



Welcome to Global Action's Summer 2012 Newsletter!



Over the past few months, GAPW seems to have turned a page. Without infringing on the legitimate interests of our partners, we seem to have carved out a sustainable niche – on gender, on small arms, on atrocity crime prevention, on media – that

generates more opportunities for engagement than we have the time or energy to manage. After years of 'fishing' for relevance, missions and secretariat officials regularly seek out our energy, organizational expertise, policy wisdom and connections. We are not always in the forefront by any means, but we are now expected to weigh in on a wide range of security interests – from disarmament infrastructure to national action plans on women's participation.

In addition to the work of Katherine, Melina and Lia highlighted here, we wanted to share a few short engagements that explain in some detail the small but consequential activities that define our common work, work which blends hospitality, policy and capacity assistance to help grow our movement beyond the walls of our office.

A few weeks ago, for instance, we welcomed Annie Herro, a research partner of GAPW who resides in Sydney and now writes on UNEPS and interacts with Stuart Rees and (new mother) Kavitha Suthanthiraraj, both of whom (like Annie) have been hugely influential in the history and development of GAPW's work on atrocity crime prevention. Earlier in May, we presented at a day-long symposium in Florida organized by one of our new partners, the League for Educational Advancement of Human Rights. Pending board approval, we will soon effect a new agreement that will provide for joint programming, shared office space and more. The symposium helped set out a

new course for LEAH's mission and focus in which we will gratefully continue to play a role.

Also earlier in May we welcomed a large group of students from Carleton College in Minnesota led by Professors Barbara Allen and Greg Marfleet. The discussion was particularly rich as our program staff was joined by younger colleagues from the World Federation of UN Associations, the Global Justice Center and the Control Arms Coalition. It was particularly inspiring to the students to see and hear so many young and fresh faces taking on major responsibilities for human security at a global level. It was encouraging for the older professors as well.

Finally, we want to welcome three new summer staff: Cara Lacey from NYU, Maj Rørdam Nielsen from Denmark (via the UN-mandated University for Peace), and Henry Neuwirth from Carleton College. We have been very fortunate over the years, not only to have such competent summer colleagues but to have so many of them choose to stay connected to our office and programs once their formal service has concluded.

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

-Bob, Katherine, Melina, and Lia

Media Initiative Update

Undertaking a UN Media Study as part of GAPW Media Initiative

matching:points

UN MEDIA INITIATIVE

In our last newsletter we introduced a new media initiative that we have since dubbed 'matching:points' dedicated to the improvement of relations between the media, in particular UN-based correspondents, and the various stakeholders across the UN system. We seek to help journalists gain better access to stories and personalities that can enrich their bylines and, thus, the communication to the public on the often great work done at the UN around peace and security, human rights, and the plethora of other issues covered by its agencies, organs, and representatives.

In addition to the active revitalization of relations between the press and UN stakeholders, we plan to deliver the theoretical backbone for this project in the form of a study that provides insights on dual obstacles: restricted information policy by the UN and scandal-driven coverage by journalists. We expect the study to be published by the School of Journalism at the City University of New York (CUNY) in 2013.

To this end, we will conduct a number of interviews with journalists and

representatives at UN headquarters, but also at other international UN operational sites worldwide. We will gather reports and data on the information policy of UN representatives that affect the press' work. We will also examine how media coverage is influencing the public image of the United Nations, both negatively and positively.

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

Women, Peace and Security Update

New GAPW Policy Brief on Disarmament and Gender Linkages: Underscoring the ATT and PoA June 2012

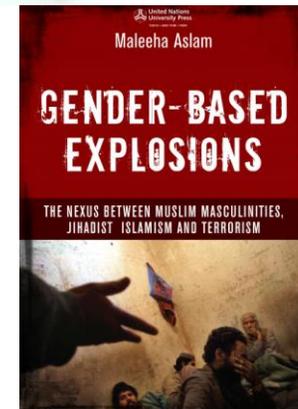
At GAPW, promoting a robust human security agenda demands that we develop practical measures for reducing levels of global violence and removing institutional and ideological impediments to addressing armed violence, mass atrocities, and severe human rights violations at the earliest possible stages. In all these priorities, particular importance must be placed on full participation of women at all levels of decision making. Human security concerns, including but not limited to diversion in the arms trade, nuclear weapons proliferation and atrocity crime prevention, are multi-faceted and synergistically connected such that they

require a cross-cutting response with multiple points of entry. As such, these issues neither operate in a vacuum nor can they be solved in isolation. In particular, a robust human security agenda demands that all sectors of the population, most especially women, are provided with a dependable security sector such that full participation in public life is both feasible and safe.

