



## Global Action Holiday Newsletter

Welcome to Global Action's (GAPW) final newsletter for 2008. This newsletter provides an outline of GAPW's program of work for the past few months and related areas of interest. In organizational news we are pleased to introduce a new member of the Global Action team. Mariah Quinn has joined us as our Research Associate working on our UN Peacekeeping and Women, Peace and Security programs.

On January 2nd 2009, Global Action (GAPW) will launch its "NEW" website, which provides added details on GAPW programs, activities, future events, international advisors and institutional partnerships. Please visit [www.globalactionpw.org](http://www.globalactionpw.org) in the New Year to access the new site. Thanks to our designer Bruno Navasky and GAPW staff for all their work.

We would like to thank everyone who helped make 2008 such a productive, energetic and action-oriented year on so many critical global issues. There is still much (perhaps too much) left to be done in our world, but with your support we keep taking small steps every day towards a more hopeful future!

Have a festive holiday season and a bright and prosperous New Year.

**-Global Action Team**

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## 1. Women in Security: Increasing Leadership Opportunities at the UN

On October 27th, 2008 the [NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security](#), [Women In International Security \(WIIS\)](#), and [Global Action to Prevent War \(GAPW\)](#) hosted an interactive workshop to discuss and build upon the [WIIS report](#), “Women in United Nations Peace Operations: Increasing Leadership Opportunities”.



JoyInn Shoemaker (WIIS) and Sarah Taylor (NGOWG)

Representatives from UN agencies, member states and civil society came together to evaluate the challenges to career advancement faced by women in mid to senior level positions within the UN. Participants discussed the problematic recruitment and application process and outlined the steps that are being taken toward its improvement.

In particular, the group highlighted the need not only to more effectively identify and groom female talent within the UN system, but also the need to recruit more qualified individuals from other sectors of government and civil society. Participants suggested that mentoring, whether conducted informally or in a workshop setting, might help counteract the hesitancy of some women to vigorously promote their own career interests and those of other women.

The need to increase mobility, as it pertains to career development and advancement, was discussed extensively. Current and former DPKO employees spoke from their personal experience of time spent in the field and proposed ways in which conditions of UN service might be modified to permit for a more manageable balance between work in the field and work at headquarters, as well as between professional and familial responsibilities. Participants shared recommendations, including advocating for more career opportunities for women at the national level, for how NGOs could effectively contribute to more visible leadership positions for women within the UN.

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## 2. The Responsibility to Protect and UNEPS

### Australia Workshops, September 2008

With leadership from the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPACS) at the University of Sydney Global Action to Prevent War (GAPW) helped convene two events in Australia to discuss the evolving norm of Responsibility to Protect and the potential of UNEPS to address the need for rapid, effective response by the international community to genocide and other complex humanitarian emergencies.

For a detailed report of the workshops [click here](#).

## **The Right to Protection: Whose Responsibility and How?**

Caritas Australia, in collaboration with the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPACS) at the University of Sydney and Global Action to Prevent War, New York, hosted a one day workshop on Thursday, 4th September, 2008 entitled The Right to Protection: Whose Responsibility and How?

Deliberations centered on the international community's failures to move quickly to prevent gross human rights violations and the political, legal, ethical and practical responses that might help address this critical shortcoming. The workshop brought together academics, humanitarian aid/development practitioners and military officers to discuss the obstacles of conducting conflict intervention for civilian protection purposes.

**The UN Emergency Peace Service (UNEPS)** was one proposal that might help translate R2P from words into deeds. Its important function as a rapid response 'tool' with individually and independently recruited, gender integrated and professional trained and equipped personnel, was discussed within the framework of preventing genocide and crimes against humanity.



Kavitha Suthanthiraraj (GAPW)

For more details on the Sept 4th conference, please [click here](#)

## **Human Security and Global Governance**

CPACS together with the World Citizens' Association of Australia (WCAA) hosted a conference on September 3rd 2008, at the University of Sydney during which participants considered means of promoting effective human security and global governance. Discussions emphasized how Australians could engage in supporting specific proposals to address nuclear weapons, the potential benefits of a United Nations Emergency Peace Service (UNEPS) and NATO's role in international security.

