



Welcome to Global Action's Spring 2013 Newsletter!

We are pleased to send you this brief outline of some of our key activities since the beginning of 2013.

As you will read, much of our focus internally has been on the Arms Trade Treaty negotiations, for which we produced daily policy analysis, and the Commission on the Status of Women, for which we organized an extraordinary side event highlighting 'The Case for Reparations.'

However, a major focus of our energy this year has been spent building a reliable and sustainable structure that can support these sorts of activities over the longer term.

In future issues of the Newsletter, you should expect to read more about new board members and advisors, new funders and supporters, and new partners on program and infrastructure.

At the UN as elsewhere, part of doing good work is being reliable. A sound system of GAPW governance that promotes reliable infrastructure is a great gift, not only to our staff but to the increasing number of people worldwide who continue to rely on our positive energy and good policy sense.

--The Global Action Team

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

Media Initiative Update

matching:points

UN MEDIA INITIATIVE

In addition to our ongoing work related to raising reporting standards both inside and outside of the UN system as well as revitalizing relations between various media stakeholders, GAPW's Media Consultant, Lia Petridis Maiello, has undertaken several other initiatives over

the past several months that have helped contribute to a more robust media environment around the UN and its vast number of cross-cutting issues:

- Ms. Maiello compiled an analysis on the performance of Germany's latest tenure (2010-2012) as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). An English translation of the analysis can be found [here](#).
- Ms. Maiello also profiled Guatemalan women's rights activist Luz Mendez with particular focus on the presentation of the legal case (the first of its kind) she and others are bringing to the Guatemalan courts on sexual enslavement of women during Guatemala's civil war. The profile can be accessed [here](#).
- An interview conducted by Ms. Maiello with 'whistleblower' Kathryn Bolkovac, who came to visit UN headquarters to introduce her book *The Whistleblower*, was [published](#) in *The Huffington Post* and was one of the first pieces about Bolkovac's work published in the US media.
- Ms. Maiello also covered the recent ATT negotiations for several German media outlets addressing future implementation and the diversification of the arms industry

in Germany and the US. A feature published in *der Freitag* can be accessed [here](#).

For more information on *matching: points*, please contact Lia Petridis Maiello, lia@globalactionpw.org

Women, Peace and Security Update

This spring has seen many exciting opportunities for the WPS program, in part because of the many WPS-relevant processes that are taking place at UNHQ. We wrapped-up 2012 by collaborating with the NGO Working Group on Women Peace and Security in conducting briefings for newly-elected members of the Security Council.

Additionally, in the lead-up to the negotiations of the Commission on the Status of Women over the Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, GAPW promoted the policy links between the illicit flow of small arms and violence against women. GAPW joined a coalition of organizations within the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security on formulating policy messages for relevant stakeholders at the CSW. GAPW also contributed an article to Protection Gateway, a blog affiliated with

Griffith University in Australia, highlighting the main policy recommendations reflecting in part the results from our late 2012 seminar in Guatemala, but also highlighting the links between violence against women and the illicit flow of small arms. Overall, the CSW was able to reach much anticipated though contested conclusions including a welcome reference to sexual violence and small arms which was not foreseen at the beginning of the negotiations. The full blog post with the CSW recommendations can be found [here](#).

On the margins of the Final Negotiations of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), and in support of stronger references to gender-based violence, GAPW again joined forces with Griffith University in co-authoring an article for IPI Global Observatory on the gender-based references within the ATT and the important role that the government of Australia could play in promoting support for its inclusion. The full article can be found [here](#).

As some may already know, it has long been the strategic interest of GAPW to expand its programmatic work in the Balkan region. Just recently, GAPW met with a group of six Mayors from different municipalities of Albania to conduct a briefing on promoting women's participation in the context of effective local governance and the need for

environmentally-friendly policy decision making.. GAPW believes that this was only the first of many events of its kind in the Balkan region and is moving forward with plans to expand our involvement, which will hopefully involve co-hosting a conference on *Security Requirements for Women's Full Participation* in the Balkans.

