of support in all our work and look forward to sharing future updates.

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

-Bob, Katherine, Melina, and Lia

Media Initiative Update

GAPW acknowledges a number of obstacles that lead to sometimes insufficient reporting on UN-related matters. Although the coverage of the UN seems too often "scandal driven," journalists are also often confronted with a rather rigid information policy on behalf of UN representatives. Through a combination of workshops and events, GAPW seeks to both revitalize old relations as well as establish new ones between media, both based at the UN headquarters as well as those based throughout New York City, and UN staff at headquarters in order to diffuse sometimes deeply manifested suspicions from both parties and thereby improve working standards. GAPW envisions the workshops to serve as a forum for dialogue between journalists who cover the UN and its related areas of interests as well as UN staff from various

departments who would have the opportunity to explain the details of their work and advise as to who the respective contact person would be in order to guarantee a balanced and professional information flow.

The initial meeting in November 2011 Global Action organized together with a number of international media representatives invited reflections on the obstacles journalists have to overcome while covering the United Nations. During the second meeting in February 2012, relations between the missions to the United Nations and UN media correspondents were explored with a roundtable of press representatives from various missions.

Global Action staff and the missions press representatives sought out more efficient ways to communicate events that are happening at the respective missions thereby better communicating the vast issues covered at the UN by all its stakeholders. Mission representatives underscored their challenges when trying to communicate their mission messages, in particular the perception that the five permanent members to the UN Security Council are enjoying more media attention than smaller countries. While looking at solutions to the imbalance in news reporting, we discussed the importance and impact that social media is enjoying in spreading more timely and direct messages to the public. As a result, Global Action is looking into providing social media training to missions and UN staffers

alike and is scheduled to host another meeting of mission representatives in the coming months.

Women, Peace and Security Update

The Commission on the Status of Women: Focusing on Rural Women March 7, 2012

February 28th marked the opening of the 56th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), organized for the first time in conjunction with UN-Women. Madame Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN-Women, offered remarks to the Commission chaired this year by Ambassador Marjon Kamara of Liberia. In addition to the theme of this year's CSW on the situation of rural women, Madame Bachelet drew particular attention to the assistance needed for Palestinian women as well as women and children kidnapped and subsequently imprisoned in armed conflict. Madame Bachelet called for adoption of concrete actions for empowering rural women, women who represent one out of every four people in the world, over the next two weeks of the CSW. As aptly noted by many of the speakers in the opening session, empowering women is not only good for women, but it is good for peace and, therefore, for humanity.

(More analysis can be found on our [blog](#)).



Global Action also hosted a Networking Reception on March 7th to celebrate the close of the two-week CSW session. The event featured Ms. Selamawit Tesfaye, Advocacy Officer and Consultant for the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders ([GNWP](#)), and Global Action's Director Robert Zuber. Ms. Tesfaye focused her comments on the priority needs of rural women, while Dr. Zuber highlighted the link between women's participation and overall societal wellbeing as well as the gaps that remain in ensuring a suitable security sector for women to adequately participate.

The takeaways from the event, however, were not limited only to priorities for women's empowerment as there was also a roundtable of comments from the audience that yielded recommendations on the structure of the CSW system itself for future sessions. Lack of accessibility was one of the most important points of the night- accessibility for those trying to make

it to New York in the context of visas and immigration and also for those attempting to obtain UN passes and access to meetings. Nonetheless, the issue of accessibility also includes giving voices to diverse women within the CSW session itself by being part of a system that is designed to target their needs. In the months to come, as the next year's theme on 'Elimination and Prevention of All Forms of Violence Against Women and Girls' takes shape from the election of the Chair to the formation of the agenda, more needs to be done to ensure that the CSW offers the appropriate avenues to ensure that diverse women's voices are heard in addressing needs and challenges on the domestic and regional level.

For Ms. Tesfaye's comments, please click [here](#).
For Dr. Zuber's comments, please click [here](#).