In light of the upcoming ATT Negotiating Conference and the Second Review Conference for the Programme of Action on small arms, GAPW has authored a policy brief on ways to approach disarmament policy through a gender lens.

The policy brief is available [here](#).

Gender-based Explosions: Linkages between Muslims Masculinities, Jihadist Islam, and Terrorism May 9, 2012



GAPW welcomed a recent publication by one of our colleagues, scholar Maleeha Aslam. From the vantage point of policy, it seems rare in these times that a feminist scholar can take on a subject as daunting and diverse as ‘Muslim Masculinities’ and treat that subject in such a thorough, generous and sympathetic manner. Maleeha Aslam’s “Gender-based Explosions” combines a detailed understanding of the motivations that lead men to join terrorist movements, the Islamic texts that are so often used to justify terrorist violence, and the feminist theory that has yet to find an appropriate foothold in much of the Muslim world.

But it is her sensitive and probing interviews with Muslim men in Pakistan that separates this book from others. Aslam investigates the diverse ‘performatives’ of Muslim men, the ‘honor’ codes that drive some to commit grave violence, and the means - more and less legitimate - by which men seek to justify violent response based on external threats to their cultures, families and communities. Her trusting engagement with Pakistani men both complicates stereotypes about who these men are and what actually motivates their action in the world, and portrays humane and nuanced faces to those who see ‘counter-terrorism’ as merely a strategy to pacify and/or nullify ‘the other.’ While interrogating her own theoretical categories, Aslam reminds readers that a focus on how masculinities are constructed in the Muslim world can give us important clues on how to reach potential terrorists with new models for the

Muslim man; but she also reminds us of the ways in which the policies of the non-Muslim world must dramatically shift to reduce incentives to violence among the men whose families and neighborhoods seem forever under siege.

For more information on the publication, including how to secure a copy, please click [here](#).

Disarmament Update

New Policy Brief: Recommendations on Revitalizing Disarmament Machinery June 2012

Along with our partner Reaching Critical Will, GAPW engages in monitoring of all relevant UN disarmament fora, with a particular interest in how best to remove structural impediments affecting the performance of existing disarmament machinery.

In light of the continued stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament and the UN Disarmament Commission, GAPW has formulated a series of recommendations for how to break the structural paralysis plaguing the principle components of the UN’s multilateral disarmament machinery.

The full set of recommendations can be found [here](#).

Addressing Critical Disarmament Challenges in Europe: ATT and NPT May 2012

GAPW’s International Coordinator Katherine Prizeman was honored to participate in two important meetings in Europe related to critical disarmament challenges on the agenda of the international community– the ATT and the NPT, respectively. Katherine was hosted by our colleagues from the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) in Berlin for an experts discussion on the upcoming ATT Diplomatic Conference this July. In addition, May also saw the conclusion of the first session of the Preparatory Committee (Prep Com) in Vienna for the 2015 Review Conference of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). On 11 May 2012, the FES offered a forum for German Members of Parliament, representatives of government, and civil society experts to discuss the current status of the ATT preparations, the main obstacles to negotiation of a robust Treaty, and the prospects for success in July.



The panel featured two members of civil society working actively on the ATT in addition to Katherine— Daniel Mack of Instituto Sou da Paz in Sao Paulo and Robert Lindner of Oxfam Germany. The three panelists addressed the ATT from different perspectives, but all called for a strong Treaty that sets high standards for preventing the illicit trade in conventional weapons and combating the corresponding armed violence and human suffering that goes along with unregulated arms trade and weapons proliferation. The discussion was based on a [paper](#) for the FES written by Katherine on the ATT process.



As a parallel development, the NPT Prep Com concluded on 11 May at the UN complex in Vienna with the adoption of a [report](#) and [Chair's factual summary](#) as a working paper of the Committee (not a consensus document). Two welcome initiatives from this session of the Prep Com were the [16-country statement](#) on the humanitarian dimension

of nuclear disarmament as well as the increase in attention paid to addressing modernization of existing arsenals as a threat to the credibility of the NPT regime. There are still many concerns surrounding the possibility of nuclear disarmament through the full implementation of article VI of the NPT, particularly the continued call by some member states for “creating the conditions” for nuclear disarmament by maintaining “strategic stability” and “undiminished security for all.”