Achieving Gender Justice: The Case for Reparations March 2013



On the margins of the first week of the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), Global Action through the leadership of Ms. Melina Lito and in partnership with the Permanent Mission of Finland and the ICC Liaison Office to the UN, hosted a high-level side event on

Achieving Gender Justice: The Case for Reparations. The event featured Elisabeth Rehn, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the ICC Trust Fund for Victims; Stephen Rapp, US Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues; Luz Mendez, President of the Advisory Board of National Union of Guatemalan Women; and Saidu Conton Sesay, Commissioner, National Commission for Social Action, Sierra Leone (a UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women grantee), and was moderated by John Hendra, Assistant Secretary-General of UN Women.

While examining the issue of how we achieve the goal of transformative reparations for women, the purpose of the event was to focus on the potential contributions that reparations can have for achieving post-conflict gender justice as well as to explore possible approaches for reparations programmes in generating sustainable and transformative impact for women in overcoming gender inequalities and promoting economic development.

For the full report from the event, please click [here](#).

For the formal invitation, please click [here](#).

For the full concept note of the event, please click [here](#).

For John Hendra's Opening Remarks, please click [here](#).

For Elisabeth Rehn's remarks, please click [here](#).

For Luz Mendez's remarks, please click [here](#).

GAPW Participates in CEDAW General Discussion 18 February 2013



As has been highlighted on previous occasions on our website, GAPW has monitored and presented at various sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against

Women (CEDAW). The Committee reviews states' parties to ensure that they are abiding by their obligations under the CEDAW Convention. Last summer, GAPW monitored the Committee's work as members celebrated their 30th anniversary and reviewed states' parties reports during their 52nd session. GAPW also made a written submission during the Committee's General Discussion on the protection of women's human rights in conflict and post-conflict contexts.

Melina Lito of GAPW went to Geneva to participate in the Committee's 54th session and make an oral intervention at the Committee's General Discussion on Access to Justice. The Committee has formed a working group on the General Recommendation and is expected to put together a draft text during the course of 2013. GAPW submitted a written statement to the Committee reflecting the recommendations from our November 2012 seminar in Guatemala City: Security and Justice for Women in Guatemala. The oral intervention highlighted parts of the written submission.

The General Discussion brought together a variety of nongovernmental organizations, mostly Europe-based, that work on a wide-range of women's rights issues. Among the issues raised during the interventions included access to justice for widowed

women, and the status of migrant women and gay and lesbian women. The Committee also put together a series of panels focusing on procedural and institutional barriers that women face in accessing justice as well as social and economic challenges.

For those of who mostly work at the UN Headquarters in New York and focus mostly on the situation of women in conflict societies, the General Discussion served as an interesting opportunity to observe a different lens on the UN system and note the successes and challenges of CEDAW in this setting. Additionally, it was a refreshing experience to have included in a discussion a broader range of women's rights, focusing not only on the rights of survivors of violence, but also on the challenges that widowed women, gay and lesbian, and migrant women face in their efforts to access justice.

GAPW's written submission to the General Recommendation is available [here](#).

The Committee's concept note for the General Recommendation on Access to Justice is available [here](#).

All other written submissions made by NGOs can be found [here](#).

Disarmament Update

Arms Trade Treaty Adopted by UNGA Majority Vote March 2013



After more than a decade of advocating for and working towards a robust and comprehensive arms trade treaty (ATT), relevant stakeholders can now mark a conclusion to the first phase in this process. This was an imperfect process that yielded an imperfect treaty. Nevertheless, the task now is to take what has been adopted and ensure that it has the most effective impact possible on the ground so that the human suffering caused by the illicit, unregulated and diverted arms trade --the original purpose of and impetus for this process -- is prevented to the greatest extent possible.

