






GENDER IN THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is the first legally binding multilateral instrument to recognize the connection between the international arms trade and gender-based violence (GBV), and to create obligations upon States Parties in this regard.

In 2018, Latvia announced ‘gender and arms related gender-based violence’ as the priority theme for its ATT Presidency. This presents the opportunity for a deeper analysis of the links between the conventional arms categories covered by the ATT and GBV, and on how gender perspectives can be incorporated in treaty implementation and the review process.

THE GENDERED IMPACT OF ARMED VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT				
SALW victims by sex and age (2010-2015) ¹	Women	Girls	Boys	Men
		16%		84%
Main trends²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research indicates that bombs, missiles, mortars and rockets, when used in populated areas, result in disproportionate casualties for women and children. Even though most perpetrators and most victims of small arms violence are men, women and girls bear a substantial and differentiated burden, including GBV and displacement. Most of the world’s estimated 875 million small arms are in men’s hands. Likewise, men are disproportionately represented in professions in which small arms are often used (e.g. law enforcement, military and private security). Women also engage in violent behaviours with small arms, as firearms owners, users, police officers and combatants, but less frequently than men. 			
Small Arms and Femicide³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A small arm is used in almost half of all violent deaths globally and in approximately one-third of all femicides. In countries with the highest rates of femicide, more than half of these killings are perpetrated with small arms. Most perpetrators of femicide are male and are frequently known to the victim; often their current or former intimate partners, family members or friends. 			
 IDEAS FOR ACTION				
	States Parties could mainstream gender in their national and local, criminal and public health policies, to enable the collection of sex-disaggregated data on the impacts of armed violence, GBV and conflict.			
	States Parties could incorporate gender perspectives in syllabus and training programmes at law enforcement and military academies, as well as in multilateral peace operations training.			
	States Parties could support research that promotes a better understanding of the gendered impacts of illicit arms flows and trade, and of conflict and violence.			
	States Parties could acknowledge the problem of harmful gender norms and engage in initiatives that promote gender equality and positive interpretations of masculinities, not based on aggression or violence.			

ARTICLE 7(4) AND THE GBV RISK ASSESSMENT CRITERIA


- GBV is an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person’s will and that is based on socially ascribed gender differences, including homophobic and transphobic violence against those who defy gender norms.
- GBV can include sexual, physical, verbal, psychological and socio-economic violence. The nature and extent of specific types of GBV vary across cultures, countries and regions. Examples include rape, forced pregnancy, sexual exploitation, abuse, enforced prostitution and sexual slavery.
- Statistics show that the majority of GBV victims are women,⁴ although challenges in data-collection remain. GBV against women and men is often underreported due to social stigma, and there is particularly insufficient data on the prevalence, and the circumstances under which GBV is perpetrated against men and boys.
- Article 7(4) of the ATT requires that States Parties in their export assessments ‘take into account the risk’ of the arms covered by the treaty ‘being used to commit or facilitate serious acts of gender-based violence or serious acts of violence against women and children.’

¹ Small Arms Survey (2016), A Gendered Analysis of Violent Deaths. Available at: http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/HR-Research_Notes/SAS-Research-Note-63.pdf

² MOSAIC Module “Women, men and the gendered nature of small arms and light weapons”. Available at: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/unoda-web/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/MOSAIC-06.10-2017EV1.0.pdf>; Reaching Critical Will (2014), Women and Explosive Weapons. Available at: <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Publications/WFW.pdf>

³ Idem.

⁴ “What is gender-based violence?”, European Institute for Gender Equality. Available at: <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-based-violence/what-is-gender-based-violence>

 IDEAS FOR ACTION	
✓	In the context of the ATT Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation (WGETI), States Parties could discuss and clarify how they interpret Article 7(4) and related obligations e.g. States' interpretations of 'serious' acts of GBV.
✓	States Parties could review and update their export risk assessment processes and ensure that, at a minimum, it meets the requirements set out in ATT Articles 7(1) and 7(4).
✓	States Parties could provide their export authorization officials with training on gender and GBV, including on the direct and indirect indicators of GBV, and ensure that officials understand how GBV is relevant to ATT obligations. For example, the Control Arms 'GBV Guidelines' (2018) list criteria, indicators and information sources for assessing the prevalence of GBV and states' capacities to respond to such acts.
✓	States Parties could provide their export authorization officials with full access to the resources and data they require to conduct thorough and robust GBV risk assessments.
✓	National agencies responsible for approving arms transfers could consult with government ministries and relevant national institutions working on foreign affairs, social protection and gender equality.
✓	States Parties could cooperate where possible, sharing best practices, information and resources that are useful to inform GBV risk assessments, demonstrating how the GBV criteria feeds into their decision-making processes.

GENDER EQUALITY IN THE ATT REVIEW PROCESS

- Research shows that women are underrepresented in arms control and disarmament forums, comprising 25% to 35% of the delegates.⁵
- Among the delegates accredited for CSP4 in 2018, 27% were women and 73% men. For Heads of delegation the ratio was 77% men and 23% women.⁶
- Ensuring women's equal and meaningful participation in ATT processes will lead to more inclusive, effective and sustainable policy outcomes.

IDEAS FOR ACTION

✓	To allow for data collection on gender equality, the ATT Secretariat should request that sex is specified on all delegation lists, e.g. using the titles Mr/Ms. The ATT Secretariat should make available overall data trends on gender diversity at ATT meetings.
✓	The ATT Sponsorship Programme Administrative Guidelines should include gender equality as a selection criteria. The ATT Secretariat should report on the outcomes of the ATT sponsorship programme using sex-disaggregated data.
✓	In their communication with States Parties, future ATT Presidents should continue to encourage gender-balanced delegations and to consider including Women, Peace and Security and Gender Advisors.
✓	When organizing panels, States Parties, civil society and other organizations should ensure that women and men are equally represented, by planning participation early and by focusing on speaker expertise.
✓	Applicants to the Voluntary Trust Fund should comply with the provision to report on their projects' gender considerations, and the ATT Secretariat should support applicants with the necessary guidance to do so.

FURTHER RESOURCES

➔	Disarmament Impact Group www.genderchampions.com/impact/disarmament
➔	Control Arms www.controlarms.org <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to use the ATT to address Gender-Based Violence: A practical Guide for Risk Assessment (2018)
➔	Small Arms Survey www.smallarmssurvey.org
➔	UNIDIR www.unidir.org <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research on Achieving Gender Equality and Advancing Gender-Responsive Disarmament in Multilateral Forums.
➔	Reaching Critical Will www.reachingcriticalwill.org <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventing Gender-Based Violence Through Arms Control (2016) • Gender-Based Violence and the Arms Trade Treaty (2015)

⁵ Ongoing UNIDIR research project, "Achieving Gender Equality in Multilateral Disarmament Forums".

⁶ Working Paper Presented by the President of the Fifth Conference of State Parties to the ATT, "Gender and Gender Based Violence" (ATT/CSP5/2019/PRES/410/PM1.GenderGBV).