For further analysis on the NPT Prep Com, please see our [blog](#).

For statements, documents, and daily reporting from the NPT Prep Com, please see [Reaching Critical Will](#).

UN Disarmament Commission Closes without Consensus for Thirteenth Year April 20, 2012

The three-week session of the 2012 Disarmament Commission (UNDC) came to a close on Friday, 20 April marking the 13th straight year without adoption of any consensus recommendations or guidelines and continuing an alarming trend of sub-standard performance in the UN disarmament machinery. The UNDC is continuously hailed as the only deliberative body for disarmament matters as well as one that enjoys universal membership. It is meant to serve as a policy-making body insofar as member states are expected to formulate and present consensus recommendations to negotiating forums

(i.e. the Conference on Disarmament) on those consensus items which should then become subject to direct negotiations and, eventually, the drafting of international legal instruments. The UNDC is a body that is supposed to serve as an essential part of the multilateral disarmament machinery contributing to the overall goal of general and complete disarmament. The UNDC has not, however, served this function in more than a decade. The Chair, Ambassador Enrique Roman-Morey of Peru, noted in his concluding remarks that diplomats will now have to go back to their usual responsibilities with “a sense of having almost accomplished” their duty to formulate consensus recommendations, guidelines, and proposals. It is indeed frustrating and disappointing for all parties, including member states and civil society.

On Thursday, 19 April, the Security Council, under the presidency of the United States, held a briefing on nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament, and security. A [Presidential Statement](#) was adopted, but with little emphasis on disarmament and much more on non-proliferation and security.

For final commentary from Katherine Prizeman on the UNDC, please click [here](#).

For final commentary on the UNDC from Dr. Robert Zuber, please click [here](#).

For further information and monitoring from the 2012 UNDC, please see [Reaching Critical Will](#).

For the official UN Press Release on the UNDC, please click [here](#).

**Preparatory Committee for the
Second Review Conference on
Small Arms
March 19-23, 2012**

For five days, member states gathered for the Preparatory Committee for the second Review Conference for the Programme of Action on small arms (PoA) to set the agenda, adopt rules of procedure, and conduct an exchange of views on possible substantive elements to be discussed in August at the Review Conference. The Prep Com did achieve its procedural goals of adopting an agenda and rules of procedure as well as unanimously endorsing Ambassador U. Joy Ogwu of Nigeria as Chair and President of the upcoming Rev Con. The August Rev Con will examine progress made in the implementation of the PoA determining areas in which member states still require support and other forms of assistance to fully implement provisions to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (SALWs).

The small arms review process is broken down into 6-year periods of Biennial Meetings of States (BMS), Review Conferences, and potential technical Meetings of Governmental Experts (MGE) as was held in May 2011. The review process seeks to enhance, facilitate, and encourage full implementation of the PoA framework, which was universally adopted

in 2000, that outlines national, regional, and international measures for combating illicit trade in SALWs as well as diversion of legal arms into the black market. The Rev Con will also seek ways of strengthening and enhancing the separately adopted International Tracing Instrument (ITI).



With regards to substance, there was much debate over the [Chair's summary](#) of 'Elements for the Second Review Conference' and its status as a document for the Rev Con. Ultimately, member states agreed to annex the summary to the [Final Report](#) of the Prep Com, with the provision that it would represent only a summary of views exchanged written under the sole responsibility of the Chair without prejudices to the views of member states or the right to raise any other issue outside of the paper at the upcoming Rev Con. A key discussion represented in this debate over the status of the Chair's summary was the question of 'strengthening' versus 'enhancing.' Some member states were concerned that by focusing on 'enhancing' the PoA, the instrument would 'overstep' its

bounds and become a different type of document— due to either a change in legal status or an expansion of its scope to include additional elements such as ammunition.

Along with Reaching Critical Will, GAPW produced a daily monitor of reporting and analysis on the Prep Com. All editions of the *Small Arms Monitor* can be found [here](#). Additional documentation from the Prep Com can also be located on the RCW [website](#).

For further final commentary on the Prep Com from Robert Zuber, please click [here](#).

For final commentary on the Prep Com from Katherine Prizeman, please click [here](#).

Civilian Protection Update

Gender and R2P Working Group Update June 2012

Since last fall, GAPW has been working on an initiative to integrate women's experiences and skills into the prevention of and protection against mass atrocity crimes. Our work has been focused particularly on the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP) norm, underscoring the attention that should be paid to women as survivors as well as noting the need for more emphasis on women as agents who can make contributions to the balanced

implementation of all three 'pillars' of RtoP. As part of the development of the project, we have put together a working group to discuss these links and have authored a Background Note that highlights the connections between Women, Peace and Security and RtoP.