Delegates to the "Final Diplomatic Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty" were unable to adopt, by consensus, an ATT due to formal objections by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DRPK), Iran, and Syria. But the text was brought to a vote on Tuesday, 2 April through a UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution sponsored by more than 100 states. An overwhelming majority of UN member states voted in favor of this resolution, thus adopting the ATT text. The final tally was an overwhelming 154 states in favor, 23 abstentions, and three votes against (DPRK, Iran, and Syria).

The adoption of the ATT at the conclusion of these two weeks, even if it was a few days after the close of the Diplomatic Conference, was surely due in part to the strong leadership and good management of the President of the Conference, Ambassador Peter Woolcott of Australia. Ambassador Woolcott was able to bring forth a text that had enough support to garner passage quickly in the UNGA.

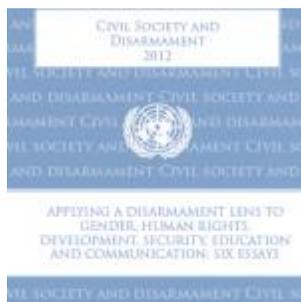
GAPW, with our partner Reaching Critical Will, provided daily reporting and analysis on the negotiations in the *ATT Monitor*. For all previous issues and in-depth analysis, please click [here](#).

For a full analysis of the final text and recommendations for moving the ATT

process forward by Katherine Prizeman, please click [here](#)

For analysis from Dr. Robert Zuber, please click [here](#).

New Disarmament Publications Launched March 2013



GAPW and the UN Office for Disarmament co-hosted a launch for our 2012 joint publication featuring author-

panelists Ray Acheson of Reaching Critical Will and Sarah Taylor of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security as well as Mr. Rodrigo Pintado, Political Coordinator and Disarmament Expert for the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the UN. Ms. Virginia Gamba, Deputy High Representative for Disarmament Affairs offered opening [remarks](#).

Ms. Acheson and Ms. Taylor offered remarks on their essay topics, the linkages between disarmament and development priorities and the role of the women, peace and security agenda in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programs,

respectively. Additionally, Mr. Pintado offered a "government" perspective on these cross-cutting issues related to disarmament and he outlined the importance of the active role of the civil society plays in reinforcing these linkages.



The joint 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 electronically last fall. 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 downloadable PDF is available [here](#).

In addition, as part of GAPW 's lead-up work to the "Final" conference, Katherine Prizeman co-authored two papers focused

on different aspects of the Treaty process moving forward.

["The Arms Trade Treaty and the Control of Dual-Use Goods and Technologies,"](#) by Daniel Fiott and Katherine Prizeman.

["Anticipating the Final Arms Trade Treaty Conference: Eight Concrete Proposals,"](#) by Katherine Prizeman and Niels van Willigen

International Conference on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons March 2013



From 4-5 March, the government of Norway hosted an International Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in Oslo. Representatives of 127 member states were present as well as UN secretariat officials, civil society, and other humanitarian response technical

experts detailing the environmental, health, and developmental impact of nuclear weapon explosions. GAPW's Katherine Prizeman attended as part of the civil society delegation.

It was noted throughout that member states must continue to seize opportunities to act responsibly to prevent any accidental or intentional use of these weapons, a goal guaranteed only by achieving their complete abolition. The Foreign Minister of Norway, Espen Barth Eide, offered a Chair's Summary at the conclusion of the conference that, although it did not offer any concrete recommendations, did note clearly that, "It is unlikely that any state or international body could address the immediate humanitarian emergency caused by a nuclear weapon detonation in an adequate manner and provide sufficient assistance to those affected."

For more information on the Conference in Oslo, please click [here](#).

For the full report from Katherine Prizeman on the Conference, please click [here](#).

New Outreach on Core GAPW Issues

Engaging University Communities March 2013



Global Action recently enjoyed a number of fruitful and diverse interactions with university communities in the US and UK.