For more details on Sept 3rd conference, please [click here](#)

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## **3. Women, Peace and Security Advocacy**

Global Action as an active member of the NGO Working Group (NGOWG) on Women, Peace and Security continues to engage in advocacy on women's participation in peacekeeping, peacemaking and peacebuilding and has utilized recent forums such as the Security Council Open Debate on Women's Participation and workshops to promote such discussions.



On the 24 November 2008, the NGO Working Group (NGOWG) on Women, Peace and Security sent a letter to the UN Secretary-General regarding the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to ensure that specific concerns of women and girls are addressed.

[Click here for Letter to Secretary General regarding DRC](#)

[Click here for NGOWG Statement on Improving Women's Participation in Peacebuilding](#)

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## 4. General Events and Activities

### **Conference on Global Education - University of Alberta, Canada**

In late October, GAPW was invited to attend an international conference on global education at the University of Alberta in Canada. The conference attracted participants from 24 countries and allowed GAPW to share our UN work on women, peace and security and our broader commitment to developing youth leadership in peace and security. During the conference, we were also able to talk with diverse civil society representatives regarding their feelings about standing, rapid-response peacekeeping at the UN for a forthcoming publication that GAPW is writing with the Center for UN Reform Education.

### **University for Peace - Costa Rica**

In early October, thanks to an invitation from Dr. Virginia Cawagas of the Philippines, GAPW was invited to Costa Rica's University for Peace to give a series of talks on key elements of the GAPW program: UNEPS, climate and conflict, and developing women's leadership at the UN and other international institutions. At that time, we were also able to begin discussions on ways that GAPW and the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy might assist University for Peace in supplementing their disarmament curriculum and creating a more visible presence here at UN headquarters.

### **Alliance for Peacebuilding Conference - Washington DC**

In early November, GAPW was invited to participate in a congressional briefing on conflict resolution organized by Lisa Schirch of 3D Security Initiative as part of the Alliance for Peacebuilding conference. Paul van Tongeren of GPPAC made a presentation in the congress as did a diverse array of US officials whose agencies have diverse responsibilities for promoting conflict reduction strategies. The following day in nearby Annapolis a group met to talk about next steps in promoting conflict resolution at the national level, including a proposal for developing Departments of Peace within the US and other governments.

### **Nuclear Abolition, Climate Protection, and Our Cities' Future - Des Moines**

GAWP joined the Lawyer's Committee on Nuclear Policy and Western States Legal Foundation, in association with Mayors for Peace and the Progressive Coalition of Central Iowa, in the convening of a one-day conference entitled *Nuclear Abolition, Climate Protection, and Our Cities' Future*. The conference examined the linkages between nuclear weapons and climate change and sought to explore how cities might address these challenges to a sustainable future. As expressed by Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie, the conference was designed to "stimulate thought and action by mayors, city officials, activists and members of the public."

For prepared texts of remarks and to view video of the presentations, visit:

[http://www.lcnp.org/disarmament/2008\\_Oct23event.htm#remarks](http://www.lcnp.org/disarmament/2008_Oct23event.htm#remarks)

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## 5. Program Statement

The revised [Program Statement](#) grounds the goal of conflict prevention in specific integrated phases over a three to four-decade period and demonstrates in a practical and concrete way that we can move from an international system based on conflict and power relations to one based on law and multilateral institutions.

The Program Statement is broken into three broad categories:



1. Strengthening multilateral means of resolving conflicts, protecting human rights, and preventing armed conflict.
2. Reducing national military forces through a phased process of disarmament and replacing them with a modest UN force.
3. Supporting national policies of peace and disarmament by promoting the culture of peace and local initiatives such as peace education.

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## 6. Articles and Papers of Interest

### [Irish Defense Review 2008](#)

By Robert Zuber and Robert Johansen

### [“It’s Time to Give the UN Some Teeth”](#)

By Annie Herro, *Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies*  
Discussion of UN Peacekeeping, UNEPS and the DRC

### [“First Committee Monitor 2008 - Final Report”](#)

By Reaching Critical Will

With Contributions by GAPW staff Kavitha Suthanthrararj and Mariah Quinn

For all First Committee Reports, visit [reachingcriticalwill.org](http://reachingcriticalwill.org)

### [“Real Peace, Real Security”](#)

By Sharon Welch, GAPW Steering Committee Member