Women as Solutions to and Victims of the Threat of Mass Atrocities and the Security Council Open Debate on Sexual Violence in Conflict February 20, 2012

On February 21, a group of 35 scholars and activists gathered at the UN for a GAPW-sponsored event on Integrating Gender Perspectives into the Third Pillar of the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP). The event featured Naomi Kikoler, Director of Policy and Advocacy for the Global Center on the Responsibility to Protect and Maria Butler, Director of the PeaceWomen Project of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. We were also joined by two extraordinary Libyan women who spoke eloquently about the time of suffering in their country and offered insights into evolving roles of women in Libya and why the UN authorized response in their country was needed.

Under the able guidance of Melina Lito and with the cooperation of many women leaders in peace and security at the United Nations, we have prepared a draft Background Concept Note on gender and RtoP that will be used at workshops in Caracas, Brussels, Beirut and other settings where policymakers are helping us prepare delegations for this summer's General Assembly debate on the "Third Pillar" of RtoP. The hope is that the GA debate will spark more lively interest in the UN's preventive and reactive toolkit on RtoP. We also hope that the debate will motivate more intense discussion of how

the skills and capacities of women can be made fully available to prevent deadly conflict, protect civilians in imminent danger of mass atrocity crimes, and heal the wounds of violence.



The same week also saw a Security Council open debate on conflict-related sexual violence featuring briefings from Special Representative to the Secretary-General on the issue, Ms. Margot Wallstrom. Also addressing the Council was one of the extraordinary Libyan activists, Ms. Amina Megheirbi, representing the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security. Ms. Wallstrom classified the issue of conflict-related sexual violence as not a women's issue, but a security issue with much wider peace and security implications than particular instances of rape. This point is particularly important for Global Action as we strive to link such issues to other components of the broader human security agenda. Not only can rape serve as a precursor to conflict, a diagnostic of pre-

conflict conditions, and a symptom of impunity, it is also evidence of a weak and insufficient security sector. As is often said by proponents of the women, peace and security agenda, there is no security without women's security and the aim is not only to protect women from violence, but to also encourage their active participation in political and economic life. A robust sector will indubitably support such participation as well as enhance protection mechanisms needed to eliminate such sexual violence in and out of conflict.



For more information on this event as well as the Security Council Open Debate on Sexual violence, please click [here](#)

For access to the draft Concept Note on gender and R2P, click [here](#).

For a blog post with further analysis on the open debate, please click [here](#).

For access to SRSRG Wallstrom's statement to the Security Council, please click [here](#).

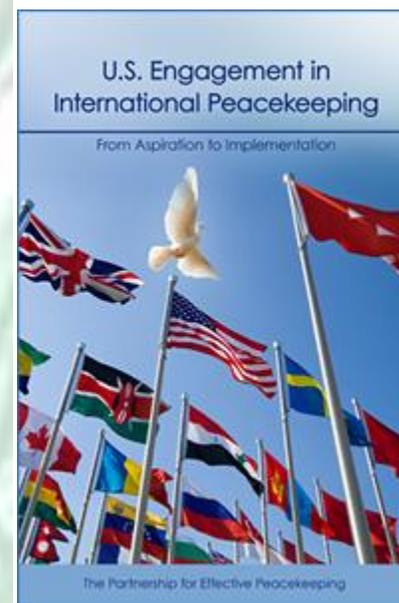
For the NGOWG statement to the Council, please click [here](#).

For the Presidential Statement from the debate, please click [here](#).

US Engagement in UN Peacekeeping: The Role of Women December 15, 2011

One of Global Action's institutional partners, Citizens for Global Solutions based in Washington, DC, recently published a series of papers on US engagement in UN peacekeeping. In 2009, the Obama Administration signaled that the United States would increase its participation in international peacekeeping missions and identified key goals to accomplish this mission. In 2011, these aspirations have yet to be implemented. "Women in International Peacekeeping" is an excerpt from the Partnership for Effective Peacekeeping's report, "U.S. Engagement in International Peacekeeping: From Aspiration to Implementation" that examines the importance of achieving greater gender balance in peacekeeping operations and recommends steps that the United States can take to increase the number of women in peacekeeping and in leadership roles in peacekeeping operations. The full report additionally examines U.S. Funding of Peacekeeping, Training and Equipping Peacekeepers, and Standing Civilian and Police Capacity and provides

recommendations for Congress and the Administration to increase engagement in these areas.