At North Carolina State University, with the support of Professor Barbara Zelter, GAPW participated in two extended discussions with Social Work graduate students about ways to balance the challenges associated with finding meaningful employment, managing education-related debt, and keeping alive the values that drove students to consider a life of public service in the first place.

At the University of Southern Maine, under the guidance of Professor Julia Edwards, GAPW contributed two lectures to a course on the Responsibility to Protect, lectures focused on the linkages of RtoP to the proliferation of illicit small arms as well as

to the need to ensure the full participation by women in all policies and processes designed to prevent incidences of mass atrocity violence. Through the efforts of Professor Edwards, USM has committed to additional programming on RtoP with the involvement of, among others, the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect.

Remarks from Dr. Zuber at the University of Southern Maine can be accessed [here](#).

At the University of Wyoming, with leadership from Professors Jean Anderson and Stephanie Anderson of the university's Global Studies Excellence Initiative, GAPW participated in a review of US foreign policy options looking forward to 2020 within an increasing multilateral policy framework. GAPW's contributions focused on challenges for the US in light of efforts (including those of GAPW) to reform the working methods of the Security Council, negotiate an Arms Trade Treaty and promote other efforts to 'level the playing field' for States and other stakeholders at the United Nations. GAPW also made a presentation underscoring the diminished ability of our "distracted, suspicious and self-preoccupied" public to help our increasingly unresponsive government get our unbalanced economy, bloated military and massive debt under some control.

Remarks from Dr. Zuber delivered at the University of Wyoming can be accessed [here](#).

Finally, at the University of Bradford (UK), GAPW participated in a seminar organized by Professors David Curran and Tom Woodhouse entitled, “Protecting civilians, and preventing mass atrocity crimes: current challenges and opportunities for the United Nations.” GAPW’s contribution focused on the need for older leaders to ‘level’ with younger practitioners about mistakes made in the prevention of mass atrocities and the many challenges that remain. The seminar was well attended by a large group of Bradford students and faculty and hopefully set the tone for another seminar in the UK in summer 2013 to review proposals for stranding, rapid-response peacekeeping capacity, including our proposal for a UN Emergency Peace Service.

All of GAPW’s programs have benefitted in part from affiliations with university programs, including and especially with the United Nations University. That said, there are cultural differences that make such affiliations challenging. The world looks very different from the inside of UN conference rooms than it does from the inside of university classrooms. Moreover, the ‘peer review’ of our many publications is provided by diplomats rather than other

academics. All lenses on policy have their merits and challenges, of course, and we certainly value the infrastructure of university settings as well as the ability of academics to take a ‘longer view’ and study important relationships in depth. As such, GAPW will continue to explore carefully opportunities to interact with universities on issues impacting the protection of civilians and other aspects of global security.

Developing and Training “Glocal” Organizers and Advocates February 13-15, 2013



Under the direction of Liberato Bautista, director of the United Nations office of the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church, over two dozen key advocates met in New York to assess the relevance of what they call

“Glocal organizing.” More than a new slogan, this concept refers in part to the understanding that the arena for our organizing is not about blending insights from local settings with the power of global institutions, but in seeing how both are intertwined with and constitutive of each other. “Glocal” also serves as a reminder that institutions such as the UN can be a local setting for some like GAPW staff, in the same way that otherwise local initiatives can incarnate a global reference and serve an audience beyond community boundaries.

GAPW participated in the conception of the New York assessment, in final planning for a “Resource Manual for Glocal Organizing: Public Witness and Advocacy in the Global Public Square,” as well as in clarifying the pedagogical assumptions and responsibilities of advocates and institutions involved in “glocal” organizing and activities.

This meeting provided us with a welcome opportunity to engage with the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church and also allowed us to test some of our policy ideas and pedagogical principles in what was for us a fresh and engaging setting.

For the remarks from Dr. Robert Zuber at the convocation, 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.