Based on this Concept Note, we contributed an article to the E-book *Operationalizing the Responsibility to Protect*, which is a compilation of expert essays from a workshop held in Brussels in the late spring. Additionally, most recently, we held a briefing session with the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security on this topic. Given the natural connections between RtoP, women's agency, and the prevention of conflict-related sexual violence, the briefing featured discussions from a normative and practical perspective, what other issues RtoP is linked to, and, of course, some of the politics surrounding its effective implementation.

While most of our work surrounding this initiative thus far has been revolving around the RtoP "Third Pillar" debate scheduled for some time this summer, GAPW is also exploring opportunities for pushing the project forward after the debate and is always open to opportunities for future collaboration.

For access to the concept note, please contact Melina Lito, Melina@globalactionpw.org

Complementing the 'Third Pillar' of RtoP: Supporting Balanced and Robust Responses to Mass Atrocities June 2012



While Global Action puts much of its program energies and resources into creating collaborative activities in national capitals, we also occasionally co-organize events in New York that help diplomats to clarify responsibilities and allow fresh voices from diverse regions to address UN officials and diplomatic missions on their security concerns and interests. Recently, we convened four days of events on the 'third pillar' of the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP), in part as preparation for the upcoming General Assembly Debate on that same topic. Two of the events were full-day seminars and examined both complementary (regional and secretariat) mandates for atrocity crime prevention as well as specific capacity requirements for 'early and decisive response' to the threat of such atrocities. A focus here was our

proposal for a UN Emergency Peace Service (UNEPS).

The other two events of the week focused on peacebuilding strategies and the linkages between the gender and RtoP communities. Our New York partners included the World Federation of UN Associations, the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and the International Coalition on the Responsibility to Protect. The World Federalist Movement of Canada also contributed greatly as did our overseas participants from Armenia, Belgium, Brazil, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, the UK and Venezuela. All our guests stayed in a Harlem guest house that was comfortable and amenable to long conversations on policy well into the night.



Funding was from the Ira Wallach Fund for the Eradication of Genocide and The Simons Foundation.

We will soon produce a longer report which we will launch on our website. For now, we

are sifting through the insights and outcomes, including possibilities for new 'third pillar' focused events in Europe and Latin America, RtoP trainings in Nigeria, and much more. In our next installment, we will share that final report along with a full accounting of what we anticipate will be many important 'next steps.'

Operationalizing the Responsibility to Protect: A Contribution to the Third Pillar Approach Brussels, Belgium April 2012



As this summer's GA debate on the 'Third Pillar' of the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP) norm approaches, GAPW partnered with Madariaga College of Europe Foundation, the Global Governance Institute and the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect on a series of Brussels-based events designed to assess UN coercive response to the threat of mass atrocities and suggest new tools and

capacities to make those responses more fair, measured and grounded in prevention rather than intervention. The core event on 26 April was a day long review of the "challenges of the Third Pillar approach." Other events focused on the linkages between illicit small arms and the threat of mass atrocities, on an assessment of the Security Council resolutions on Libya, and on the International Criminal Court's response to gender-based violence.

We were especially pleased to welcome the active participation of the UN Joint Office on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect. Equally gratifying was the presence of so many active and engaged young scholars on RtoP, a number of whom had previously spent significant time in our office. The presence of so many talented young intellectuals bodes well for the expansion of a movement that is competent, sensitive and passionate.

One of the major outcomes from the four workshops was the release of an 'E Book,' *Operationalizing the Responsibility to Protect: A Contribution to the Third Pillar Approach*. The book will eventually be issued in hard copy and features essays by GAPW's Melina Lito and Robert Zuber. But the major outcome was new partnership potential especially with Daniel Fiott of Madariaga College of Europe Foundation and Joachim Koops of the Global Governance Institute. Their intelligent

perseverance made the entire week both possible and most fruitful.

For access to the 'E Book,' click [here](#).

For the RtoP Policy Brief that guided the week of events, click [here](#).

For the 'Third Pillar' Workshop Program, click [here](#).

For the Disarmament Workshop Program, click [here](#).



For the program from the "International Criminal Court's Second Decade: Gender Rights" event, please click [here](#).

For the program from the "Responsibility to Protect, Responsibility to Rebuild: Lessons from Libya" event, 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.