For the full excerpt on "Women in International Peacekeeping," please click [here](#).

Disarmament Update

New Publication: "From Preparations to Negotiations for an Arms Trade Treaty" March 15, 2012

Recently published in the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) 'International Policy

Analysis' series, "From Preparations to Negotiations for an Arms Trade Treaty" is a policy analysis paper detailing the various facets of the evolving process of the ATT from its inception in the original General Assembly resolution from 2006 through the upcoming July 2012 UN negotiating conference.

Global Action's International Coordinator, Katherine Prizeman, lays forth the primary issue areas to be negotiated and the main summary positions of the regional blocs and main actors as well as the political context within which the treaty will have to be negotiated this summer. Perhaps most importantly, she offers a series of recommendations that offer the best prospects for formal adoption of an effective and robust ATT in the long term.



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

Latin America and Disarmament Culture: Quito, Ecuador, and Mexico City, Mexico December-February 2012

As we note often, this is a particularly challenging and interesting time for disarmament policy advocates. The UN Programme of Action on Small Arms is now in its tenth year, and we are co-producing events with governments in capital and at the UN to help stimulate thoughtful activity towards ending the threat of illicit small arms. The Arms Trade Treaty process is nearing the beginning of formal negotiations and we are part of the monitoring team that helps diplomats make the most informed and far-sighted decisions. Later this year, the NPT review will take up the challenge of the Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone, a process which we also have opportunity to impact through monitoring and strategic conversations with officials of existing zones.

For Global Action, this cycle began in early December with a remarkable event hosted by the Ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs of Ecuador with the cooperation of the UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLiREC) in Lima and the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs in New York. More recently in February we were invited to participate in a

major celebratory and assessment event in Mexico City hosted by El Organismo para la Proscripción de las Armas Nucleares en la América Latina y el Caribe (OPANAL).

The day after OPANAL, a workshop was held for Mexican NGOs on 'new disarmament priorities,' hosted by Lucatello Simone of the Mora Institute in Mexico City and co-organized by Hector Guerra of IANSA and Katherine Prizeman of GAPW. The seminar not only represented the first efforts on disarmament by the esteemed Mora Institute, but also represented the first time that GAPW has been able to test some of the ideas contained in a volume that we are editing for the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs – focused on the relationship of disarmament education to gender, development, the prevention of mass atrocities and military spending.



For a full report on disarmament activities in Latin America, please click [here](#).

For the Introduction to the forthcoming Quito report, click [here](#).

For the Quito program, click [here](#).

For the OPANAL anniversary celebration and seminar program, click [here](#).

For the Mora Institute program, click [here](#). For information on the recently concluded Arms Trade Treaty Prep Com, including commentary by Katherine Prizeman and Robert Zuber, click [here](#).



Promoting a Robust Human Security Agenda at UPEACE, Costa Rica December 8, 2011

On the way to Quito for a conference co-organized with the Government of Ecuador on combating the illicit trade in small arms (a report from this conference is forthcoming), Global Action's Katherine

Prizeman was honored to participate in a lunch-time lecture series with students at the UN-mandated University for Peace in Costa Rica. UPEACE provides the international community with an institution of higher learning focused on all aspects of the peace and security objectives of the United Nations through education, training, and research.

Katherine offered a seminar entitled, "Promoting a robust human security agenda: highlighting links between gender, disarmament, and the arms trade." As 2012 will be a critical year for many processes on the disarmament agenda, including the ATT negotiating conference, a Review Conference on progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action on small arms (PoA), and a conference to begin work on a Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone (WMDFZ), the seminar at UPEACE was a timely discussion with diverse students poised to take their places as peace practitioners in the world.

The linkages addressed in the seminar underscored how porous the concept of human security is as well as how security concerns are essentially indivisible from one another— from women's participation in disarmament policy to the role of illicit weapons in the perpetration of atrocity crimes. In the context of the ATT and PoA processes, Katherine discussed the need to increase the links between disarmament processes and gender in order to better address these issues in a more comprehensive and multifaceted manner.

Global Action looks forward to many more collaborations with UPEACE and will continue to highlight its important role in peace education for the whole of the international community.



For Katherine's presentation, please click [here](#).

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

Civilian Protection Update

Assessing RtoP in Caracas, Venezuela with WFUNA February 29, 2012

We have long contended that the task for diplomats and those groups seeking to partner effectively with them is to invest considerable energies listening to and exploring remedies for state concerns

regarding a wide range of sometimes controversial security issues.

In the case of the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP) norm the tendency for advocates is to divide states into those who support the norm and those who are opposed. It seems to us more prudent to accept that much of the support for and criticism of the RtoP norm is relative. Some governments see the norm as inspirational for a wide ranging application of UN and other international resources to address the threat of mass atrocities. Others see the UN system as significantly flawed, run primarily by large states that refuse to apply the necessary levels of assessment and transparency to help build confidence in the wisdom and efficacy of their decisions.



Recently, Global Action was pleased once again to join the World Federation of UN Associations (WFUNA) in their efforts to engage local UN Associations and civil society on RtoP while discussing core objections of some of the more wary governments on RtoP. This time, the workshop was in Caracas and attracted an inquisitive and largely enthusiastic group of 60 NGOs, journalists and government officials who seemed to find the norm compelling despite the Venezuelan government's largely critical (though evolving) reaction to RtoP. The workshop was led by a capable blend of local and international resource persons who helped participants both understand the norm and explore local options for response. As with other WFUNA events, including in Kenya

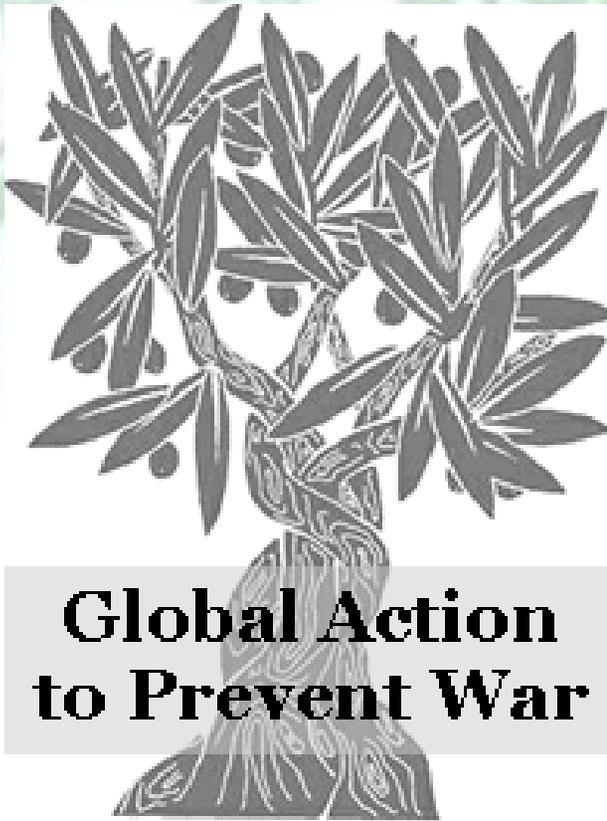
where we were also privileged to participate, an important thematic contribution is tying protection of civilians and prevention of atrocity crimes to the distinguished legacy of Dag Hammarskjold, former UN Secretary General and a pivotal figure in the UN's ongoing struggle to build capacity sufficient to meet the diverse and growing expectations that global citizens have of UN security activities, policies and agencies.



For a full report on the event as well as Dr. Zuber's remarks from the workshop, please click [here](#).

More information on any of our programs can be found on our [website](#).

Thank you for your continued support!





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.